



EARL STONHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Earl Stonham on **Thursday, 9th November 2017 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors: C Woods (Chairman)
D Turner
S Budd
D Brenig-Jones
B Heard
K Wilkinson
S Challinor

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk

Apologies H Stanford & J Henderson-Hamilton

ES65/17/18 – PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

ES66/17/18 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Stanford and Cllr Henderson-Hamilton.

ES67/17/18 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received as follows:-

Cllr Turner – Village Hall
Cllr Budd – Village Hall
Cllr Heard – Footpaths
Cllr Di Brenig-Jones – Allotments

ES68/17/18 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

ES69/17/18 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27th SEPTEMBER 2017

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28th September 2017 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

ES70/17/18 – POLICE REPORT

The Police were not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

ES71/17/18 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR MORLEY

District Cllr Morley was not present at the meeting. A late report had been received after the meeting, which the Clerk would circulate to members.

ES72/17/18 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – CLLR M HICKS

Cllr Hicks reported the following:-

- All vulnerable groups such as the young, elderly, carers and those with a lower immunity should ensure they had received their flu vaccination this year. The NHS were concerned following reports of higher than normal numbers of people in the Southern Hemisphere during their winter season who had contracted the flu virus. On average there were 8,000 deaths each year.
- Suffolk Fostering Service had launched the first in a series of fostering recruitment campaigns. There were currently 820 children in care within Suffolk and there was an urgent need for more people to become foster carers. It was therefore important to raise awareness of the benefits of this with good rates of pay, 24-hour support and holiday leave throughout the year.
- A series of natural flood protection measures were being put in place around Debenham. Local land owners were joining forces with local organisations including Suffolk County Council, Environment Agency, Essex & Suffolk Rivers Trust and East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board to deliver the Deben Holistic Water Project. The work offered a new approach to managing water resources that flowed through the area. Through constructive discussions, several landowners showed a willingness to work with the council and the other organisations to develop natural flood management features on their land, upstream from where flooding often occurs, using their knowledge of water flow and land heights.

The Clerk reported to Cllr Hicks that she had recently contacted Highways in relation to the passing places along Blacksmiths Lane. The passing places were in a bad state and needed to be reinstated to ensure the safe passing of vehicles along what was a narrow lane. A reply had been received from the Highways Department which stated that “the passing places were not official passing places and were therefore classed as verge, not part of the carriageway. They would not be repaired as they did not meet intervention level.”

Cllr Hicks requested the Clerk email the details to him to so he could see what he could do to help the situation to make good the passing places. **Clerk to Action.**

The Clerk informed Cllr Hicks that an item on the Agenda was to discuss the issue of speeding along Blacksmiths Lane and the possible reduction in speed limit for the full length of the lane.

Cllr Hicks explained that the process of changing a speed limit on a particular road was a long and detailed one, a virtually impossible task as throughout the procedure there would be many parties who could stop the process. He requested that the Clerk email him the details and he would take it from there. **Clerk to Action.**

ES73/17/18 – CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

i) CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk reported that she had received and circulated to members an email from a local resident in relation to the Joint Local Plan. The resident had stated that she would be making representations on various areas of the Joint Local Plan and wished to ascertain the Parish Council’s intentions.

Following a brief discussion, the Parish Council agreed with the resident’s concerns and suggestions and the Clerk would follow up the points made by submitting representations on behalf of the Parish Council. **Clerk to Action.**

ii) **CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET V ACTUAL REPORT**

The Clerk reported on the Council's current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance in the accounts on 6th November 2017 was £7,574.18. The Budget v Actual Report was received and Members noted the figures within the report.

iii) **PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Salary (November)	£208.33
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance (November)	£20.00
Vertas Ltd	Grass cutting	£270.54
ESVH	Key for hall	£20.00
ESVH	Outstanding donation	£1,000.00
ESVH	Outstanding recycling bin credit	£250.00
ESVH	Outstanding Broadband set-up	£196.80
T Turner	Broadband reimbursement	£35.70
ESVH	½ recycling bin credit (Feb-Sept 17)	£136.05
ICO	Data Protection Registration	£35.00
D Turner	Reimbursement of Tuddenham Press	£168.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Salary (December)	£208.33
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance (December)	£20.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £2,568.75 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk. It was also agreed that a payment be made to the Royal British Legion for £50 For a Remembrance donation.

The following receipts were also noted:-

Stonham Parva	Recorders (2016/17)	£90.00
Teresa Edwards	Recorder Advert	£10.00
Pauline (Sewing)	Recorder Advert	£30.00
Sammie Vincent (Zumba)	Recorder Advert	£10.00
Creeting St Peter PC	1/3 contribution to printer toners	£103.87
Mr Coward	Allotment Rent (2017/18)	£7.50
Mr Stiff	Allotment Rent (2017/18)	£15.00
Mr Perkins	Allotment Rent (2017/18)	£7.50
Mr Dixon	Allotment Rent (2017/18)	£15.00
MSDC	Recycling Bin Credit (Feb-Jul 2017)	£272.11

iv) **EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORTS**

The Clerk reported that the External Auditor's report had been received. She went through the minor points made.

It was AGREED: that the External Auditor's report be approved.

v) **DRAFT BUDGET 2018/19**

The Clerk had circulated the Draft Budget prior to the meeting. Members had no comments to make in relation to the Draft Budget.

It was AGREED: that the Draft Budget be approved.

ES74/17/18 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS / DECISIONS

Ref: DC/17/05108 - Proposal: Householder Planning Application - Erection of annex outbuilding following demolition of 3no outbuildings - **Location:** Earl Stonham House, Church Lane, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5E

Cllr Wilkinson commented that it was a large building in height as much as footprint. That said, it was located in a situation where it was not obscuring anyone's views and the design seemed to be in keeping with a rural location.

There was no objection to the planning application – **Clerk to action**

Ref: DC/17/05141 - Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of single storey rear conservatory extension - **Location:** Orion, Blacksmiths Lane, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5EU

There was no objection to the planning application – **Clerk to action.**

ES75/17/18 – SPEEDING ALONG BLACKSMITHS LANE

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting with the County Councillor.

ES76/17/18 – LOTTERY APPLICATION FOR DEFIBRILLATOR

The Clerk confirmed she had received the quote for a defibrillator and had also completed the application form for Lottery funding.

ES77/17/18 – ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported she had completed the returns with the Charity Commission for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

The Chairman informed Cllr Budd that some of the allotments needed cutting back to which Cllr Budd stated she would ask Porch Farmers to undertake the work needed.

ES78/17/18 – VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Budd reported that the project for a new floor was priority before the walls were rectified. The flooring would cost in the region of £20,000. The car park would be covered in hardcore as a temporary measure over the winter months to fill in the holes across the area. She also reported that Quiz nights would be held on Mondays.

ES79/17/18 – ‘CAROLS ON THE GREEN’ AND PURCHASE OF CHRISTMAS TREE

It was noted that ‘Carols on the Green’ was being organized by Cllr Henderson-Hamilton and the date of which was Monday, 18th December. A tree was being provided and would be erected as soon as possible before the start of December.

The Clerk reported that in relation to the Green, she had received an email, which she had circulated to Members prior to the meeting, about the posts around the edge of the Green, some of which had become rotten and needed replacing. The Chairman stated he would have a look at the posts to see how many posts were affected.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk put Replacement Posts onto the next Agenda for further discussion and to decide a way forward.

ES80/17/18 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Turner reported that the family of a couple who have lived in the village for 40 years and who would be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary soon would like to erect a bench or plant a tree on the Recreation Ground next to the village hall. Members felt that the erection of a bench would be a lovely gesture and a much-needed asset to the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Turner reported that the current website host would like to relinquish his task of hosting the village website. Members agreed that in the first instance an advert needed to be put into the Recorder to ascertain any interest for someone else in the village to take over the running of the site. The Clerk reported that should the Parish Council wish to have its own website. Transparency Funding was available for the initial set up of a new website but that funding would only be available until March 2018.

Cllr Wilkinson reported that the general speeding of vehicles, by villagers, continued to be a concern. Something that had resulted in an incident with the school bus, when parked to let the children off of it. Villagers needed to be reminded of the speed limit through the village to ensure it was adhered to.

Cllr Brenig-Jones reported that the owl box in the village had fallen down. She also reported that a resident in the village had approached her in relation to them wanting to build a house next to their own house, where the access would be across Parish Council's land and that he would need to pay the Parish Council a wayleave charge. Cllr Woods explained that that would be incorporated into the planning agreement and could cost in the region of £10,000.

Cllr Woods reported that he had attended a War Memorial Renovation Workshop. He explained that the Parish Council could apply for a grant, by 11th November 2018, of up to 75% of the cost to renovate the village's war memorial. Cllr Woods explained that he would look into it further, carry out a survey and the Parish Council would need to budget for the costs next year as they were 'obliged' to maintain the war memorial.

ES81/17/18 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting be held at the Village Hall on Thursday, 11th January 2018 at 7.30pm

The meeting finished at 8.55pm.

Chairman: Dated: