

DRAFT

WHISSONSETT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 25TH FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.30 P.M. IN
WHISSONSETT VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr J Daniels, Cllr S Dye, Cllr D Burton, Cllr J Newton, Cllr B Andrew
Cllr A Mountain and Cllr G Buckley

Others Present: 16 Electors, County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris and Dist. Cllr Trevor Carter

1. Welcome and to accept apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. There were no apologies to be received.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

Cllr Dye declared a Personal Interest in item 7, the Local Plan.

3. To confirm and accept Minutes of 17th December meeting

Cllr Dye proposed the minutes, which had been circulated, be accepted as a true and accurate record, Cllr Daniels seconded the proposal, carried by the Council

4. To report on any matters arising from the minutes of December (not on agenda)

Cllr Dye had intended applying for the £200.00 grant from Breckland regarding a 'clean up project' and the Queen's 90th birthday. But when she was ready to apply unfortunately the closing date had passed. Cllr Carter offered to look into the situation for the Parish Council to see if they might still be able to qualify for the grant, even though the date has passed.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for the Public Participation period.

Cllr Carter reported that the new budget had been authorised and the council tax is still the lowest in the country. Breckland is attempting, over the next 4 years, to become self supporting and do not want to be reliant on Government grants. They want to take charge of their own finances. There is a modest increase in council tax coming up but it is probably only going to be about £5.00 over the whole year, about 7%. Breckland have given out some £200.00 grants to groups who have agreed to do some community cleaning and the money will be used for celebrations for the Queen's birthday. On 1st March a project will start to try to encourage children to use books in the libraries more. Breckland received a national award for Green purposes and staff will receive it in London.

Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that NCC set the council tax this week. Because there is an aging population 2% is being ring fenced to go towards looking after the elderly. Several cuts that were envisaged have not taken place and more money has gone into Highways. £7m extra has been given and it has been put into a reserve. The Government is keen for Devolution to go ahead. NCC has been trying to get Norfolk and Suffolk to become devolved. Peterborough, Cambridge and Suffolk have to work together. There will be one central person organising several matters.

Dudgeon Offshore was discussed and the problems they are causing. They use very large vehicles. They are quite behind with the schedule of work. Compensation was discussed and it was thought an engineer should be instructed to look at the damage and mess.

The Local Plan was discussed and the Chairman reported that all the plots of land suggested had been rejected by Breckland. The feedback Breckland had received from other villages was that large scale development was not wanted but small scale development was. Whissonsett Parish Council is eager to support local people and will support small scale development but not large scale. Breckland is to look more supportively at small scale developments in villages. A resident pointed out that Breckland had entered something incorrectly on the plan. Cllr Kiddle-Morris explained all the different discussions that have to take place before a large number of houses can be build, such as traffic movement, etc. Those present discussed why and why not there should be large developments in the village. The Chairman asked for a show of hands as to who supported small scale development and not large scale, and the show was unanimous.

A resident commented that he had seen Council staff picking up litter and there was some discussion regarding when and why this occurred. There were also complaints again about dog fouling but as articles had been put in the magazine the Chairman felt nothing further could be done by the Parish Council.

The Chairman adjourned the Public Participation period and resumed the Parish Council meeting.

5. To discuss Correspondence

The following mail had been received:-

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
Minutes of the Whissonsett Village Hall meeting
Letter from Breckland regarding smoke free area competition for children

6. To discuss any Planning issues

3PL/2015/1449/F Mr I Newton, Primrose Cottage, London Street, proposed canopy roof and extension to porch to front of property, planning permission received.

Email from Mr & Mrs James giving their views regarding the Local Plan.

7. To discuss the Local Plan

This had been discussed at great length under the Public Participation Period. The Chairman decided to send an email to the Clerk, outlining the points of view of the residents and the Parish Councillors, as discussed at the meeting, and she will submit the views to Breckland.

8. To discuss any Highways issues

Potholes are an issue in the village at the moment. The Clerk will inform Highways that there are 2 on the Raynham Road that need attention, several on the High Street, some on Mill Lane and at Northview Drive, off New Road.

9. To discuss the Church Lanes

At the moment it is a soggy mess, so the idea of putting down some shingle, as happened a few years ago, was discussed. Cllr Dye proposed that the Chairman organises some shingle being laid, seconded by Cllr Daniels and carried.

10. To discuss the electric cables across the playing field

The job is now finished. A good job was carried out and the situation is now much safer.

11. To discuss rubbish on the playing field

There is quite a lot of rubbish on the field and it is someone’s garden rubbish. It will be looked at by members of the Parish Council and an update received at the next meeting. Mr Lake, the grass cutter will be asking his mole catcher to deal with the moles.

12. To discuss the idea of privatisation of waste disposal in the future

No suggestions were made, so this will no longer be an agenda item.

13. To discuss progress with the allotments

An article had been put in the magazine, advertising the fact that there were allotments available but no-one made contact. Mr Tim Burton is agreeable to have his allotment moved. The one he will having will be cleaned up and marked out. The Parish Councillors did not think it was necessary to have any allotments available just in case anyone wanted one, as the opportunity had been advertised and no one was interested. Mr Green will rent the land and pay £150.00 for all the surplus land and the land he already has. He will keep his side of the hedges clear and will be seeding the land. Cllr Daniels proposed that Mr Green be allowed to seed it, maintain all the hedges and pay £150.00 a year for the main field. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Buckley and carried. The Clerk will write a letter to Mr Green.

14. To discuss the website funding

NALC would be paying some money into the Parish Council’s bank account, which has come from the Government, to cover what is needed to comply with the Transparency Code. £25.00 has been given to cover the need for Mr Bamforth to put some extra documents on the website occasionally,

15. To authorize any necessary financial transactions

Cllr Daniels proposed the following financial transactions be authorised for payment, seconded by Cllr Burton and carried:-

- Clerk’s net salary for February £99.70 HMRC tax for February £24.80
- Information Commissioner’s Office (data protection) £35.00
- The Royal British Legion (poppy wreath) £16.50

16. To discuss the meeting between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee

A meeting had recently taken place between the Village Hall committee and the Parish Council and it proved to be a useful meeting. The two organisations will work more closely together in the future. The Village Hall committee will become the Whissonsett Village Hall Charity. The Clerk will email to a member of the charity the Parish Council meeting agenda in future.

17. To receive items for the next Agenda

To receive update on work being carried out by Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm

18. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday May 12th at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. This meeting will be preceded at 7.00 p.m. by the Annual Parish meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting finished at 9.40 p.m.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date