

WHISSONSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on Thursday 13th September 2018.

Present: Cllr Sally Dye (Chair)
Cllr James Daniels
Cllr Caroline Edge
Cllr Graham Buckley

District Cllr Trevor Carter
County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Bruce Andrews.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2018.

Cllr Edge proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Buckley and agreed by the Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. Matters for information only (not on the agenda).

There were no matters for information.

5. Open Forum for Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

6. County & District Councillors

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris gave the following update:

The council tax for 2019/20 is now being reconsidered although a four year deal had been agreed last year, with a 2% increase expected. However, it now appears that government will not approve another 3% increase for adult social care and there could be a £94M deficit in the next two years.

The consultation period in respect of the Police and Crime Commissioner's bid to take control of the Fire Service has now closed. The County Council are unanimous in their opposition to this and the Secretary of State will make the final decision. A similar bid in another county has not been successful.

D/Cllr Carter gave the following update:

Breckland are investing money in assisting rough sleepers in the area. Together with carrying out a survey to identify numbers, they have also assisted with financial and medical issues.

It is hoped that by the end of 2019 93% of Breckland will have access to wi-fi. In cases where normal installation cannot be used, alternatives are available.

The new Breckland Lottery has recently given £50,000 to charities, including PACT. The funds raised will benefit local charities.

New boundary changes have been announced in respect of councillors and members of parliament – Whissonsett will be part of Broadland, however, services will continue to be delivered by Breckland.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors for their reports.

7. To consider any issues relating to the Play Area.

No progress had been made with either fencing quotes or repairs to the Cone and it was also agreed that the matting required either refitting or replacing.

Council agreed that the play area required investment with some new pieces of equipment and match-funding was available from Breckland. Cllr Edge volunteered to look at options for the future.

8. Correspondence

(any correspondence received after the agenda has been published will be circulated at the meeting)

- Battle's Over – WW1 Commemoration – noted and the Chairman hoped to attend.

9. Planning Issues

a) Decisions to note.

There were no decisions to note.

b) Applications to consider.

There were no applications to consider.

At this point, D/Cllr Carter left the meeting. The Chairman thanked him for this input.

10. To receive a report on the website.

Cllr Dye proposed approval of an upgrade to the current website to a new, more user-friendly and improved site, at a one-off cost of £250.00. This was seconded by Cllr Daniels and agreed by Council.

11. To consider any issues relating to the Allotments.

It was agreed to terminate the contract of an existing tenant who had breached the terms of the contract.

12. To consider any Highways matters.

Potholes on both Mill Lane and New Road had been repaired. The road surface at the junction of London Street is due to be resurfaced.

The road surface on London Street, which was damaged during the very hot weather, will be reported.

13. To consider any issues arising from the Village Walkabout.

It was agreed to lay new shingle on the pathway between the turnstile and the crossroads on the Church Lanes. It was also agreed to meet with the grass contractor to establish exactly what the current contract included, as there appeared to be some ambiguity as to what works were contracted.

14. To consider an application under the Parish Partnership Scheme.

It was agreed to request a meeting with the Highways Engineer to establish the viability of a trod on the Dereham Road.

At this point, C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris left the meeting. The Chairman thanked him for his input.

15. Finance & Governance Matters

a) To receive a financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2019.

A VAT refund of £108.26 had been received in respect to the financial year 2017/18. There were no questions and the report was noted.

b) To appoint an internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2019.

It was agreed to appoint an experienced internal auditor, as recommended by the Clerk, at the cost of £25.00.

c) To consider financial support for the Clerk's CiLCA training.

Cllr Dye proposed that the Council give full support to the Clerk at a cost of £182, this was seconded by Cllr Edge and agreed by Council.

d) To consider approval of a Risk Assessment and Management Policy.

Cllr Edge proposed adoption of the policy, with some minor amendments, this was seconded by Cllr Buckley and agreed by Council. Inspection lists are to be drawn up and the inspections recorded.

e) To consider any projects for the next financial year.

Other than projects outlined earlier in the meeting, there was nothing new to add.

f) To approve the following payments:

CLlr Edge proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by CLlr Dye and agreed by Council:

- Clerk (Salary/Allowance – Aug/Sept) £228.00
- HMRC £18.80
- Tree Contractor £1764.00
- Website £100.00

16. To consider the co-option of a councillor to fill the vacancy.

There were no prospective applicants.

17. To receive matters for the next agenda.

There were no new matters received.

18. To note the date of the next meeting – Thursday 8th November 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The date was noted.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed:

Date:
