

STRADISHALL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd November 2015

Parish councillors present: Adrian Lee (Vice-chairman), Debbie Gates, Martin Hurst and Ian Hutchinson

Also present: Joanne Ince (clerk), County Councillor Mary Evans, Borough Councillors Jeremy Farthing and one member of the public

In the absence of the Chairman, Adrian Lee chaired the meeting

Open Forum

The following issues were raised during the Open Forum:

- Parking on The Street near Tally Ho Corner. The Council explained that articles have been put in the newsletter asking people to park considerately but there is very little that can be done as it is not illegal to park there unless vehicles are parked too close to the corner. Suffolk County Council does not own the land opposite the properties along the Street so it is not possible to build a lay-by on the opposite side of the road.
- The road signs in Stradishall need cleaning. Who is responsible? It was explained that Suffolk County Council is responsible for cleaning road signs.
- The 'uncared for' nature of Stradishall near the Crossroads. Why are there no planters or similar to brighten up the village? The Parish Council agreed to include this in the Village Review and see if there are any volunteers willing to get involved.

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Gemma Raymond, Ady Swift and Robert Deeks

2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda

No councillors declared an interest in any items on the agenda.

3. Approval of minutes of meeting held on Monday 7th September 2015

It was resolved that the minutes were correct. The chairman then signed the minutes.

4. Report from Councillor Evans

Mary Evans spoke about the following:

- Suffolk Police has now bought a smaller Safecam van for monitoring speeding in rural locations.
- Simon Curl is no longer assistant area manager for Highways. His work is being covered by Guy Smith.
- She is meeting the Police and Crime Commissioner about thefts of lead from churches
- A report is going to Cabinet about local changes to the Fire Service. There are no proposals for change in the Stradishall area, other than increasing the pool of retained fire fighters available during the day.
- Suffolk and Norfolk have prepared a bid for devolution.
- The Prison Minister has now said he would like the problems with roads on the Highpoint Estate to be resolved, so things are looking more hopeful
- The Street light in St Margaret's Place has not been switched on yet. Suffolk County Council is waiting for a date from UK Power Networks to connect the light.

5. Report from Councillor Farthing

Jeremy Farthing introduced himself. He spoke about the following:

- Charging for emptying brown bins which will be approximately £50 a year. He has suggested that householders be given a composting bin.
- Suffolk County Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District are establishing a Housing Development Company which will be a 'for profit' organisation. They will be shareholders in the company and receive dividends. There will be plots available for local people to build their own housing and affordable homes for sale for local people.

6. Report from the Safer Neighbourhood Team

The Parish Council has received a letter from Suffolk Constabulary about future attendance at parish council meetings. If there is a specific local issue being discussed at a planned meeting or a police presence is required, following a major incident, then the Police will send a representative. The Safer Neighbourhood Teams will continue to maintain liaison with parish councils. Local SNTs will continue to provide written reports on local crime issues until the Constabulary's new website goes live in 2016.

The Council has also received an e-mail from SEBC about church lead thefts. It was resolved that an article would be included in the next newsletter giving residents information about what to look out for and when to report concerns to the Police.

7. Update on list of actions agreed at the last meeting

There were no outstanding councillor actions. Councillors confirmed that the flood lights from Edmunds Barn are less obtrusive now that they have been adjusted.

8. Finance

a) Payments made between meetings

- HMRC - PAYE - LGA 1972, s111 - **£128.20**. This payment was approved at the March meeting.
- K Hutchinson and Son - hedge cutting - Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b) - **£113.40**. This payment was agreed at the planning meeting on 3rd August
- Adrian Lee Contract Services Ltd - Grass cutting and installation of anti bird spikes on swings. Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b). **£648.00**. This payment was agreed at the meeting on 29th June 2015

b) Approval of payments and signing of the Schedule of Payments

It was resolved that the following payments would be approved:

- J P Ince - expenses - LGA 1972, S111 - **£21.97**

Martin Hurst and Adrian Lee signed the Schedule of Payments and Adrian Lee countersigned it.

c) Archive boxes to dispose of parish council documents and planning applications

It was resolved that the clerk would be authorised to purchase archive boxes at a cost of £13.49 for ten boxes and arrange for their safe disposal using the company Box It who charge £4 per archive box. The cost will be split between the councils she works for.

d) Approval of the record of online payments made since the last meeting

It was resolved that the record of online payments would be approved. Ian Hutchinson then signed it.

e) Checklist of Internal Controls

Martin Hurst completed the checklist of internal controls.

f) Statement of receipts and payments made since the last meeting

It was resolved that the statement of receipts and payments was correct.

g) Draft budget for 2016/17

It was resolved that:

- the level of reserves is sufficient
- if the budget figures need adjusting once the final figures have been received from SEBC the amount allocated for playground maintenance would be reduced as there is still £627 allocated in the Council's reserves.

9. Highways/rights of way matters/tree or transport issues:

a) The recent speed data. Should the Council pursue the option of Vehicle Activated Signs?

As no volunteers have come forward to help run the scheme, it was resolved that this option would not be pursued at present but the Council would review the situation following the village review.

b) Grit piles

Mary Evans agreed to find out when they are due to be topped up and asked the Council to let her know if any additional grit piles are required.

10. Playing field matters

a) Annual play inspection report

A number of minor issues were raised in the annual report, all of which were low risk. It was resolved that the Council would monitor them over the next few months.

b) October play inspection report

The following findings were listed in the report:

- There is some evidence of rot in the timber on the wooden multi-play.
- The safety matting is showing signs of deterioration and needs to be monitored.
- The basketball net needs to be removed.

Adrian Lee agreed to take a look and report back at the next meeting. He also agreed to remove the basketball net.

c) Should the Parish Council update the play equipment?

It was resolved that the Council would await the outcome of the village review

11. To discuss the progress of the draft village questionnaire

Ian Hutchinson has produced a list of questions to include in the questionnaire. A draft document draft should be ready for the next meeting.

12. Setting up a Twitter Account to pass on up-to-date information

It was resolved that the clerk would set up a Twitter account for a trial period.

13. Correspondence

- a) **Letter from St Edmundsbury Borough Council about their gypsy and traveller sites consultation**
The Council is not aware of any possible sites in Stradishall
- b) **Queen's 90th birthday celebrations on 11th and 12th June 2016**
It was resolved that an article would be included in the next newsletter asking for suggestions of how to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.
- c) **E-mail from Suffolk Constabulary re Local Policing Information event on 10th December 2015 in Ipswich**
The clerk asked councillors to notify her if they wish to attend.
- d) **E-mail from Mary Evans asking if Stradishall PC would be interested in attending some councillor training arranged by Hundon PC**
The clerk asked councillors to notify her if they wish to attend.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.12p.m.

Signed..... Dated.....