

CULFORD, WEST STOW AND WORDWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 26th January 2017

Present: Clr Joy Childs, Clr K Ramsey, Clr S Flack, Clr Myrtle McQueen, Clr Susan Glossop (StEdsBC), Clr Rebecca Hopfensperger (SCC), and J Milward (Clerk)

Public Discussion No public present

Officers' Reports

a. County Councillor – Clr Rebecca Hopfensperger

a. The council's budget went to cabinet on 24th January and will go to full council on 9th February 2017. Savings of £31.3m is included in the budget meaning that £8m had to be taken out of reserves. It also includes a 3% rise in social care which is in line with government's stipulated policy.

b. Had earlier spoken to Guy Smith who had confirmed that Anthony Smith is finalizing the drawings for the safety scheme it is intended to use in West Stow. Is also finalizing the costing of the first phase of the calming measures proposed for Culford.

c. Discussion followed on the subject of speed surveys carried out in the parish area. Figures that had been used for answers to questions previously raised with CEO County Council related to outdated information. A survey carried out in December 2016 seemed to have been carried out in the Fornham area and there seems to be some doubt as to how these relate to Culford or West Stow. Rebecca will sit down and compare dates and figures with Guy Smith and report back. The contention of Highways is that there is no serious marked difference in figures using the routes through the village and that there is no particular increased HGV problem.

d. The chairman raised the subject of the trees along The Street in Culford. They need pruning/pollarding which had been long promised but never actioned.

b. Borough Councillor: Clr Susan Glossop

a. Council is now preparing its annual budget and details will be published shortly. There will almost certainly be a slight rise.

b. Brown Bin Scheme has been very popular and during February St Eds Borough Council will be contacting those who have taken it up hoping that many will move on to the direct debit system of payment.

c. No real progress on the piece of land known as Three Corner Covey. Various roads are being followed at determining ownership and these will continue. Clerk to make entry for benefice newsletter.

Parish Council Agenda

1. Apologies Clr Fisher, Clr Self and Clr Murdoch

2. Declaration of Interest: Nil declarations.

3. Dispensations: Nil required

4. Minutes: Unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2016 be accepted as a true record.

5. Clerk's Report Clerk had communicated with Tony Bate regarding council meetings and use of the village hall. Confirmation subsequently received that hall will be available for the parish council at 7.15pm for meetings up to April 2017. Dates for the whole of 2017 have been given to Tony Bate.

6. Planning.

a. Application for Advertisement Consent. DC/16/2776/ADV. Approved.

b. Chairman raised the subject of the church sign positioned on The Street. Application has been made to Highways who confirmed that they would make a new sign to go up at the new location and remove the old one. Clerk to chase up.

7. Finance

a. Cheques were signed for HMRC, Clerk's wages, Clerk's Expenses and SALC

b. Budget and Precept. The precepts as agreed at the November meeting were broken down into separate parishes as is required by St Eds BC. These revised figures were agreed and precepts for individual parishes were signed by chairman and clerk

c. A discussion followed on what the council should do with the redundant telephone box which had been purchased from BT for £1. Suggestions to be pursued and subject covered at March meeting.

8. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.

a. Chairman had been asked by Gail Bate as to who was neighbourhood watch representative for West Stow. As far as is known there is no representative.

b. Letter received from the mayor's office where the feeling was that Mayors should get themselves more involved with local parish councils. To that end they sought suitable dates for a visit to both a council meeting and also a village event. It was agreed that the future mayor be invited to the July or September Council meeting according to mayor's availability.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm Date of Next Meeting 23rd March 2017

