

## **CULFORD, WEST STOW AND WORDWELL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**Present:** Clr Joy Childs, Clr D Fisher, Clr B Murdoch, Clr R Salt, Clr M McQueen, Clr Susan Glossop (StEds BC), Clr Hopfensperger (SCC), J Milward (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

**Public Discussion** Public member again raised the subject of speeding through North Stow. He had raised the subject with Clr Hopfensperger who confirmed that she had replied to his email. He had not yet had the opportunity to check his emails. He also raised the problem of blocked drainage channels along the road. Clr Hopfensperger will check. The state of the road was also raised where verges had become dangerous. Clr Hopfensperger will take up with Highways.

#### **Officers' Reports**

**Borough Councillor:** Clr Susan Glossop reported on the following points:

St Edmundsbury Borough Council will be freezing their council tax but they will have to harmonise with Forest Heath since the intention is for there to be one council from 2019.

As had been previously reported the council has purchased the old Post Office. Many plans are being considered with regard to its future use but the popular choice with the public seems to be with regard to the refurbishment of the walkway between the market place and the Arc.

**County Councillor** Clr Hopfensperger had earlier submitted a written report which is attached at Annex A. Further points covered were:

#### **Budget**

a. The budget was confirmed by cabinet and will go to full council in February. It reflects £24m in savings and includes the 2% adult care precept introduced 2 years ago. It also includes a 2.99% increase in general taxation.

The Police budget will also show an increase hopefully to allow more police on the road.

b. Clr McQueen queried what had happened with regard to the proposed stop sign at Rats Hall Corner where Ingham Road joins the B1106. This had been approved some years back but never installed. Clr Hopfensperger will follow up.

#### **Parish Council Agenda**

**1. Apologies** Apologies were received and accepted from Clr Self and Clr Ramsey.

**2. Declaration of Interest:** Nil declarations.

**3. Dispensations:** Nil required

**4. Minutes:** Unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 be passed as a true record.

**5. a. Clerk's Report** Only item to report related to the Data Protection Act due to come into force in May 2018. It had been agreed that the clerk would become the Data Protection Officer but SALC has issued notice saying that the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer can not be designated Data Protection Officer. Local Council Public Advisory Service (LCPAS) on the other hand are quite emphatic in saying that both Clerks and Responsible Finance Officers may be the nominated Data Protection Officer. Clarification is being sought but in the meantime the clerk will attend training on 30<sup>th</sup> January.

## **6. Highways**

a. Clr Hopfensperger had sent the draft proposals for West Stow. Costing and payment of West Stow clarified as coming out of Clr Hopfensperger's budgets for this year and next year. Draft plans were discussed and agreed. These will now go ahead.

b. The plans for Culford were discussed at great length. Gates at both entrances to the village are now in place and remaining measures still to be implemented. It was proposed by Clr Childs and seconded by Clr Fisher that the sum of £3500 be donated towards the cost of calming measures for Culford. Carried unanimously. Clr Hopfensperger will make up any shortfall. Remaining measures will now go ahead.

c. Clr Salt raised the subject of stickers for wheelie bins. Clerk to pursue.

d. The subject of highways works at Tayfen Road was raised. The original plans have now been modified and Clr Hopfensperger gave an update on revised plan.

e. The sum of £21m is being spent on resurfacing roads so hopefully most of the potholes should be treated.

## **7. Finance**

a. The revised precepts for each individual parish as agreed at the November meeting were presented for signature for onward submission to St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

b. Cheques were signed for HMRC, Clerk's wages and Clerk's expenses

## **8. Planning**

Application No DC/18/0091/TCA –Trees in a conservation area, West Stow Hall – No Objection

Application No DC/17/1774/OUT – Outline planning application, 2 semi detached dwellings – Land at the Drift, Culford.. Objection on grounds of traffic issues,

Application No DC/18/0064/HH – side and rear extensions, alterations to front elevation, replace existing first floor weatherboarding , 5 Chimney Mills– No objection.

Application No DC/17/2651/FUL – Additional bay to previously approved hay barn –  
Balloon Barn Farm – No objection

**9. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.**

a. Clr Childs raised the subject of the laurel hedging surrounding Forest Edge at The Triangle. Clerk to write to owner reminding him/her of requirement to keep the hedge cut back and of council's responsibility to refer matter to SCC if no Action taken.

b. Clr Childs asked whether Clr Ramsey had given any more information with regard to his proposed move to Norfolk. In conversation with Clr Ramsey the clerk understood that there was at the moment no change in his circumstances.

**Meeting closed at 9.25pm Date of Next Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018**