

**LIDGATE PARISH COUNCIL****Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th September 2019**

**Councillors present: John Whitefield (Chairman), Paul Watchman, Steve Child, Chris Stembridge, Carol Sharp, and Hayley Mableson**

**Also present: Joanne Kirk (Clerk), District Councillor Mike Chester and two members of the public. Three parish councillors from Burwell attended the Open Forum to discuss the way Lidgate has tried to tackle the problem of speeding in the village**

**Open Forum**

The following issues were raised during the Open Forum:

- Funding for cleaning the war memorial and inscribing additional names
- Some of the paths on the Three Villages Walk are overgrown and blocked in places.
- Planning application DC/19/1694/FUL. The barn in its current format is unsafe and not sustainable. It will be converted into a house, but the original shape of the barn will be preserved.

**1. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Laura Perry.

**2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensation requests**

Paul Watchman declared an interest in planning application DC/19/1694/FUL.

**3. Approval of minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

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

**4. District Councillor's report**

District Councillor Mike Chester emailed a report ahead of the meeting which was circulated to councillors. The key points in the report were:

- A West Suffolk Rural Task Force has been set up to make recommendations on how best to ensure the different issues facing residents, communities and businesses in more rural areas (villages and outlying dwellings), as opposed to more urban areas, are considered by West Suffolk Council in all of its future activities and decision making. Parish councils have been asked to complete the survey and encourage councillors and residents to take part too. A number of public meetings will also be held.
- He recently attended a national rural conference on rural affairs

**5. County Councillors Report****Speeding**

She gave details of speeding convictions in the last six months. One person was given a speeding tickets driving through Lidgate.

**Clare Community Hub**

She has been working with West Suffolk and Clare Town Councils to set up a community hub in Clare. Initially it will operate on Mondays in the library as a CAB advice centre, but the plan is to develop it further.

**Domestic Abuse**

The Suffolk Safeguarding Report highlights the fact that rural victims of domestic abuse take much longer to seek help than those in urban areas

**Children's Services**

Suffolk has an outstanding children's services team. The total number of children in Need, with a Protection Plan and in Care is 3,153, a slight reduction on last year.

**Schools**

Schools in Suffolk have seen an improvement in results across a range of subjects at GCSE level.

### MMR vaccine

Suffolk bucks the national trend for vaccine rates as the UK loses its 'measles free' status. Vaccination rates in Suffolk at the end of March 2019 reached 94.5% for the first MMR dose and 90.3% for the second booster dose compared to the national rate of 87.2 %.

### Suffolk Trading Standards

Suffolk has a strong and effective Trading Standards team operating at the Port of Felixstowe and they prevented nearly one million unsafe items entering the UK consumer market in the last year.

Suffolk is one of the few authorities to host a dedicated Imports Team. As well as protecting the public from unsafe items, the team's work also helps to protect legitimate businesses trying to compete on a level playing field.

#### 6. Police issues

No police issues were raised.

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

There was one outstanding councillor action.

Chris Stembridge has planned a possible 12km walk for the Discover Suffolk website.

#### 8. Finance

##### a) Approval of any payments and signing of schedule of payments

It was resolved that the following payments would be approved:

- HMRC – PAYE - LGA 1972, s111 – **£142.20**
- Risby Parish Council - 1/6 of the cost of a print cartridge - LGA 1972, S111 - **£6.24**
- J P Kirk - expenses - LGA 1972, s111 – **£11.70**
- Risby Parish Council – phone costs - LGA 1972, s111 - **£21.61**
- Business Services at Community Action Suffolk - Insurance with Parish Protect - LGA 1972, s111 - **£539.00**
- CHT – Annual cost of VETs Scheme – GPC - **£120.00**

Steve Child and Chris Stembridge signed the schedule of payments and invoices.

It was resolved that a donation of £193.48 would be made to C Sharp to reimburse the cost of paint for a village tidy group project to paint railings in the village (GPC). The cost will be covered by the money saved by switching to the new Parish Protect insurance policy.

##### b) Approval of payments authorised between meetings

No payments were authorised between meetings

##### c) Receipts and Payments (including online payments) made since the last meeting

Receipts		Details		Amount
26/06/19		HMRC - VAT refund		£19.00
24/07/19		Risby Parish Council - refund for overpayment of print cartridge		£0.58
Payments	Minute reference	Details	Method	Amount
10/07/19	219/9g	Risby PC - pension payment	S/O	£15.00
12/07/19	231/8a	J P Kirk - expenses	Online	£13.78
12/07/19	231/8a	HMRC - PAYE	Online	£142.20
12/07/19	231/8a	Risby PC - 1/6 of cost of print cartridge	Online	£6.82
30/07/19	222/8f	ICO - data protection fee	D/D	£35.00
30/07/19	218/9f	Staff costs	Online	
12/08/19	219/9g	Risby PC - pension payment	S/O	£15.00

It was resolved that the statement of receipts and payments would be approved.

##### d) Bank balances as of 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and confirmation of bank reconciliation

**Current account:** £4,601.62

**Barclays Reserve account:** £6,087.34

Steve Child verified and signed the bank statements.

**e) Signatory to complete the checklist of Internal Controls**

Steve Child completed and signed the checklist of internal controls.

**f) Six-month budget review**

Lidgate Parish Council is within budget.

**g) Purchase of a poppy wreath and donation to Royal British Legion and setting up an online payment**

It was resolved that Steve Child would organise the poppy wreath and donation again this year. The Parish Council agreed to make a donation of £40.00 to Royal British Legion including the cost of the wreath.

**9. Planning**

**a) DC/19/1694/FUL - The Old Rectory – one dwelling**

Paul Watchman left the meeting for the discussions and the vote. It was resolved that no objections would be made to the application.

**b) DC/19/1710/TCA - Woodhills, Church Hill, Lidgate - Re-pollard 1 Acer back to original pollard point**

It was resolved that no objections would be made to this application.

**10. West Suffolk Council's consultation on its Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document**

It was resolved that the clerk would submit a response on behalf of the Council.

**11. Highways/Rights of Way/Tree Issues**

**a) Email from Wills Estate re permissive footpaths in Lidgate.**

**Path Number One**

They are content to allow a permissive path around Lidgate Castle but want to change the route at the south-eastern boundary so that it does not pass the Tithe Barn. They propose that they allow walkers to go further towards the farm buildings and then cut back to the castle boundary. Adkins needs to check with the farm manager to ensure that they are agreed on the exact route

**Path Number Two**

They do not have any objections to this route.

**Path Number Three**

The farm is concerned about this at the present time because there is an Environmental Stewardship Margin there and they are not allowed to permit regular access over this area. The margins are designed to provide a habitat for wildlife, and this would not fit well with a permissive path. The stewardship agreement is due to end in 2020 and they could review it then. They would like to see how the other two paths go first before they consider this.

**b) Grit bin**

The request for Locality funding from Suffolk County Council has been approved. It was resolved that the clerk would order two green grit bins from Slingsby at a cost of £126 each plus VAT.

**14. Playing field issues**

**a) Play inspection reports**

No new issues were raised.

**12. Village issues**

**a) Rural issues to raise with West Suffolk Council**

It was resolved that the clerk would submit a response on behalf of the Council to include the following issues:

- Affordable housing
- Speeding and lack of enforcement
- Difficulty for villages raising funding for things like play areas as they only have a limited income from their precepts,
- Rural footpaths and the fact that some are not cut back in the summer.
- Lack of effective policing and the difficulty contacting the Police using the 101 number

Carol Sharp and Hayley Mableson agreed to attend presentation on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**b) Possible purchase of dog/litter bins**

It was resolved that this item would be postponed until next meeting. The clerk agreed to make a laminated sign for the litter bin near the bus shelter, saying that the bin can be used for bagged dog waste and litter.

**c) Funding for the war memorial**

It was resolved that a donation of £300 would be made.

**d) Anglian Water Improvement Works**

The Chairman of Ousden Parish Council attended a presentation at Hargrave Parish Council on 5<sup>th</sup> September about the work to upgrade the water network. Roads will be fully closed when the work is being carried out. The clerk agreed to scan and email the information to councillors.

**13. Correspondence**

**a) Letter from Robert Everitt the newly appointed portfolio holder for Families and Communities**

It was resolved that the clerk would respond on behalf of the Parish Council explaining that the most useful events for parish councils are smaller events with parishes of a similar size as issues vary considerably from parish to parish. Workshops or 'meet up's with other parishes allow councillors to share experiences about local issues. The most successful way to bridge the gap between the District and County Council is when councillors attend meetings and listen to village specific issues.

**b) Email from a former resident about George Pulham**

As the plaque will be installed in the grounds of the church, this is not a Parish Council decision.

**c) Email from SLLC re membership**

The cost of annual membership would be £76 per annum. It was resolved that the Parish Council would not subscribe at this stage.

**14. Any other business for noting or including on the next agenda**

- The clerk was asked to contact Mary Evans to find out if any funding is available to replace the white gates at the entrances to Lidgate as the current gates are both rotten.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.59pm.**

**Signed ..... (Chairman) Dated .....**