

LIDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th July 2016

Councillors present: Chris Bliss (Chairman), Chris Morley, Stuart Crosby and Sue Sage

Also present: Joanne Kirk (Clerk), County Councillor Mary Evans and one member of the public

Issues raised during the Open Forum:

Keith Hogan updated the Parish Council on the proposal to add new names to the war memorial.

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from John Whitefield, Linda Gilmour and Steve Child. Clive Pollington also sent his apologies.

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 the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12th May 2016

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

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

There were no outstanding councillor actions.

5. County Councillor's report

The street light opposite Cobbold's View should be fixed soon. Street lighting is being reorganised and should improve. At the moment they are clearing a backlog.

Mary Evans spoke about the new transport service Connecting Communities which will provide an improved bus service in Suffolk. It will be open for longer hours from 7am – 7pm Monday to Saturday to enable people to get to work or college.

Over 80% of schools are now good or outstanding. Children's Services have also been given a 'good' by OFSTED.

She also spoke about devolution. The current proposal is that Suffolk and Norfolk will join together with an elected mayor. There will be a consultation from 4th July until 23rd August.

There has been a problem with VAS signs being vandalised. The ones in Great Bradley and Withersfield were sprayed with black paint and the one in Depden had stones thrown at it.

Five Syrian refugee families have now settled in Suffolk.

A re-organisation is taking place in Highways. The Parish Council said that none of the outstanding highways issues have been completed since the last meeting.

She has received a complaint from a resident of Orchard Close about people other than residents parking in Orchard Close. The Parish Council agreed to talk to the resident.

6. District Councillor's report

The decision has been made to site the new West Suffolk Operation Hub for handling waste at Hollow Road in Bury St Edmunds though this is subject to planning permission. Clive Pollington has locality funding of £500 available for Lidgate.

7. Finance

a) Approval of any payments and signing of Schedule of Payments

It was resolved that the following payments would be approved:

- J P Kirk expenses – LGA 1972, s111 – **£31.60**

The Parish Council has received a request from Community Speedwatch to fund 8 lightweight hi-vis jackets for its volunteers at a cost of £80 + VAT. It was resolved that this payment would be authorised.

The speed gun and accessories are now insured. The £2 premium has been written off by Community Action Suffolk as the insurance is due for renewal in September. The clerk has completed an application for £50 of County Councillor Mary Evan's locality funding to cover the cost of one of the VAS brackets.

Chris Morley and Sue Sage signed the Schedule of Payments. The Chairman then countersigned it.

b) Payments made between meetings

The following payment was made since the last meeting:

13/06/16	163/8f	Unipar Services LLP - speed gun	Online
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This payment was authorised at the meeting on 12th May 2016.

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

Chris Morley checked and signed the record of online payments.

d) Signatory to complete the checklist of Internal Controls

Chris Morley completed and signed the checklist of internal controls.

g) Update on the Annual Audit 2016

The accounts have been checked by the Council's internal auditor Ian Radford – no issues were raised apart from the fact that there should be a confidential cash book for staff salaries. The Parish Council agreed to introduce this before the next audit.

h) To approve the new NALC pay scale for the clerk which will be backdated until 1st April 2016

It was resolved that the new NALC pay scale for clerks would be approved and that the pay increase would be backdated to 1st April 2016. The pay increase for SCP 27 equates to £2.14 a month plus backdated pay from April to June of **£6.42**.

8. To discuss the following planning issues

a) Changes to the West Suffolk Planning Service

There have been a number of changes to the West Suffolk Planning Service. The planning desk has transferred to the Customer Services Team. There will be a new one-stop-shop planning web page. From 4th July there will be an upgraded charged-for pre-application advice service with costs starting at £48.00 and appointments needing to be booked. Councillors raised their concerns that these changes would prevent parish councils obtaining answers to planning queries which arise and will isolate them further from the planning process. It was resolved that the clerk would draft a letter to planning voicing its concerns.

9. Playing field issues

a) Playing field inspection report

The following issues were raised in the last report:

- There are a number of molehills within the area and these may present unforeseen hazards for users. Remove moles by appropriate means, reinstate surfaces to level and maintain the area. Chris Bliss confirmed that the molehills are flattened every time the grass is cut, but that it is impossible to eradicate moles completely because of the proximity to open countryside.

10. Village issues

a) Update on the offer of a bench for the playing field

Chris Morley has been in contact with the person who agreed to donate the bench. She has also agreed to pay for a hard standing. It was resolved that the clerk would contact CAD Landscapes to obtain a quote for the work. If he is unable to quote, she will try to find an alternative contractor.

b) Next village project

It was resolved that the next project would be to purchase swings for the play park using the Waitrose grant, the unspent money allocated to the purchase of a speed gun and locality funding from Clive Pollington. Any additional money would be raised by applying for grants.

c) Village welcome pack

The village welcome pack has now been updated by Bob Hall. It was resolved that the Council would write to him thanking him for his help. It was also resolved that Chris Bliss would find out the cost of the book 'Happy Lidgate' with a view to including a copy with the welcome pack.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed (Chairman) Dated