

**LIDGATE PARISH COUNCIL****Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th July 2015**

**Councillors present: C Bliss (Chairman), S Sage, C Morley, J Whitefield and L Gilmour**

**Also present: Mrs J Ince (clerk) County Councillor Mary Evans and District Councillor Clive Pollington**

**1. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from S Child and C Wade.

**2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda**

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

**3. Approval of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th May 2015**

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

**4. District Councillor's Report**

Clive Pollington agreed a donation of £500 towards a village event. He also spoke about the fact that there will no longer be any land fill sites and all waste will have to be used to generate energy from waste. There is a suggestion that SEBC may have to start charging £50 a year to residents for the brown bin collection. There will be a consultation about the future of the brown bins before any decisions are made.

There will be a meeting at Central Government on 16th September about the possible devolution of powers to local Government

**5. County Councillor's Report**

Mary Evans spoke about the following:

- The rats on Bury Lane. Suffolk County Council sent someone out to deal with them.
- The B1063 at the Newmarket end of Lidgate has been patched prior to surface dressing at a later date.
- The village sign has been ordered.
- Clare Police Station has now closed but there will be a drop in session from 10 - 12 every Tuesday at Clare Fire Station
- Vehicle Activated Signs. The suggestion is that extra brackets be purchased for each pole to make it easier to install the VAS. Mary Evans will purchase one bracket for each village. Lidgate Parish Council will need to submit an application form first. She will consider funding for a speed gun for Lidgate once she knows how much of her budget is left.
- With the budget decision to pay employees a living wage, the cost to SCC will be 11 million pounds but no extra money will be provided by Central Government.

A question was asked about the outcome of the lorry survey. No information has been received yet.

**6. Police Report**

There have been two crimes of note since the last meeting. On 30/05/15 criminal damage was caused to the main gates at the front of a property. The suspect was disturbed and made off in unknown vehicle, it is possible they were after the vehicle parked on the driveway. On 15/06/15 a wheelie bin was taken from shared area and has not been returned, this has been recorded as a theft.

Shed, garage and house burglaries continue in the area and there has been an increase in thefts of catalytic converters in other areas so residents are asked to report any suspicious activity by ringing 101.

There will be changes to the way speed checks are carried out in future. Now that there are no longer any priority setting meetings, villages will be grouped and speeding checks carried out in rotation.

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

There were no outstanding councillor actions.

**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 - **£128.20**
- J P Ince expenses – LGA 1972, s111 – **£11.70**

C Morley and C Bliss signed the Schedule of Payments and C Bliss countersigned it.

**b) Approval of the record of online payments made since the last meeting**

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

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

C Morley completed the checklist of internal controls.

**d) Approval of the statement of receipts and payments made since the last meeting**

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

**9. Planning**

**a) DC/15/1121/HH - The Old Reading Room, The Street, Lidgate - two storey side extension**

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

**b) DC/15/1227/HH - The Old Rectory, Lidgate - Retention of alterations to 2 existing horse boxes and hard standing used in conjunction with main dwelling**

The Council believes that there is a material discrepancy in the application. The Council challenges the statement on the application that there was an existing 2 box stables as it does not believe there was one and would like to see photographic or other evidence of the existence of the previous building. The Council does not believe that this is a like for like replacement. The Council is also unhappy about the construction's close proximity to the village tithe barn because it could affect the stability of the tithe barn. It was resolved that the clerk would contact the planning officer dealing with the application, Matthew Gee, to voice the Council's concerns and discuss the way forward prior to the Council submitting its final response.

**c) DC/15/1310/HH - Kespar, The Belt, One and a half storey side extension**

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

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

**a) VAS and possible ways to raise the funds**

The suggestion was made to organise a treasure hunt to raise funds and possibly a village concert.

**b) The request to purchase some dog bins**

It was resolved that no bin would be purchased at present

**c) To discuss the possible location of a new bottle bank**

Waste Management has confirmed that it would be willing to supply a new slim line bottle bank for the pub car park as long as it is visible from the road. It was resolved that C Bliss would check with the pub and then get back to the clerk.

**d) Footpath map**

It was resolved that the clerk would arrange a meeting with Ousden and Dalham Parish Councils to look at ways to integrate the paths in each of the parishes. C Morley, Sue Sage and Linda Gilmour agreed to walk the paths around Lidgate and come up with possible routes. They also agreed to meet with Ousden and Dalham Parish Councils. The clerk agreed to e-mail the information about producing a walks leaflet following her meeting with Suffolk County Council last year.

**11. To discuss the following playing field issues:**

**a) Play inspection reports May and June 2015**

The screws under the picnic benches needed tightening. This work has now been done.

**b) The suggestion to move the swing from behind the village hall**

It was agreed that this was not practical as the swing is concreted in and would be difficult to move.

**12. Housing Questionnaires**

C Bliss and L Gilmour agreed to distribute the questionnaires in the next few months and then collect them in.

**13. Correspondence**

**a) Letter from BT re their Adopt a Kiosk Scheme**

It was resolved that the Council would not adopt the kiosk as there is no mobile phone signal in Lidgate and the pay phone may be needed in an emergency.

**b) E-mail from Wickhambrook Primary School about a vacancy for a school governor**

C Morley has already spoken to the Head teacher and will put something in the newsletter.

**c) E-mail from SEBC giving details of the next Parish Conference on Monday 12th October 2015 in Haverhill starting at 6pm.**

It was resolved that the Council would ask for the issue of passing down costs to parish councils previously included in the Council Tax who have small budgets and less flexibility to raise money to be raised.

**d) E-mail from Suffolk Philharmonic Orchestra offering community concerts**

The information was passed on to the Village Hall Committee

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.02pm.**

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