

**LIDGATE PARISH COUNCIL****Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24th September 2015**

**Councillors present: Chris Bliss (Chairman), Sue Sage, Chris Morley, John Whitefield, Steve Child and Linda Gilmour**

**Also present: Mrs Joanne Ince (clerk) and one member of the public. County Councillor Mary Evans arrived at 8pm.**

**1. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from District Councillor Clive Pollington.

**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 meeting held on Thursday 16th July and the planning meeting held on Thursday 6th August 2015**

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

**4. Police Report**

There has been one crime of note since the last meeting. There was an incidence of arson where 200 tonnes of straw was set alight which collapsed and caused damage to the road. Three churches in Hawkedon, Lt Thurlow and Hundon have been victims of lead theft in the St Edmundsbury Rural South area. Members of the public are asked to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

Residents who previously signed up to Police Direct will now need to sign up to Police Connect. It is still a free service and sends alerts via either email, voicemail or text of the latest crimes in the area. You can sign up by going onto Suffolk Constabulary web page.

**5. District Councillor's Report**

August was a quiet month. The likely charge for the emptying brown bins is £35 - £50 but this is still being debated.

**6. County Councillor's Report**

Mary Evans spoke about the following:

- Simon Curl has now moved to Ipswich. Guy Smith has taken over temporarily as Assistant Area Manager for Highways.
- The recent speed survey results. Although the mean average was 32mph, the 5 day average showed 143 vehicles travelling southbound at speeds of between 35 - 40 mph and 108 northbound. 49 vehicles were travelling 40 - 45 mph (26 northbound) and 14 travelling 45 - 50 mph (6 northbound). The data will be analysed by Suffolk County Council.
- There is now a new smaller Safecam vehicle which will be deployed in rural villages.

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

There were no outstanding councillor actions. One Highways action was outstanding - the Council's query about a Highways vehicle speeding down Bury Lane from Ousden which is still being looked into.

**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 - **£128.00**
- Risby Parish Council - annual phone costs, LGA 1972, s111 - **£18.36**
- Royal British Legion - GPC - Poppy Wreath and donation - **£40.00**
- J P Ince expenses – LGA 1972, s111 – **£12.30**
- BDO LLP - annual audit - LGA 1972, s111 - **£240.00**
- Community Action Suffolk - Insurance - LGA 1972, s111 - **£743.03**

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.

**e) Annual Return 2015**

The Annual Return 2015 has been returned from BDO LLP. No matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

**9. Planning****a) DC/15/1595/HH - Pippin Park, The Street - Single storey extension to form entrance foyer, internal alterations and revisions to external fenestration**

Due to postponement of the meeting the closing date for this application has passed, however the Council has no objections to the application.

**10. Highways/rights of way matters/tree or transport issues:****a) Update on the progress of the VAS application**

No progress has been made. Linda Gilmour is waiting for a meeting with Highways engineer Hen Abbott.

**b) E-mail from Phil Prigg of the Rambler's Association thanking Lidgate for keeping the paths around Lidgate well cut - for information only****c) Update on the progress of the footpath map**

Linda Gilmour and Chris Morley met with Ousden and Dalham Parish Councils to discuss the footpath map. Lidgate does not have a lot to offer as many of the paths in Lidgate are permissive, but there is a village walk which links houses of interest and a walk up Bury Lane. All three councils will provide maps and photos for the three parishes walk and the village walk. There is now a shared area on Dropbox which everyone is contributing to. The next meeting is on 14th October.

The clerk has e-mailed Jackie Gillis at Suffolk County Council to update her about the progress in the three villages. The footpath map scheme is still running but with fewer resources.

**11. To discuss the following playing field issues:****a) Monthly play inspection reports for July, August and September 2015**

There were no findings.

**b) Annual play inspection report**

A number of issues were highlighted in the annual play inspection report. It was resolved that the clerk would check the length of the guarantee on the play equipment and contact Handmade Places about repairs under guarantee. She was also asked to find out if they sell the pins for the safety matting.

**12. Housing Questionnaires**

This item is ongoing.

**13. Local Council Award Scheme**

It was resolved that the Council would not register to take part in the new scheme at present.

**14. Correspondence****a) Report from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service about their recent activity - for information only****b) Invitation to Community Action Suffolk's Annual Review on Thursday 8th October from 4-6pm**

No councillors were able to attend.

**c) E-mail from SEBC about a community emergency planning workshop on 5th October 2015 from 10am - 1pm in Bury St Edmunds**

No councillors were able to attend.

**d) E-mail from the Voluntary Network about community transport.**

Questionnaires will be passed on to two residents who use the Dial-a-Ride service.

**e) E-mail from the Joint Emergency Planning Unit about the Community Emergency Planning Conference 13th November 2 - 8pm - Stowupland Village Hall**

No councillors were able to attend.

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

The belt on the mower for the playing field has snapped. It has been replaced but is still not working properly and needs servicing.

There was a query about the legality of parking on pavements. The clerk agreed to forward an article about parking on pavements to Chris Morley for inclusion in the next newsletter.

There is an ongoing problem with rats in Bury Lane.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.**

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