

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF HASKETON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 12 November 2015, at 6.30pm in THE VICTORY HALL, HASKETON**

**D R A F T**

PRESENT: Cllrs A. McWhirter (Chairman), P. Strugnell (Vice Chairman), P. Hunter, I. Whyte, S. Batley, A. Nightingale, Parish Clerk Mrs I. Clark; SCDC Cllr Peter Bellfield, SCDC Cllr Geoff Holdcroft

1. **Meeting opened at 6.30 pm.** Chairman Cllr A. McWhirter welcomed all and reminded everyone of locations of emergency exits and possible recording of the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Debbie Wegogo (Woodbridge SNT).
3. **Declaration of Interests.** Andrew Nightingale re Item Planning (Agenda item 11).
4. **Minutes of previous meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015** had been circulated electronically and were taken as read. There were no corrections, and all agreed they be signed as a true record.
5. **Matters Arising:**
  - i) Neighbourhood Plan Networking: Chairman A. McWhirter reported that regretfully he had been unable to attend the meeting on 1st Oct 2015.
  - ii) Turks Head Update: Chairman A. McWhirter reported that he and others had attended the re-opening of the Turks Head Pub on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. There had been a good turnout, including many Hasketon Residents and the EADT had also been in attendance. It was agreed that the refurbishments and facilities were first class, with a good range of local beers, and local food served and it was hoped that the pub would be very successful. There were also excellent facilities for playing petanque outside the pub, and regular practice sessions would take place on Sunday mornings. Cllr P. Strugnell enquired about the proposal from the owner, Dominic Withey, to donate £4,000.00 to Hasketon Parish Council – to be discussed under Finance – see Item 9, below.
6. **Report: County Councillor:** On behalf of the parish council, Chairman A. McWhirter welcomed the return of County Councillor Peter Bellfield after his recent ill-health. Cllr Bellfield reiterated his support of the work undertaken by the parish council. He had noted the correspondence between Chairman A. McWhirter and Tony Buckingham and David Chenery of Suffolk Highways department, concerning proposed traffic calming measures along B1079, and offered his support for the current campaign to implement a 40mph speed limit along the stretch of B1079 between the Brafe factory and the current 30mph limit on outskirts of Grundisburgh. He confirmed that he would request a County Highways Engineer's survey to be carried out as soon as possible. Cllr Bellfield's other news concerned the recent reported improvements of standards of secondary education within Suffolk, and the success of the recent Suffolk Skills exhibition in Ipswich which had been well attended by local businesses and youngsters seeking employment. It was hoped that this event would be repeated next year. Cllr Bellfield was thanked for his comments, and left the meeting.
7. **Report: District Councillor:** Chairman A. McWhirter also welcomed SCDC Councillor Geoff Holdcroft. He had previously circulated a joint written report (see attached) from SCDC for Woodbridge Ward; He confirmed that since the issue of this report, SCDC had determined not to charge for brown bin collections for at least the next year, though this depended on the viability of keeping co-mingled brown waste in the brown bin for composting at the Parham site. Cllr Holdcroft was thanked for his attendance, and left the meeting.

8. **Report: WB & District Safer Neighbourhood District Team:** There was no representative from the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Chairman A. McWhirter reported that due to the recent boundary changes, our local SNT representative would now be PC Debbie Wegogo. A brief outline of forthcoming changes had been circulated beforehand, but it was noted that there would no longer be any circulation of local crime figures or statistics, nor would the local SNT members continue to routinely attend parish council meetings. However, the mobile police van would be visiting Grange Farm Barns on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30-noon. The **Clerk** reported that she would include recommended precautions regarding security of heating oil etc. in the next parish magazine. Chairman **A. McWhirter** hoped to be able to attend the SCDC Finance Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

9. **Finance:**

- i. Summary of Accounts: The Clerk had previously circulated a report of current balances on current and business savings accounts, and cheques outstanding (Appendix A). It was noted that since the second 50% of the precept and Council Tax grant had been received there were sufficient funds in the current account to pay all outstanding invoices. Cllr P. Strugnell proposed and Cllr S. Batley seconded the proposal that the accounts be accepted, and all agreed.
- ii. Finance Working Party Report: Review of Reserves and Forward Budget Planning: Chairman A. McWhirter thanked the other members of the Finance Working Party (Clerk, Cllrs P. Hunter & A. Nightingale) for their work, and in particular to Cllr A. Nightingale for his subsequent comprehensive report, Hasketon Parish Council Forward Budget 2016/17 (see attached) which had been circulated. Cllr A. Nightingale reminded all that the starting point had been the aim of not increasing the precept. He summarised the main future expenditures over three year period, including amounts to be ring-fenced for future planned maintenance, on items such as playground equipment etc., plus possible future expenditure on fencing, allotment issues, Rospa recommendations, cost of the tithe map and an annual 10% contingency. Income remained limited to precept, Council Tax Grant (reducing year on year), limited allotment rental and possible one-off donation from Dominic Withey. Cllr P. Hunter proposed and Cllr I. Whyte seconded the proposal that the Review be accepted and all agreed.

10. **Highways:**

- i) Hedging, Verges, Signposts & Grit Bins. The Clerk reported that she had checked most of that all the grit/salt bins were full, and all accessible except the one at bottom of Catts Hill was rather overgrown. She had received confirmation that this would be cut back when the contractors next cut the grass on the village green. The state of the road surface, & verges, particularly between Lantern House & Gull Farm, were still in very poor state; **Cllr I. Whyte** confirmed the overgrown hedges were responsibility of J. Green and he would try to contact him. The **Clerk** would also attempt to get his phone number and ring him.
- ii) Highways: B1079 speed limit. See 6 above, County Councillor's Report.

11. **Planning:**

- i) Summary of meeting at Melton 30/10 re Delegated Powers for planning applications: The Clerk and Chairman A. McWhirter had attended the meeting at which new procedures had been outlined. SCDC was introducing a new system of delegated powers w.e.f. November 2015; in order to reduce time and costs, routine applications would not normally be referred to planning committee, but instead decided jointly by the chair and vice chair of the planning committee. Parish Councils would be notified if objections to the planning officer's initial recommendation be received within the initial 21 day consultation period. There would then be a further period of 5 days in which objections could be re-submitted before a decision be

taken by the delegated powers of the chair and vice chair. This new system would not apply to major or contentious developments which would still be considered by planning committee. In order to ensure any planning alerts were received in time by members of parish council, interested parties were advised to sign up to an email alert system.

- ii) Three new planning applications (<http://planningpublicaccess.waveney.gov.uk/online-applications/>) had been received since 10/9/15 & requiring response prior to 12 November meeting, and all had been approved by parish council Planning Working Party.
- DC/15/3599/FUL: Ivy Cottage, Shrubbery Rd, Hasketon IP136HS: Extensions, alterations of cart lodge to form house & 2 annexes with associated parking and external works. Alterations to existing vehicular access. Response to SCDC by 8/10/15.
- DC/15/3634/FUL: Willow Farm Cottage, Grundisburgh Rd, IP13 6HL: 1st floor extension over flat roof, demolition & replacement outbuilding & new workshop. Response by 12/10/15.
- DC/15/3917/FUL: Wedgewood Cottage, Top Road, Hasketon, IP13 6JE: Replacement roof finish and roof windows to rear single storey element and installation of light pipe on front elevation. Response by 25/10/15.
- Cllr A. Nightingale had declared an interest in a fourth new application, and left the room whilst it was considered: DC/15/39/67/FUL: Fir Tree Cottage, Whitehouse Farm Road, Hasketon IP13 6JR Proposed sun room extension. After due consideration by the remaining councillors, Cllr P. Strugnell proposed and Cllr I. Whyte seconded that the application be approved and all agreed. Cllr A. Nightingale returned to the meeting.

## 12. Village Green:

- i) Repairs update: Fencing and dog waste bin. The Clerk reported that the repairs to both had been completed, and relevant invoices paid. It was noted that costs of repairs to the current wooden fencing would be an ongoing process and alternative types of fencing should be considered at a future date.
- ii) Playground equipment: Playscapes Rospa safety inspection was carried out at end of September and their report circulated before the meeting. There were no outstanding issues that require immediate action. However, **Cllr I. Whyte** agreed to seek further clarification from the Rospa inspectorate concerning logistics and costs of some further modifications to the slide, and **Cllr P. Hunter** agreed to investigate the costs of installing some matting around the entrance of the goal post where the grass was showing signs of wear and tear.
- iii) Allotments: Update & Vacancy. The Clerk reported that all rents bar one had been received, but one tenant had confirmed that they wished to terminate their agreement. The **Clerk** would advertise the vacant plot in next edition of parish magazine. It was also agreed that the **Clerk** would look into the costs of installing water at the allotments.
- iv) Seating update: For Carpark/Recreation area of Tymmes Place. The **Clerk** was instructed to procure details and costs for installation of a bench, and paving for approximately £500.00.
- v) Owl Boxes: Update re Tymmes Place. Cllr Hunter has consulted with Suffolk Wildlife Trust who have advised that the trees around Tymmes Place are not suitable for attracting little owls, but would be good location for nesting boxes for spotted fly catchers which are a declining species. It was therefore agreed that **Cllr P. Hunter** should purchase (approx. £8 each) and install three nesting boxes for these birds, in time for nesting season in spring.
- vi) Recycling Facilities: Following requests to consider installation of glass recycling facilities in the village centre, the Clerk reported that she had received feedback that there was a demand for this facility, especially for residents who do not have access to a car. However, consultation with SCDC confirmed that the requirements for such a facility include hard standing for the bottle banks, easy roadside access for large vehicles to empty them and a location where

nearby residents will not be disturbed by noise or mess. In view of these requirements, it was reluctantly concluded that there is no suitable site available in the village centre.

**13. Training for Councillors:**

- i) Joint Training with Little Bealings Parish Council: The session was held on 23 Sept and was well attended. It was agreed that it was very informative and worthwhile.
- ii) Rights of Way & Byways LCPAS: Cllr P Hunter reported that the course was very interesting. He had learnt that the Ordnance Survey Footpath Map was available on their website. He asked the **Clerk** to confirm they had given us permission to reproduce this on the Parish Council website.

It was noted that installing footpath signposts was not the responsibility of the land owners, and grants were available for installing suitable disabled access points. Cllr P. Hunter confirmed he would be happy to advise residents if they found problems with parish footpaths, and the **Clerk** would mention this in next parish magazine entry.

**14. Village Tithe Map:**

Cllr Batley reported that he consulted with the repro company who had quoted approx. £400 for lab time to enhance the quality of the old map to a suitable standard, plus £50 (+ VAT) for each enhanced print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag, which is a heavyweight archival fine art paper with a smooth natural white finish. Cllr P. Strugnell proposed and Cllr I. Whyte seconded the proposal that **Cllr S. Batley** should instruct the repro company to proceed with these recommendations. All agreed.

15. **Correspondence:** List – Appendix B. The Clerk drew attention to letter from Mrs R J Good concerning her wish to dispose of pre-2003 documents currently stored in her shed. Chairman A. McWhirter had already contacted her about their disposal. Cllr S. Batley noted that the new occupants of the Old School House had reported finding a number of documents apparently relating to the parish council. The **Clerk** agreed to investigate the nature of these documents.

16. **Adjournment:** There were no resident members of the parish present, so there was no adjournment.

**17. Any Other Busines:**

- i) The Clerk reported that Mandy Spurgeon had now issued the Councillor Vacancy Notice, which would be posted on Tymmes Place Notice Board on 16<sup>th</sup> November.
- ii) It was agreed to defer discussing the possibility of acquiring Amenity Land, (**PH**) and Disabled Access to Hall (**PS**) til next meeting.
- iii) Cllr S. Batley reported that he had received confirmation from BT that Superfast Broadband would be coming to Hasketon in 2017/18, as scheduled.

18. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30 pm, and meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

8/12/15