

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2014.**

**PRESENT** Cllrs. Barber, Roberts, Belson, Gorzelak, Bloomfield, County Councillor Jessica Flemming, District Councillor Derek Osborne & 1 member of the public.

**APOLOGIES** Cllr. Leake & Cllr. Stebbing.

Minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 were confirmed and signed.

**TO RECEIVE PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS OF MEMBERS.**

None.

**TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION.**

None.

**PUBLIC OPEN FORUM.**

Mr. H. Frost spoke regarding the fact that he has discovered that 8 more men, born in Walsham, are not on the killed in action Walsham memorial, 4 of those 8 are however on other memorials. He has other people helping him in his research and will forward his findings to the Parish Council at a later date. He will undertake funding for any additional work that might be required.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR DISCUSSION.**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 0212/14**

**Proposal:** Retention of repairs to structure and change of use of existing agricultural barn to ancillary accommodation serving the occupants of the host dwelling as playroom/home gym.

**Location:** High Hall, Finningham Road, Walsham-le-Willows.

The Parish Council made no comments but queried whether there should be an application for listed building consent.

**PLANNING OUTCOMES.**

None.

**REPORTS.**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR JESSICA FLEMING.**

**Council Budget Approved for Financial Year 2014/15.**

The cabinet has given its approval to budget proposals for the new financial year. The budget reflects a four-year plan needed to reflect reductions in central government funding. Front line services are protected whilst 22 separate savings totalling £38.6 million are made, including the following largest savings.

- Finding additional savings from within Adult and Community Services that enable the council to protect specific budgets that ensure the growing number of

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people requiring care are able to access the services they need. Saving £6.4 million.

The council's contract with BT for the provision of ICT, HR, finance and public access closing in May 2014 and bringing the services and staff back in house.

A programme of service transformation and modernisation will follow. Saving £9 million.

Cutting the council's contingency budget and budgets for major projects, management of change and capital financing - £4 million.

Reviewing Supporting People services, e.g. help for marginalised adults, young people, gypsies and travellers and sheltered accommodation to identify areas where savings will have the least impact. Saving: £2 million.

A review of Children's Centre provision, looking at how we currently utilise our buildings to deliver services. Saving £1.5 million.

Annual savings from the new Energy from Waste plant at Great Blakenham (in comparison to landfill) programmed to open in December 2014.

Saving 8 million.

£156 million needs to be saved, equivalent to 30% of the council's current annual budget (excluding schools), over the next four years.

**Consultation – Home to School Transport 2014/2015 and 2015/16/**

Suffolk County Council is currently consulting on future funding support and policy arrangements for school transport.

**Electric Car Charging coming to Suffolk.**

Suffolk's Climate Change Partnership has been awarded £337,500 from central government to install an anticipated 12 additional rapid charge points in the County.

**An update was also given for Better Broadband News, Internships & Apprenticeships and Agri -Tech Grants.**

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR DEREK OSBORNE.**

Cllr. Osborne commented on footways in Elmside and also reported that MSDC are to clear the rubbish behind the garages in Townhouse Road.

**POLICE.**

In the absence of PCSO Dave Faulkner the Clerk read the following report.

**'Crime statistics.**

Since your last meeting there have been 0 reported crimes to the police.

**Crime trends.**

On-going crime trends across the County are currently Heating Oil Thefts and Catalytic Converter thefts.

Owners of vehicles with a high ground clearance, which are often targeted for their catalytic converters are being reminded of the following crime prevention tips.

1. Keep private vehicles in a well-secured garage where possible, and if no garage is available in a well-lit public place.
2. Park vehicles in such a way as to make access to the catalytic converter difficult, or parallel with another vehicle if you own one.
3. Keep commercial vehicles in a locked building or compound.
4. Use alarms, lighting and CCTV to deter thieves".

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**COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH.**

In the absence of Paul Leake the Clerk read the following report:-

We ran a speed check at the Sports Club at the end of January and caught some 15 vehicles in both directions. The fastest and the last of the session was a people mover checked at 58 mph driving into the village

Because of the current state of the roads it is not always possible to be 100% accurate with the index marks, but we are looking at ways to improve this. We shall also be running more frequent checks in the future.

We are still awaiting instruction and training on the better use of the variable speed equipment.

**TREE WARDEN.**

Not in attendance.

**PLAY AREA.**

Nothing to report.

**FOOTPATH WARDEN.**

Problems with finger posts is being dealt with. If anyone notices that a sign is in need of repair could they please report this to Cllr. Belson or the Clerk.

Claire Dixon has said repairs should take place late March/early April.

**CLERKS FINANCIAL REPORT AND REQUEST FOR PAYMENTS.**

A report of income/expenditure against budget to the 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2014 was presented. All cheques were passed for payment and duly signed.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2014.**

**COMMUNITY PAY BACK TEAM – WORK WITHIN THE VILLAGE.**

Nothing to report.

**FOOTWAYS AT ELMSIDE.**

The Clerk was instructed to e-mail Jack Wilkinson for a progress report.

**PARISH WORK PARTY.**

Nothing to report.

**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOP.**

Still ongoing.

**TREES ON STREAM BANK.**

The Chairman reported that she had contacted U.K. Power Network yet again with regard to the trimming of these trees along the bank of the stream. At the present time work here would necessitate the loss of power to the whole village. Work is therefore needed on the high and low voltage switching points before any work can take place. She will be making contact again in the near future.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING.**

Cllr. Stebbing had attended a Neighbourhood Planning Event held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2014 and has sent the following report:-

Well over 100 delegates from all over Suffolk with some Communities quite advanced with this as a concept although they seem to be places that are under threat for one reason

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or another...the notes of the meeting that you circulated are helpful but perhaps I can set out a few of the key points that I gathered from the event:

- To start with this isn't about 'stopping development' it stems from the CAMERON LOCALISM bill and is about putting planning at the heart of the Communities Agenda and, if we choose to take it up, getting it all done on the cheap..!
- I don't think it is for Walsham in all honesty and it will be a lot of work to achieve not much more than we have already...particularly in relation to the conservation area...one of the things we might achieve is to get a larger proportion of social housing than we would from MSDC on any future housing schemes BUT as we don't have any massive development sites and we are not a major village then it isn't really an issue.
- If we did want to proceed there is funding available for the process.
- Basically the process involves the following.
  - Preparing a DRAFT neighbourhood plan.
  - Consulting on the plan with the whole of the Community and being able to prove we have consulted...
  - Changing the DRAFT plan in the light of the consultation.
  - Consulting again maybe.....
  - Submitting it for scrutiny by an independent body.
  - Maybe changing it in the light of the scrutiny and consulting again,
  - Implementing it.
  - All a lot of work and as I say I can't rally see that we need it unless something radically changes.

#### **LITTER BIN AT JUNCTION OF TOWNHOUSE ROAD/FINNINGHAM ROAD.**

Still ongoing.

#### **LISTED BUILDING STATUS.**

Still ongoing.

#### **BIG COMMUNITY SWITCH SCHEME.**

An e-mail from Jonathan Free of MSDC has been received stating that as an organisation we did look at this initiative and the information we had at the time was that the level of savings were very modest or non-existent and that the switch process was quite difficult. Given this we didn't pursue the scheme. John Stebbing tells me that he has some information which may cast the scheme in a different light. I have asked him to share this with us so that we can look at it again.

#### **BETTER BROADBAND FOR WALSHAM/**

Chair has spoken to Jonathan Chown. Suffolk County Council Better Broadband for Suffolk, re concerns about connection of fibre optic cable to Walsham and has agreed to attend our Parish Council meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 to speak on this subject. Any interested parties are invited to attend this 7.00 – 7.30 p.m. slot.

#### **FOUR ASHES TRIANGLE.**

Chair has requested a site meeting with John Simpson. Suffolk County Council Highways Dept. and County Councillor Jessica Fleming to discuss this.

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

It was agreed to complete a questionnaire sent by MSDC concerning Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities within our village.

**OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION.**

**DATE FOR SPRING LITTER PICK.**

The date for the spring litter pick will be the weekend of the 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2014.

**FORMAT FOR A.G.M.**

This was discussed and agreed upon.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS/QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN.**

**GRIT BIN AT THE POUND-TOWNHOUSE ROAD/PALMER STREET JUNCTION.**

A request has been received for a grit bin to be sited here, this was agreed and the Clerk was instructed to arrange this for next autumn ready for the winter.

**STREET LIGHT – WATTISFIELD ROAD.**

A query has been raised concerning the removal of the street light outside No. 12, Wattisfield Road. This will be followed up with Suffolk County Council street lighting dept.

**GULLY CLEANING IN THE CAUSEWAY.**

It was reported that the gully cleaning contractors had left an unsightly mess here. The Clerk was instructed to report this to Suffolk County Council.

**WAR MEMORIAL.**

Further to Mr. Frost's report in Public Open Forum the Clerk reported that the order for the 3 additional names to be inscribed on the Memorial has already been issued. This is to be funded by a grant from Gardens Weekend.

Cheques passed for payment were as follows:-

- T.Hunter £98.00p. (Street cleaning).
- A.Clancy £303.60p. (Clerks wages/expenses).
- Tripp, Batt & Co. £179. 19p. (Mower service).
- Road Runner TCA Ltd. £121. 20p. (Calibration of speed gun).
- Suffolk County Council £2561. 36p. (Street lighting).
- R. Belson £24.00p. (Travel expenses)

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

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