

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEWBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Held on 2nd February 2015

Present: Peter Waller (Chair), Michael Frost, Jan Carlton, Sue Pollard, Lionel Scott,

In attendance: Cllr Veronica Falconer, Cllr Patricia O'Brien, Colin Moore (Clerk), 2 members of the public

Public question time. Mr Tony Finch, resident of Newbourne, commented upon his planning application which was due to be considered by the Council during its meeting. It was his view that the village should be re-classified a 'local service centre' in the planning hierarchy and he sought parish support for the application.

1. **Apologies for absence:**, Carrie Risdale, Peter Smyth, Jim Wicks
2. **Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest:** None
3. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 5th January 2015.** The minutes were **approved** without amendment and signed by the Chair.
4. **Suffolk Police update.** The January 2015 police report had been received and circulated. The report was **noted**.
5. **County and District councillor's reports.** In presenting her written report Cllr O'Brien highlighted the work of the Police & Crime Commissioner meetings. In response to a councillor's question she confirmed that there were indications of public support for the creation of a single force for Suffolk & Norfolk and regretted that the failure to follow through a closer collaboration over the call centre was a missed opportunity. Cllr Falconer also presented a written report and was warmly welcomed on her return from illness. Reference was made to an item from her report regarding Waldringfield quarry. Concern was again expressed that blocked gullies in the proximity of the quarry had continued to cause flooding on the highway and Cllr O'Brien offered to re-raise the issue with the highways department. Both Councillors were thanked for their efforts in achieving grants for the village hall, a total of £1000 for the refurbishment of the toilets.
6. **Action points.** None outstanding
7. **Planning**
 - a) **DC/14/3777/OUT-** erection of dwelling and garage. Land at Virginia Nurseries Ltd, Mill Road. The clerk advised that the application had been rejected at planning officer level and explained the circumstances that led to the parish comments not being taken into consideration. Whilst the comments had not been received due to misunderstanding they had been published on the Planning website and should an appeal be lodged they would be a material consideration. The report was **noted**.
 - b) **DC/14/4249/OUT** – erection of a dwelling. Land at Mill Road. (Between #18 and #19). Mr Finch's comments were generally supported however concerns were expressed in relation to the lack of consistency with the building line in Mill Road and the specific location of the proposed dwelling. The Chair commented that the Environment Agency were currently reviewing flood risk criteria and that this may affect the application. The view was also expressed that there was potential for removal of the disused greenhouses on the site and placing the building there. With the established caveat of infrastructure and precedent concerns it was **agreed** that the application be supported and the clerk to respond accordingly.

- c) **The Firs, Jackson Road** – owner request to comment on possible change of use from residence to holiday accommodation. The clerk had distributed the owner’s email requesting consideration prior to formal submission of a planning application. The council took the view that there was no formal residence on the parcel of land and that the application would be for a new holiday let. In view of the lack of detail and difference in relation to the status of the parcel of land they made no judgement and the owner was to be advised that no view was expressed. **Agreed**
- d) **DC/15/0189/FUL** – Alter curtilage line and erection of a single storey 2 bay cart lodge extension to the side of the existing house. No objection, proposal **noted**.

8. Finance

- a) Clearance of cheques for payment. None for presentation.
- b) Budget update. The clerk reported that there had been no new items of expenditure this month and expected items were in line with revised budgets. **Noted**.
- c) Automatic Precept Referendums – Consultation. The Chair advised that there had been no formal update received and he now assumed that there would be no requirement for the parish to hold a referendum in relation to the proposed increase in precept for 15/16. **Noted**
- d) Parish precept for 2015/16. Submission update. The clerk advised that the proposed precept had been lodged with the District Council. **Noted**

9. Clerks report and correspondence

- a) **Newsletter update**. The clerk advised that the Newsletter would no longer be published as the authors had decided to cease production. This was disappointing and The Chair and Clerk had given consideration to the production of a ‘flyer’ to be delivered by councillors to all houses in the village to a) advise the need for councillors at the May election, b) the need to register for broadband and c) to advise on the proposed increase in the precept. Additionally it would provide the opportunity to update the village on the loss of the newsletter and to convey the Parish Council’s thanks to the editors for their work over the past years in producing and delivering the newsletter. The production and delivery of the ‘flyer’ was **agreed** and **formal thanks** to the Newsletter editors was duly recorded.
- b) **Section 137, revision of limits**. The Clerk outlined the terms of section 137 payments and as none were made, or were intended to be made during the financial year the item was **noted**.
- c) **Scottish Power surveying activity**. Scottish Power had advised that they would be carrying out ecology and non-invasive archaeological surveys in the village as part of the East Anglia ONE Offshore Wind project. **Noted**.
- d) **Police Commissioner Survey**. It was **agreed** that the parish council would not be making a formal response to the PCC’s request for comment on the proposal that the Council Tax be increase by a small amount to provide increased funding for the police.
- e) **SALC Coastal Area Meetings**. The Clerk requested that any councillor wishing to attend quarterly meetings to let him know.
- f) **Suffolk Coastal Leisure Strategy**. Consultation closing in February and no formal response submitted. **Noted**.
- g) **Parish Local Recorder**. The Clerk advised that he had been notified that Angie Carpenter had been appointed Local Recorder for Newbourne. **Noted**.

- 10. **Revelry – update**. The hedge alongside the play space has now been cut. SCL to be asked for an estimate to strip the ivy from the hedge. **Agreed**

11. **Web Site update.** Peter Smyth is currently away and amendments are being made by the One Suffolk Web Administrator at the Clerk's request. **Noted.**
12. **Village Hall report.** Sue Pollard reported that the additional funding provided by the District Council would be used to complete renovation of the toilets, decoration and new floor coverings, Progress in relation to the building of an observatory in the village hall grounds was subject to further discussion and planning consent. A quote for provision of car parking standing had been received amounting to £9500 and was being considered.
13. **Election 2015** The Chair reported the outcome of a meeting that he and the Clerk had requested with Hilary Slater, the SCDC Legal Officer. Hilary outlined options for maintaining a parish council should there not be sufficient parishioners standing as councillors in the forthcoming elections. The meeting was minuted and should there be a need the options would be discussed once the election outcomes were known. **Agreed.** The Clerk reported that he had just received the timetable and guidance notes for the forthcoming parish elections. The material would be circulated to parish council members and it was suggested that, if standing, they obtain nomination forms and have them completed in advance of the March meeting. They could bring them to the meeting and the Clerk would deal with submission to SCDC.
14. **Broadband – request for parishioners to register interest.** Peter Smyth had researched the current broadband rollout position with the company working with BT and it was established that Newbourne had not been included in this year's rollout schedule. Advice had been received that if sufficient parishioners recorded an interest it might help the case for an earlier rollout. It was **agreed** that the 'flyer' would include an information item.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.00.

Chair, 5th March 2015