

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th July 2018 AT 7.30PM IN
THE VILLAGE HALL.

1. PRESENT- Mr P. Mortimer, Chairman, Mr P. Schwier, Mr T. Godbold. Mr C. Osborne, Mr P. Twiss, Mrs D. Fowler.

District Councillor Lavinia Hadingham and 6 members of the public

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

3. MINUTES – The minutes for the meeting held on Monday 8th May, 5th and 18th June 2018 were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There is now no requirement for a Data Protection Officer but a policy must be produced. The Clerk will do this and when approved this will go on the website.

There has been an enquiry about the post of Clerk. A meeting with the present Clerk will be arranged to explain the duties and responsibilities. If agreeable the post can then be approved at the September meeting.

The Cemetery gates are now broken. They will be mended as soon as possible.

The Chairman has had no response from Suffolk County Council over the letter about the flooding on roads, the hedge and the road narrows sign. He will now contact the MP to see if he can help. The District councillor will also try to help by contacting Guy McGregor. A resident whose house is affected by the flooding showed the council an email saying that any work on the drainage by the village hall would be 'disproportionate to the benefit'.

In the meantime a letter will be sent to the householder about cutting back the hedge on the corner.

5. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS.

The Chairman read out the application letters from two candidates and after a short discussion it was agreed to appoint both to be Parish Councillors.

Mrs Pryce and Mrs Dowsett signed the acceptance forms and took their places on the council.

6. REPORT - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR LAVINIA HADINGHAM

Mrs Hadingham said that a plan has been submitted for use of the old council offices site at Needham Market. This will include 99 homes, retail space and landscaping.

An award scheme has been launched for communities and business categories.

Mrs Hadingham said that she has Locality Grant money available for the new year.

OPEN FORUM

Mr Scholey asked if the lower branches of the conifers at the cemetery could be cut to make mowing easier. This was agreed.

The tree by the bus shelter will also have the low branches removed to increase visibility.

It was also asked if the grass around the goalposts on the meadow could be strimmed. The Clerk will ask for this to be done.

7. FINANCE

The following payments were approved.- Proposed -

£105 – Terry Horton – maintenance

£105 -Terry Scholey – maintenance

Approval was also given for the payment to register for Data Protection -£40

8. PLANNING – Permission has been granted for one house only in the grounds of Rose Farm.

9. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr Schwier was appointed (proposed Mr Twiss, 2nd Mrs Fowler)

The need for a Tree and Footpath warden was discussed. It was generally felt that local people were very good at reporting blocked paths and damaged signs, but Councillors would like these reports to go through the Clerk.

An article will be written for ‘Sixth Sense’ asking Metfield residents to report any problems to a Councillor or the Clerk who will pass it on the relevant department.

10. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

An email has been received expressing concern over the siting of the speed camera recently. As it was on the hill going towards Harleston several people were caught going at 35mph in the 30mph limit.

Councillors agreed that the siting was a little unfair but nevertheless the law should be adhered to.

The Clerk will reply.

11. CORRESPONDENCE - The Council and Clerks magazine was circulated.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- Monday 10th September 2018

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm