

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup>  
Nov 2018 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.**

**1. PRESENT-** Mr P. Mortimer, Chairman, Mr P. Schwier, Mr C. Osborne, Mrs S. Hatchman. Mr P. Twiss, Mrs J Dowsett, Mrs D. Fowler

District Councillor Lavinia Hadingham

**APOLOGIES** – Mr T Godbold, Mrs C Pryce

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – None

**3. MINUTES** – The minutes for the meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were approved and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

The drains outside of the village hall have been cleaned, and rainwater is now draining into the pond. The ditches have been cleared along Christmas Lane, but there is still an issue over where the ditch water subsequently drains into. The Highways Dept have still to resolve the capacity issue within the drainage system around the Harleston road junction.

The head of Environmental Management, Highways, has contacted Guy McGregor regarding the hedge requiring cutting in Fressingfield Road, Mr McGregor responded that the Parish Council wanted this to be completed as soon as possible.

No further information had been received regarding Mr McGregor's offer to pursue speed indicator signs for the village.

A member of the public had asked to bring a firework to the lighting of the Beacon, this had been unanimously rejected by the council, as it was felt inappropriate for the occasion. The event was well attended, and well received across the village. The chairman was thanked for ensuring this event happened and a further unanimous vote of thanks was proposed to Mr & Mrs Pryce for hosting the beacon and managing the site so well and the event so willingly.

**5. REPORT - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR LAVINIA HADINGHAM**

A draft Homes Strategy covering the period 2019-24 has been developed, laying out how the Council aims to increase the number of new homes being delivered. It includes increasing options for older households, and those requiring accessible homes, and ensuring housing stock is fit for 21<sup>st</sup> century living. A Homelessness Reduction Strategy is also being worked on to support the most vulnerable.

Both these strategies are now open for public consultation; launched 12<sup>th</sup> November, closing at noon on 7<sup>th</sup> December. The strategies will be amended following any feedback before being presented in February 2019. Further information is available on the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council website.

A memorial of seven English Oak have been planted in Debenham to commemorate the role played by the people of Mid Suffolk in the First World War, and to remember those who gave their lives in sacrifice for our freedoms today. The trees were planted on The Meadow off Wells Way, Debenham. Fastigate Oaks were chosen for their red foliage in the autumn, as a reminder of the poppies at Flanders that have become such a poignant symbol of remembrance.

## **6. FINANCE**

The following payment was approved.

£20 – Lottery licence

The current spend was reviewed against the budget and will be monitored going forward before confirming next year's forecast budget.

The Council agreed that a dedicated laptop should be purchased for use by the Parish Clerk to ensure data protection adherence, but also to be made available to other members of the Parish Council as required. The District Councillor offered funding of £300 to assist with the purchase – funding request forms will be forwarded to the Clerk for completion and submission. The Council agreed to match this funding. The Clerk will investigate what is available and complete the purchase of a suitable laptop.

## **7. PLANNING**

No decision has been published on the planning application for Hattens Farm

Discharge of conditions for the lighting scheme at Cherry Tree Farm has been issued.

## **8. TO DISCUSS THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE VILLAGE SIGN AND BUS SHELTER**

An offer had been made, via two councillors, from a resident, to refurbish the village sign and bus shelter at her own expense. The Clerk had visited her and asked for detailed plans to be submitted to the meeting for the Council to review. Unfortunately, although some detail had been provided through a councillor, no plans were submitted, so the Clerk will contact her again and invite her to attend the January meeting to present her suggestions. Her offer was very much appreciated, but it was felt it would be good to have the opportunity to see her plans and ask questions before any refurbishment went ahead.

## **9. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

The Tree Warden for Mendham has offered the village some young trees, grown in Scotland and provided by the Woodland Trust. It was agreed that a request should be made, via the Clerk, for 8 Oak trees, to represent the 8 Metfield residents killed in the

First World War. The exact location as to where these should be planted would need further investigation and approval.

It was queried as to why our American comrades were never mentioned during commemoration. It was agreed that all American servicemen operating out of Metfield would be remembered at the special service scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> November, along with other service men and women from the village.

Mrs Sylvester asked if the council were happy for her to remain as representative for Metfield on the Board of Trustees for the Poorlands Trust, following her retirement as Clerk. The Council asked her to remain in post.

#### **11. CORRESPONDENCE**

Fressingfield Parish Council invited Metfield Parish Council to a meeting outlining the Suffolk Good Neighbourhood scheme sponsored by Community Action Suffolk on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Mr Mortimer indicated that he would attend if possible.

#### **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING-** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Meeting closed at 8.25 pm