

REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES

13 July 2011

Held at Redgrave Activities Centre at 7.30 pm

Present: Bob Hayward, Jason Walker, John Giddings, Mike Denmark, Jan Cresswell, Jackie Moss and Jim McCluskey. Plus Sara and Charles Michell and 6 members of public.

1. Apologies: Ian Baird, Ann Preston, Nick Kegge
2. Chairmans opening – welcomed everyone who had attended.
3. Declarations of interest – Bob declared interest re Moneypot Farm new dwelling application – Albert Driver's will leaves money to the church which Bob has an interest in.
4. Minutes of meeting of Wednesday 9 June 2011 – Those present unanimously agreed they were a true record.
5. Matters arising not covered by this agenda - none
6. Any changes in councillors: None but Ian Baird has resigned as the rep for Gressingham Foods. Jim McCluskey was elected as the new rep.

7. *Open discussion with county and district councillors, and services*

Charles Michell –County Councillor - new era under a new leader, everything is under review. His style will be to be more gentle than his predecessor. He may make changes but it is hard to make many because of the cuts. Chief Exec has left as has been reported, he felt rather sorry for her and felt she was misrepresented by the press. Whistle blowing allegations have been investigated and nothing found. Her payoff was one year's salary. He thinks that she was not paid too much and others were paid more.

He still has money in the locality budget which is available to community projects which need a little extra help.

Sara Michell – District Councillor. Repeated what she had said last month about the poll on the merging of the 2 district councils. The 2 councils will remain separate and the new Chief Exec is working hard to try and save money. She mentioned that entries for the Community Achievement Awards are still open for nominations.

Rosemary Walker asked about Brome Waste disposal contract and SM said it is out to contract and there are bids in for running it as a "pay as you throw" site. It is up to contractor to set the price of each visit but there are very large fixed costs involved. Charles mentioned that recycling sites locally should be used to maximum as the payments from the sale of that recycling are given to local charities in the community. Up to 5 major items can be taken away by the Bulk Waste collection people. If one area tip becomes a charging site then others in the council area should also be charging sites as well – if not this is very unfair. The whole of the electorate should be treated the same.

Bob Hayward asked about a letter concerning the intention to charge for emptying dog bins and litter bins.

PC Nick Kegge sent the following report in his absence:

Crimes committed in the past month.

1 x theft – cricket club store

The current SNT Priority's are:

1- Garden security

There has been a recent increase in thefts of statues and pots from front gardens in mid Suffolk we are interested in any suspicious vehicles that have been seen and are working with local auctions to identify any stolen property. Advice is being given to mark any items of value using permanent marker or paint on the bottom of the base so that items can be identified, where possible try to secure items to the ground.

2- Theft of metal

We are interested in any vehicles seen asking for scrap in the area and have been regularly working with trading standards and local scrap yards to identify stolen goods and vehicles operating without a licence.

3- Anti social use of vehicles in Worlingworth.

Due to issues of Anti social motorists in the centre of Worlingworth we have made regular visits to the village and have done checks on several vehicles and dealing with any offences found.

The Next SNT meeting is to be held on July 12th at The Bell Public house, Rickingham at 19:30pm

New priority's will be advertised on notice boards and at the next parish meeting.

8. *Open discussion with residents*

Jane McGeehan of Half Moon Lane made a request that for Sept 10th a family party would like to pitch 6 to 10 tents on the Old School playing field. Access would be from the back near her house and the PC agreed that this was OK if it was done at their own risk.

Someone asked if there was any arrangement to clear up the grass and weeds around the playing equipment on the playing field – and he offered to help out with the work. The PC accepted with thanks his offer to help out. Bark is needed in places and this will be discussed later in the agenda.

9. Planning

<http://planning.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/acolnetcgi.gov>

1845 11 Orchard House Half Moon Lane first floor extension over existing porch – there were no objections to this.

2120/11 Moneypot Farm new dwelling.

To convert outbuildings to a new 2 bedroom bungalow in the grounds of Moneypot Farm. There were no objections by the PC.

1520/11 Honeysuckle Cottage for a double bay cartlodge - granted

1068/11 Knoll Cottage change of use and erection of 2 bay cartlodge - granted

10. Finance and cheques for signature

RAT volunteer has varnished all PC benches – PC considered paying RAT two thirds of cost of varnish – £48 agreed.

Pay Bryant Bros £450 for gate & post installation at Town Pit - agreed

Pay MSDC £87.50 for uncontested election fee - agreed

Consider paying £750 plus VAT to clean out village pond and transport spoil to a field. - Vic said there were problems getting people to quote for the work. He has had a second quote today which is slightly higher than the first one but it still requires 3 quotes before we can go ahead. The work will improve the look of the pond a lot and the water will be clearer if the silt is removed and the pond is deeper. It is not an option to fill in the pond as it is a historic pond which has always been at the centre of the village. There is an agreement from Alastair Sharp to take the disposal of the spoil on his land for free. Jim McCluskey said that it was important that we do a good job as our reputation as a village is at stake. It was agreed to pay up to £750 for the job once the 3rd quote is in.

Consider paying up to £100 for plants for volunteers to plant around the pond edge – this was also agreed. It was mentioned that the ducks might spoil the work but there was not a lot that could be done about that.

Consider paying for bark for play areas – about 8 to 10 cubic metres needed. The price of 12 cu mtrs delivered is £729.94 including VAT but we can claim back the VAT. This is the cheapest price that could be found as we have had 2 others that were much dearer.

11. Update to standing orders and financial standing orders. It was decided that a copy of the new orders should be sent to each councillor. The annual governance statement for audit would be signed by the chairman and the clerk.

12. Affordable housing progress. This slowly moving along – surveys are in progress.

13. Old School Playing Field – John Giddings asked if the large waste bin in the middle of the playing field could be removed. It is not on the list of Parish assets and it was agreed that it could be moved as it is in the way of the mowers.

14. Duck Factory – no meeting.

15. Town pit – Consider putting pond spoil onto land to improve quality – decided not to do it.

Mike Denmark has 3 people who have expressed interest in having an allotment on this field. Sarah Holt Wilson has said that she is happy that people can use the allotments that already exist behind the council houses. Rosemary Walker suggested that the Old School Playing Field used to be school allotments long ago and would make better allotments as the soil was better there and it was more secure.

There was a lot of discussion about the best thing to do with the Town Pit rather than let it become overrun with weeds and bracken and left to the rabbits. If any member of the Parish has any good ideas as to a use for the field than please contact a member of the PC.

16. Any other correspondence or information

Consider a proposal by Neighbourhood Watch for Speedwatch if received – this has not been received but will be carried forward to the September meeting.

Alternative speed flashing lights see <http://www.westcotec.co.uk/#!/products/> factory at Dereham. This was probably about £3,500 but it would be better to get the company in to talk about the project.

Girl Guides request for donation towards training instructors – she will be advised to talk to Charles Michel about his Locality Budget for this.

Show the new website <http://www.redgrave.org.uk>. This was shown on the screen by Chris Tindall who had set it up. It has a new look and more information. It includes an events calendar and a feed back section to get people's thoughts on the web site at the moment but this can be adapted to use for other polls in the future. There is a PC page with contact details for all councillors, finance reports and annual reports. Another page with details of Village Organisations with links. The Events page lists many items of interest and new events can easily be added in. There is also a gallery of photos of the village which can be added to as time goes on. Thanked by Jason for her hard work.

One email and one letter have been received complaining about noise nuisance from a young person who regularly flies his model aircraft on the playing field. The PC felt that it was not within their remit to tackle the person involved who was merely enjoying his hobby and could easily be asked by neighbours to adjust his hours of flying so as not to upset people.

A14 Haughley roadworks advance notice received of work in September or October

17. Ideas for improvements to village (excluding Activities Centre & play areas). Mike Denmark asked if there could be some sort of News page on the website that would put neighbours in touch with each other for small items of interest, such as items wanted or for sale.

18. Matters carried forward from this meeting - none

19. New matters for next meeting – none

20. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 14 September. There is no meeting next month.

Meeting closed 21.40.

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