

REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
13 February 2013

Present: Jason Walker, Bob Hayward, Jim McCluskey, Ian Baird, Jackie Moss, Jan Cresswell, Ann Preston, Mike Denmark, District Councillor Sara Michell, County Councillor Charles Michell and 6 residents.

Apologies: John Giddings

2. Chairmans opening – Jason welcomed everyone to the Hall on a very cold and wintery night.
3. Declarations of interest - none
4. Minutes of meeting of Wednesday 9 January 2013 – all agreed and signed as a true record.
5. Matters arising not covered by this agenda - none
6. Any changes in councillors - none
7. Open discussion with county and district councillors, and services

Charles Michell, the County Councillor, said there will be no increase in the Council Tax and that a band D property tax will remain at £1126.53. The council has worked hard to keep the tax at the same level and has taken notice of comments from the public. The Council is trying to cut out waste in every department. He mentioned that 58 gritters were working all night during the worst of the snow and kept all the main A and B roads open. He said that it was a pity that so many schools closed when the roads were open and that there was bad publicity because of it. The 21st March is the cut off date for the Locality Budget before the next election and so all requests must be received by that date. Charles will not be standing again at the next elections after that but his successor has been chosen. He has spoken to Highways about the bus stop problem on the Knoll and he has said that he will try to fund the total cost of around £3,400 for the work from one of his budgets.

Sara Michell, the District Councillor, said the good news was that MSDC has frozen the Council Tax again this year and that means that the government will give them 1%. The leaders of MSDC and Babergh are concerned that rural councils get less funding than urban councils and they have spoken to a Minister about this. There has been cuts in the number of staff to keep costs low.

8. Open discussion with residents

A resident who lives at Crossroads on the junction of the road to the factory with the The Street wrote a letter about the damage that is being caused by large lorries cutting the corner and destroying his kerb and the verge. The sign for the approaching crossroads is very near to the crossroads and vehicles do not slow down in time and there have been several near misses in recent months. Visibility is bad and many years ago they moved the white lines out further into the road to help but these have now been eroded. It was suggested that Charles Michell could advise highways of the problem so that they can repair and take a long term view as to how to remedy the situation. There is also an enormous puddle on the opposite side of the road which is always there when ever it rains and spreads across the road and there are hedges that are growing across the road making the road less wide than it should be and which need cutting back.

Jim said he had received a letter from a lady who is fed up with the amount of dog mess on the pavements. Ann Preston said that if anyone can get any evidence or photos then Mid Suffolk will chase the culprits.

Bob Hayward reported back on the Bells project that the local trust would be meeting the Conservation Committee of the Churches Conservation Trust on 28 February. Listed building consent had been received at the end of October. Jim McCluskey asked why it was taking so long and do they think that they are above and better than the government planning process and public opinion.

Bob said that he hoped not. Jim asked who funds them and Bob replied the Government and Church of England. Ann Preston responded, so you mean that is us the public. Charles Michell said that the Secretary of State had overruled the English Heritage objection which meant that the Mid Suffolk decision was legally binding and that there ought only to be a simple dotting of i's and crossing of t's regarding just the actual process of implementation.

Jackie Moss said that the fly tipping she had reported has all been cleared now.

John Preston said that people who wish to help Dave McDonald should meet next week. He has organised a clean up of the footpath to Botesdale and the PC wishes to thank him.

The PC also thanked Charles Michell for the money for the wheelie bin stickers.

9. Planning

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

Tree preservation order on tree of heaven – this will be allowed to lapse in a few months and the tree can then be dealt with as the occupant wishes.

10. Finance and cheques for signature

Pay parish magazine subscription £130. Pay street lighting £145.85.

S137 - Pay 2012/13 donation payments but suggest at 2013/14 budget amounts: Optua £50, Coffee Caravan £50, Diss CAB £50, Suffolk Accident Rescue £100, Neighbourhood Watch up to £50 when requested, Air Ambulance £100, Village Shop £100, Victim Support £50.

Parish purposes pay - Hall hire £180, Burial Ground cut £300, Recreational facilities RAT £300.

All the above payments were agreed.

Agree £40 one third share of remembrance parade 2013 but need to see 2014 budget before Nov 2013 – this was agreed separately.

Bus stop East side of Knoll - cost will be £3,400, Charles Michell Quality of Life budget will contribute much of this cost as discussed during his talk above. It was agreed that Redgrave PC will contribute an amount up to £500 maximum for any balance.

£210 will be received from Charles Michell's Locality Budget for Speedwatch wheelie bin stickers.

11. Town pit status – Ann Preston suggested we plant a wood but we have to make sure that this does not detract from the potential value of the site in the future. If the field were levelled and looked after it would be possible to get a crop of hay from it. Ian Baird suggested building a care home for the elderly there or sheltered housing. He will look further into this.

12. Affordable housing – Jan said there were 72 applications for the housing – all with village connections. The affordable housing lady thought that this would mean we should consider another 4 houses similar to the 5 new ones that have just been built. Jim McCluskey said that the occupants of the new houses are complaining that the costs of running the houses are far higher than they had expected. Jason suggested that we write and say that we will wait and see how these houses work out before we commit to any further ones.

13. Old School Playing Field.

Tree on boundary adjacent to Linden Lea. Remedial work status – John Preston has approached tree surgeon and his quote is £360 to do the work ie get rid of dead tree and reducing the other 2 trees in size. The PC agreed to go ahead with this quote and get the work done as soon as possible.

14. Duck Factory

The PC reps could not attend the meeting but will go to the next one in May. Ian Baird complained about the flood on the road the other side of the bridge which is therefore in Hinderclay.

15. Speed monitoring

Progress and stickers. Jackie will order the stickers and has the loan at the moment of the flashing speed sign which has been in use and is very successful at making people slow down. White railings will be used from a redundant fence and can then be put in place at the entrance to the village.

16. Any other correspondence or information

Copies of records of Births, Deaths, Marriages from 1550 will be in St Mary's Church and will be kept there on micro-fiche. A register of graves will be then be prepared as well, starting work July

Letter from "Crossways" re lorries damaging verge and danger of crossroads exiting right to Redgrave – this was dealt with earlier.

Police consultation meetings – Ian Baird volunteered as a community representative for this. Ian will give John Robinson a copy of the notice in case he would like to also like to join.

17. Ideas for improvements to village and following-up on previous projects proposed – Village clean up day on Sunday 17th March at 10.30am on the Knoll.

18. Matters carried forward from this meeting – none

19. New matters for next meeting – none

21. Next meeting 13 March 2013

Closed at 9.20pm

13 February 2013 To be signed 13 March

Jason Walker Chairman