



CREETING ST PETER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Church Hall, The Lane, Creeting St Peter on **Monday, 19th November 2018 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors: M Valladares (Chairman)
M Peacock
S Lawson
D Mason
R Hitt

In Attendance District Cllr Keith Welham
J Blackburn - Clerk

CSP66/18/19 – PUBLIC FORUM

There was one member of the public present. He informed the Parish Council that he wanted to report to them that the footpath at the rear of Grove Farm had been cut and tidied at one end, but at the other there was a log across the path making it difficult to pass.

CSP67/18/19 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from County Cllr Gary Green.

CSP68/18/19 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Hitt declared an interest in Item 9 on the Agenda.

CSP69/18/19 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

CSP70/18/19 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER 2018

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 17th September 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

CSP71/18/19 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Gary Green was not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

CSP72/18/19 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR WELHAM

Cllr Welham had circulated his report prior to the meeting, which stated the following points:

- **Locality Grants** - a small proportion of the locality budget was available.
- **Tree for Life scheme** - a Green Party initiative funded from MSDC's 2018/2019 budget, the scheme encouraged the planting of a tree for new born and newly adopted children. All families within Mid Suffolk who had received a new family member between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2018 were welcome to apply for a free tree to celebrate a new life or adoption.

- **Investment in Stowmarket** - the Council was investing in Stowmarket (rather than just investing in warehouses and shops in other parts of the country). Having purchased the former NatWest bank, Mid Suffolk had recently acquired the building formerly occupied by food store chain Aldi and more recently by Family Bargains, including its car park on Gipping Way. Plans were being waited for the building, but the Council would now be managing and collecting revenue from parking on the site. Work on the car park had started and was expected to take approximately two weeks.
- **Gateway 14** - As Chair of the Council's Scrutiny Committee, and as the Local Councillor, Cllr Welham was asking for details of the business plan for the development to be available. Development details would need to be taken through the planning process so that all reserved matters could be considered.
- **Consultations** - The District Council were currently consulting on a Homes Strategy and a Homelessness Reduction Strategy. Consultation on both would end on 7 December. It was hoped that, before the end of 2018, consultation would begin on a Community Strategy.
- **Energy and Water Efficient Homes** - The first motion that Cllr Welham put to Council after his election in 2015 was to propose that MSDC draw up plans for energy efficient council homes. Conservative councillors were against the proposal and voted instead 'to investigate how to achieve the aspiration' to build energy efficient homes. No progress had been made towards achieving that aspiration and so, at the October meeting of Council, he called upon the Cabinet Member for Housing to give a firm commitment. All he had received from the Cabinet Member so far was a response that the Council had built 38 new council homes in the last 3 years, none to the standard that he had been seeking, and a statement in the draft Homes Strategy that, in the period 2019 to 2024, the development of an energy efficient standard for some new builds would be explored. So, by 2024, MSDC may well have taken 9 years and still not built a single new home to a high standard of energy efficiency.
- **Five Year Land Supply for New Housing Developments** - Members were given a briefing recently following the Planning Inspector's decision to allow an appeal made by a developer against MSDC's decision to refuse an application for 49 homes in open agricultural land south of Woolpit. The leader of the opposition group asked again that extra staff be appointed to ensure as far as possible that developments which had been permitted come forward to construction rather than sit in a land bank or stall due to the slow pace of negotiations between relevant parties. Once again we were told that existing staff would be covering this extra work. Our fear was that other planning work could be delayed or be less effective if extra staff are not taken on.
- **Scrutiny Committee** - In the next few months, some major issues would be matters for the Scrutiny Committee, which Cllr Welham would chair. One of those would be the business case for the development of the land in Needham Market where the MSDC HQ buildings and car parks currently were. He was hoping to see a high standard of housing, including units for sale and for social rent. The refuse collection contract was due to be renewed, either by negotiated extension or re-tendering; likewise the recycling contract; and the contract for provision of leisure facilities at the sports centres at Stowmarket and Stradbroke. The business cases and contract procedures for all those were likely to come to the Scrutiny Committee early in 2019. It was the job of the committee to question the work of Cabinet Members and officers to ensure that they gave good service to residents in a lawful, effective and cost-effective way.
- **Needham Lake** - Needham Lake was one of the most popular free all-year-round visitor attractions in the East of England, but it had very limited facilities for visitors. Proposals by MSDC were welcomed to provide more facilities, especially an outlet offering a variety of refreshments, better toilets and more on-site supervision.

Cllr Welham added that the old **?????** site had been taken over by new owners and was called 'Nutshells'. A new shop and café would be opened and a new butchers was under negotiations. Unfortunately, a post office was not planned for the near future.

CSP73/18/19 - TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had nothing further to report other than what was on the Agenda.

b) FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk reported on the Council's current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance in the accounts on 12th November 2018 was £16,317.57. Members noted the Budget Monitoring report.

c) PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:

100717	Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Salary (Nov)	£175.18
100718	Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Expenses (Nov)	£39.58
100719	Creeting St Mary PC	Toner	£27.53
100720	SALC	Budget Workshop - Clerk	£8.70
100721	Jennie Blackburn	Reimbursement of Poppy Wreath	£17.00
100722	Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Salary (Dec)	£175.18
100723	Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Expenses (Dec)	£28.33

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £471.50 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk. It was also noted that a payment of £555.52 to CAS Buiness Ltd, for the annual insurance premium be ratified.

It was noted that there had been no receipts received.

d) DRAFT BUDGET 2019/2020

The Clerk had circulated the Draft Budget prior to the meeting. Members had no comments to make in relation to the Draft Budget.

It was AGREED: that the Draft Budget be approved.

CSP74/18/19 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/18/04666 - Planning Application - Continued use of land for the storage of vehicles and concrete products for a temporary period of 3 years - Poundfield Products Ltd, The Grove, Mill Lane, Creeting St Peter, Suffolk IP6 8QG

During a discussion about the application the Parish Council made the following concerns:

- Poor access along the narrow, single-track, country lanes to the site
- Inconsiderate use of the highway by transport vehicles to and from Poundfield Products Ltd which had led to altercations and incidents involving abuse of other road users
- Use of the low bridge at Watering Farm by large, heavy lorries when the bridge was only ever intended for use by small vehicles
- Damage to the verges and roadway near the above bridge by lorries which has led to regular flooding during the winter months and repairs by Anglian Water (necessitating closure of the road)
- Light pollution caused by the floodlights on site
- Use of the site beyond the permitted operating hours of 8am to 6pm with lights and machinery being operated on site from 6am

- Parking of distribution vehicles outside the bund on the site contrary to previous planning consent

It was felt that Mid Suffolk District Council had not enforced the current application that was in place and before any new application be approved, the previously agreed application should be enforced.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council objected to the application. **Clerk to action.**
That the Clerk email the Planning Enforcement Department.

CSP75/18/19 - PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decision was noted.

Ref: DC/18/04505 - Application for Prior Notification of agricultural or forestry development - Proposed Road. Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part 6, Repositioning of drive way access - Braziers Hall, Creeting Road, Creeting St Peter, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5BW – **NOT REQUIRED**

Ref: DC/1582/17 - Outline Planning Application with all matters reserved except Access for up to 13ha of business and industrial development (use Class B1a, B1b, B1c, B2 & B8), up to 540m² floor area of use Class A4, up to 425m² floor area of use Class A3/A5 and associated infrastructure & works, - total proposed area 14.97ha - Land to The North East Of, Mill Lane, Creeting St Peter, Suffolk - **GRANTED**

CSP76/18/19 – DEFIBRILLATOR

It was noted that the light was not working on the defibrillator cabinet. Cllr Mason stated that he would have a look to see if there was a disconnection. The Clerk would report the issue should it be needed.

CSP77/18/19 – A14 LAYBY ISSUE

It was reported that a resident in the village caught the perpetrator who often left human faeces in the vicinity of the footpath behind the layby on the A14, who was believed to be a lorry driver. He apologized to the resident.

An Agreement had been drawn up by Highways Suffolk in order to allow the Parish Council to plant Hawthorn hedging along the area in order to stop the issue by making the area inaccessible.

It was AGREED: That the Agreement be signed by the Chair. **Clerk to action.**

CSP78/18/19 – PLAY AREA

The Clerk reported that the Play Area Inspection had been received. It stated that everything was in order with the equipment to continue to be monitored for any deterioration.

Cllr Mason reported that he had recently greased all hinges/joints etc.

CSP79/18/19 – SHED SECURITY / CSP80/18/19 – EMERGENCY BAG PROCEDURE

Cllr Mason reported that the emergency bag, which should be available for the community, was to be kept in the new shed rather than in the Church Hall. For this to happen a key box needed to be installed on the shed so it could contain the key.

To make the community aware of the Emergency Bag and what it contained, information should be put onto the website and into the Newsletter. **Clerk to action.**

It was AGREED: That Cllr Mason install a padlock and key box onto the outside of the shed and ensure any receipts are given to the Clerk for reimbursement.

CSP81/18/19 – FEN ALDER CARR NATURE RESERVE

The Clerk updated members that there had been an incident recently where the Police had contacted her in relation to a possible break-in to the site. The entrance gate had been broken and lifted off the post in order to gain entry. Roger Beecroft fixed the gate and new 'Do Not Enter' notices re-attached.

CSP82/18/19 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Old noticeboard still not yet removed
- Resident had complained that 'pub night' signs an eyesore
- Water leak remains at the bottom of Pound Road
- 30mph still painted on the road in the village
- Maple trees on border of play area and at the entrance require trimming back

CSP83/18/19 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was due to be held at the Church Hall on Monday, 21st January 2018 at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.31pm.

Chairman: Dated: