

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH ROOM, MILL LANE, GREAT BLAKENHAM ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JULY 2012**

**PRESENT:** A. Beckett, R. Edrupt, Mrs S Fairburn, Miss L Martin, P McLauchlan, Mrs P Robinson, District Councillors J Field and M Blakenham and PC Tina Fairness

### **1.7 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

A number of residents attended the meeting to ask if consideration could be given to the provision of a pedestrian crossing on Stowmarket Road close to Mill Lane. They had concerns about the safety of pedestrians crossing with speeding traffic along Stowmarket Road. A large number of elderly residents cross the road to attend functions held in the Village Hall and Parish Room. A petition signed by 64 signatories was handed to County Councillor Field. The Chairman asked County Councillor Field to explain the situation as the County Council are responsible for pedestrian crossings.

Councillor Field explained that the installation of a crossing had been considered previously by the County Council but it had not progressed. The County Council would take into consideration the planned crossings in conjunction with the new development on Gipping Road and Bramford Road and the Council's budget constraints in deciding whether a further crossing could be installed. He would present the petition to the Council and would take this request up with the Highways Department and the Portfolio Holder and request a traffic survey. He explained that evidence would be need to be collected to see how often people cross Stowmarket Road close to Mill Lane. The residents offered to carry this out.

The Chairman thanked the residents for attending and confirmed that the Parish Council would write to Suffolk County Council Highways to ask them to look into the possibility of the installation of a pedestrian crossing in this location.

Councillor Blakenham also explained that with the new merger of Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils the officers were looking to approach all the parish councils to find out what the local issues are and this would be classed as a major issue and he would raise this with them.

### **2.7 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Councillor J. Field's had been circulated to the Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors prior to the meeting.

Councillor M Blakenham reported that Suffolk County Council were looking at ways of improving the junction at Pound Lane and reducing speeding along Loraine Way following the recent fatal accident, the staffing at the new merged Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils and that officers were looking to consult with all parish councils to consider their views and problems within their parishes, on a recent meeting of members of Suffolk County Council, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils to agree a joint strategy to pressure NationalGrid to underground the power cables for the Bramford to Twinstead rather than pylons.

### **3.7 REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER**

PC Tina Fairness had circulated the report prior to the meeting.

#### **4.7 Apologies:** R Simpson

**5.7 Declarations of interest appropriate to any item on the agenda** – None were declared.

**6.7 MINUTES** of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012 were approved and signed.

### **7.7 WORKPLAN**

11/04 8.4 – Mr M Hallett – The Chairman reported that she had written to Barclays Bank regarding the unauthorised on line banking but had not received a reply to date. Councillors agreed that the Council should approach the Financial Ombudsman to investigate the matter.

### **8.7 FINANCE**

- a. Monthly Payments – It was agreed to sign cheques to the value of £2,355.84.
- b. Internal Accounting Controls – These controls were reviewed by the Council and noted the change in the Council's financial package to Microsoft Money.

### **9.7 SUFFOLK CODE OF CONDUCT**

Following the introduction of the Localism Bill a new Code of Conduct had been produced by SALC for consideration by Parish Councils. All Parish Councillors had received a copy of the new code prior to the meeting. It was agreed to adopt the Suffolk Code of Conduct.

### **10.7. REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

Following the adoption of the Suffolk Code of Conduct each member was given a copy of the new Register of Interests that would need to be completed and returned to the Parish Clerk within the next 28 days.

### **11.7 VILLAGE SIGN**

Councillors gave consideration to a proposal to look at improving the main village signs as you enter the village at Bramford Road and at Stowmarket Road. Sita UK have offered to meet the costs of planning and installation. Two sketches were laid round at the meeting and it was agreed that these be shown to Sita UK's architect and a final design be approved by Councillors at a future meeting.

### **12.7 GREAT BLAKENHAM DIRECTORY**

Councillors gave consideration to the introduction of a village directory. The directory will contain contact details of local services including clubs and activities available in Great Blakenham. Councillors received a draft copy of the directory and agreed that this would be a valuable source of information for parishioners and agreed that the Parish Clerk enquiry about the costs of printing the booklet and that the directory be distributed to every household in the village. It was also agreed that Orbit Housing be approached to see if the directory could be included with the information given to new house owners on Blakenham Fields.

### **13.7 CEMETERY SHED**

The Chairman reported that three companies had been approached for quotations to erect a new shed in the cemetery and to dismantle the old shed. A quotation from Impact Landscaping for £1400.00 + VAT being the only quote received was accepted by the Council.

### **14.7 ALLOTMENT FENCE**

The Chairman reported that three companies had been approached for quotations to erect new fencing along the length of the allotments. Two quotes had been received. Mr Sillett quoted £3,271.60 and Impact Landscaping Ltd for £1800.00 + VAT. It was agreed to accept the quotation received from Impact Landscaping Ltd for £1800.00 + VAT.

### **15.7 VILLAGE SUMMER FETE**

Following the success of the Jubilee Picnic, Councillors considered holding a yearly summer fete. After some discussion it was agreed to hold a Summer Fete on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2013. The Chairman would approach the Village Hall Committee to enquire if the village hall and recreation ground were available.

### **16.7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- a. New housing development – the Chairman reported that, along with Robert Simpson and Claire Lee she had attended a progress meeting with representatives from Lovell's and Orbit Housing. Councillors noted that the development was progressing well, with the showhouse due to open at the end of July with the first occupants moving in by the middle of August. It was noted that Phase II of the development would commence once the private dwellings were being sold.
- b. Suffolk Age Uk 4 Communities Day – the Chairman reported that she had attended this very successful event and had introduced herself and explained how the Parish Council can help the elderly residents of the parish. Due to the success of this meeting future events will be planned.
- c. Suffolk Association of Local Councils – the Chairman reported that she had attended a recent meeting and Suffolk Police had given a presentation on the services they provide to Parish Councils.
- d. Viridor Liaison Group – the Chairman reported that she had attended a recent meeting. It was noted that Viridor had received no complaints from residents in the last four months.
- e. Village Hall Management Committee – the Chairman reported that she had attended a recent meeting of the committee. The grant application to Sita UK was in the process of being completed.
- f. Clearway and Speed Restriction – Bramford Road – the Chairman reported that the Parish Council had received a consultation from Suffolk County Council Highways to introduce a Clearway and a 40 mph speed limit along the Bramford Road. Due to the lateness of this item the Chairman would place an item in the In Touch magazine so that

parishioners were aware that this may be introduced. Councillors fully supported the introduction of a Clearway and a 40 mph speed limit along Bramford Road.

Chairman

Date