

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH ROOM, MILL LANE, GREAT BLAKENHAM ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2012**

**PRESENT:** A. Beckett, R. Edrupt, Mrs S Fairburn, Miss L Martin, P. McLauchlan,  
Mrs P Robinson, R. Simpson and District Councillor J Field

### **1.3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

A member of the public raised a question regarding the installation of a crossing point along Stowmarket Road close to Hood Drive to allow safer access to the children's play area. The Chairman informed Councillors and the public that this crossing point had been considered in previous years and the Parish Council had spent a considerable amount of time measuring and assessing whether a crossing was appropriate in this position and it was agreed at the time not to pursue with this project. This had now been overtaken by the development of the Former Cement Works as included within their plans will be the installation of 5 crossing points. These crossings will enable pedestrians to cross Bramford Road and Gipping Road to access the proposed retail units and the play areas, including the play area in Mill Lane. It was felt that Suffolk County Council would not consider installing any further crossings on Stowmarket Road in the near future.

A question was raised regarding the future of the conifer trees along the boundary of the new development. The Chairman informed the meeting that as part of the plans all the conifer trees along Gipping Road will be removed.

### **2.3 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Councillor J. Field's was laid round at the meeting.

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

PCSO Brill's report was circulated prior to the meeting.

**4.3 Apologies:** District Councillor M Blakenham

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

**6.3 MINUTES** of the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 were approved and signed.

### **7.3 WORKPLAN**

All Parish Councillors present received an update on the outstanding matter.

### **8.3 GREAT BLAKENHAM CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA**

Meeting closed 8.10pm

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had been approached by Mr Edmonds, a resident of Great Blakenham, who wished to apply to Sita UK for a grant of upto £60,000 to refurbish the children's play area. Mrs Edmonds was present at the meeting and she explained that herself and her husband felt that the current play area had fallen into a very poor state of repair and felt that some areas were unsafe. They had held a meeting within the parish and had received a good response to their concerns and future plans from some parishioners.

Mr Lockwood, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee explained to the meeting that the play area and land was their responsibility and not the Parish Council. The play area was maintained and inspected regularly. Mr Lockwood felt that Mr Edmonds should have approached the Village Hall Committee prior to him approaching Sita UK to ascertain the feelings of his committee members. He invited Mr & Mrs Edmonds to the next Village Hall Committee to hear their views on their proposed plans.

Some members of the Parish Council were concerned that the Village Hall Committee had not been approached and were unhappy about the images of the play equipment that had been broadcast on facebook.

Meeting re-opened at 8.45pm

It was agreed that the matter be referred to the Village Hall Committee as landowners and with responsibility for the children's play area, and to await to be approached by the Committee if they required any assistance from the Parish Council.

### **9.3 FINANCE**

- a. Monthly Payments – It was agreed to sign cheques to the value of £1,725.24
- b. Gipping Valley Bowls Club – The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had been approached by the Bowls Club asking for a donation towards the installation of new changing rooms at the club. It was agreed that pursuant to Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1979 Section 19 that the Parish Council give a donation of £500 towards the new changing rooms.
- c. Great Blakenham Cemetery- The Parish Clerk reported that following a recent re-opening of a grave for an interment no fees had been set by the Council for this procedure. It was agreed that a charge of £110.00 be made for the re-opening of graves for interments.

### **10.3 ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL**

The Chairman reported that the Annual Parish Council meeting had been arranged for 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012 and asked if members thought it appropriate to invite Mr Spencer Greystrom of the River Gipping Trust to give a presentation. It was agreed to invite Mr Greystrom to give a presentation following the Annual meeting.

### **11.3 JUBILEE WORKING PARTY**

The Chairman gave an update on the number of responses from villagers regarding the Parish Council's request for numbers of the children living in the village and the positive response received regarding the picnic lunch. The Chairman thanked Mr Reg Barton for distributing the recent flyer for the Parish Council. A number of activities were now in the process of being booked and it was agreed to give authority to the Chairman and Vice Chairman to sign cheques for these activities prior to each meeting as a budget had been set for this event. The next meeting of the Jubilee Working Party is to take place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012.

Chairman

Date