

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH ROOM, MILL LANE, GREAT BLAKENHAM ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2013**

**PRESENT:** A. Beckett, Mrs S Fairburn, P. McLauchlan, Mrs P Robinson, R. Simpson, District Councillors J Field and M Blakenham

### **1.2 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

A number of residents from the Blueleighs Residential Park were in attendance to raise concerns about the condition of the road leading to the Park. There were a large number of pot holes in the road that were causing problems for car users. Councillor Field confirmed that this part of Chalk Hill Lane was unadopted and therefore the maintenance fell to the owner of the residential park, but he was happy to raise the concerns with Suffolk County Council to see if the larger holes could be filled. A question was raised concerning the external lighting at the Bolton's site and it was confirmed that the lighting in question was part of the planning approval.

### **2.2 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

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

Councillor M Blakenham informed the Parish Council that the application for the proposed tomato greenhouses was likely to be submitted in June. MSDC had considered the budget for 2013/14 and that £200,000 was available for community grant applications.

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

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

**4.2 Apologies:** R. Edrupt. The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, wished Ron best wishes on a speedy recovery following his recent illness.

### **5.2 Declarations of interest appropriate to any item on the agenda**

There were no declarations.

### **6.2 MINUTES of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013 were approved and signed.**

### **7.2 WORKPLAN**

Councillors were given an update on the outstanding matters.

### **8.2 FINANCE**

- a. Monthly Payments – It was agreed to sign cheques to the value of £3,113.35. This included the annual payment for Street Lighting costs.
- b. Parish Council Banking – To cover absences from meetings it was agreed to add Mr Andrew Beckett as an additional signatory to both of the Council's accounts.

## **9.2 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

All Councillors had received copies of the two newly revised documents. Subject to a minor alteration to section 27 to omit the reference to the Council's policy and a typographical error these documents were approved by the Council. Revised pages will be issued by the Clerk.

## **10.2 RISK ASSESSMENT AND ASSET REGISTER**

All Councillors had received a copy of the updated assessment and register and this document was approved by the Council.

## **11.2 INTERNAL ACCOUNTING CONTROLS**

All Councillors had received a copy of the updated controls and this document was approved by the Council.

## **12.2 COMPUTER SECURITY POLICY**

All Councillors had received a copy of the updated policy and this document was approved by the Council.

## **13.2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Village Hall Management Committee – The Chairman reported that they were still awaiting the decision by Sita UK regarding the grant application.

Viridor Liaison Meeting – This had been cancelled.

Sita Liaison Meeting – The Chairman reported that highway issues surrounding the entrance /exit to the incinerator site and the new Clearway to be introduced along Bramford Road had been discussed. The Clearway was due to commence on 18<sup>th</sup> March. The chimney will be delivered in sections on 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February.

Summer Fete – The next meeting will take place on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm at Shirley's.

## **14.2 PRECEPT 2013/14**

The Chairman informed the meeting that MSDC had notified all Parish Councils that there had been some very recent changes to the way the tax base and grant levels were calculated as part of the changes brought about by the introduction of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme. This view has produced a different tax base figure from the one notified to the Parish Council in November. As a result the discretionary grant for the Parish has changed. To help offset the impact MSDC were offering grants to Parish Council to help increase the precept and highlighted that from 2014/15 a Council Tax referendum would need to take place if Parish Council's considered raising their Precept by more than 2%.

MSDC had already received the Parish Council's Precept request for £25,429. This amounts to a Council Tax amount of £24,018, this being the starting point for 2014/15, plus the amount of discretionary grant of £1411. MSDC were now requesting Parish Council's to choose between 3 options, either to leave the precept as requested, to accept the grant to offset the impact but increase the Council Tax charge or decline the grant.

Councillors considered the request and it was agreed that the Parish Council apply for a Precept for 2013/14 of £26,840. This includes the original Precept request of £25,429 plus the grant of £1411. This represented a 1.3% increase on last year.

Chairman                      Date