

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH ROOM, MILL LANE, GREAT BLAKENHAM ON WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 2013

PRESENT: A. Beckett, P. McLauchlan, Mrs P Robinson, R. Simpson, District Councillors J Field and M Blakenham and PCSO Phil Brill

1.3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A resident of Great Blakenham, Mr David Jones, had been in contact with Mr Stiff, Central Area Highways Network Manager, Suffolk County Council Highways, to discuss the possibility of the installation of a pedestrian crossing on Stowmarket Road close to the junction with Chalk Hill Lane. He had received a number of letters from Mr Stiff with the most recent indicating that a pedestrian crossing was possible in this location but explained that Suffolk County Council would not fund a pedestrian crossing. It was noted that dropped kerbs had recently been installed to aid the crossing of the road by pedestrians. The Vice Chairman thanked Mr Jones for his assistance in this matter. The Parish Council would be considering this item later on the agenda.

Councillor Field informed the meeting that he had met with David Stiff on site to consider the problems with pot holes on Chalk Hill Lane and confirmed that the part of the road in question was a bridleway and other part would need to have ownership established. In the meantime as a temporary measure chippings will be placed in the pot holes by SCC.

2.3 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

Councillor M Blakenham informed the Parish Council that MSDC and Babergh District Councils were considering reducing the number of Council committees, the application for the proposed tomato greenhouses was now likely to be submitted in September. Meetings were taking place with local residents regarding the proposals, and highlighted that an application had been submitted to MSDC for the installation of solar panels on land in Baylham.

3.3 REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PCSO Phil Brill's report was circulated prior to the meeting. He highlighted that a Priority Setting Meeting had been arranged for Tuesday 2nd April in the Dove Room at MSDC.

4.3 Apologies: R. Edrupt and Mrs S Fairburn

5.3 Declarations of interest appropriate to any item on the agenda

There were no declarations.

6.3 MINUTES of the meeting of 13th February 2013 were approved and signed.

7.3 WORKPLAN

Councillors were given an update on the outstanding matters.

8.3 FINANCE

- a. Monthly Payments – It was agreed to sign cheques to the value of £1,760.86.

9.3 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

The Vice Chairman reported that he had attended a site visit with Councillor Field, Mr David Stiff, Suffolk County Council Highways and the Parish Clerk to discuss the options of installing a pedestrian crossing on Stowmarket Road. Mr Stiff explained that the road was not wide enough for a central island as the island would need to be 2m wide to allow an adult with a child in a pushchair to wait safely. He considered a zebra crossing possible, following some road improvements, between Chalk Hill Lane and the bus stop. He explained that SCC would not install a traffic signal controlled crossing within 20m of a junction and therefore it would be unable to fit such a crossing in the space between the junction and the bus stop. He advised that to install a zebra pedestrian crossing would cost in the region of £25,000 and unfortunately SCC was not in a position to finance such a project.

Having considered the options and the difficulties of installation it was agreed that the Parish Council would support the installation of a zebra crossing between Chalk Hill Lane and the bus stop. Unfortunately the Vice Chairman advised the meeting that the cost of installation could not be met from the Council's finances and would take the Parish Council some years to accumulate the finance available to enable installation to take place. Councillor Field offered £8000 from his Locality Budget for the next financial year. It was agreed to approach local companies to see if any financial assistance could be forthcoming.

Chairman

Date