

MINUTES OF THE WHATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WHATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 12th July 2017

The meeting opened at 7.47pm.

Present

Mr. P. Whittle	Chairman
Mr. D. Cross	Vice Chairman
Mr. D. Dray	Parish Councillor
Mr. G. Smith	Parish Councillor
Mrs. H. Landon	Parish Councillor
Mr S Clifford	Parish Councillor
Mrs. Lynn King	Parish Clerk
Mrs. B. Smith	Footpath Warden
Mrs. M Eastman	Conservation Warden

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr. R Lindsay	County Councillor
Mr. A. Ferguson	District Councillor
Mrs C. Curtis	Parish Councillor
Mrs J. Green	Tree Warden

2. Matters arising from Minutes of meeting held 29th March 2017 David Dray would like the words Code of Conduct to be replaced with constitution on March's minutes in section 6. Minutes of 28th March 2017 meeting were accepted and signed with an alteration to be made to include Prop: David Cross Sec: Helen Landon Unanimous.

3. Correspondence. A letter was written to Mr. Chisnell with regard to the land behind the Horseshoes. He has received this but has not answered or actioned our wishes to clear the land.

A letter was received from Rev Liz Law asking the council if they would like to choose a hymn to be sung at their open air Sunday service at Barrards Hall. The council choose *Be Still for the Presence of the Lord*. James Buckle sent a letter inviting Whatfield villagers on his annual tractor ride and this was taken up by several of the new residents of Whatfield a total of 35 people attended this ride. A letter of thanks was sent to James from the PC.

4. County Councilor's Report - Traffic Calming in Whatfield - My apologies for not being able to be with you. You have specifically asked me about the possibilities of traffic calming in the village which I am aware is a problem. I have sent Lynn a copy of the county's current advice on this. It might be an idea to delegate one or two of your number to head this project and they should please feel free to contact me on the phone on this issue to discuss further.

New county council - The new county council since the May election now has a much larger Conservative majority. Of the 75 councillors, 52 are Conservative, 11 are Labour and there are 5 LibDems, 3 Greens and 4 independents. We Greens have formed a group with the Libs and the Independents making us the second largest group on the council. This gives us access to all the committees and a researcher. I have been appointed to the audit and the pension committee and have attended the first meetings of both.

Risky Pension? - The pension committee is preparing to put the bulk of its £2.6bn in assets into a "pooled pot" with other local authorities across the East and South East as demanded by central Government. This will reduce, but not remove, the ability of Suffolk County Council to invest sums in the local economy, which is something I am keen to see it do. Though it is early days I would also like to see the pension fund examine whether it is wise to remain so heavily invested in fossil fuel companies since I agree with the Governor of the Bank England Mark Carney who has warned that government legislation to cut CO2 emissions could pose a substantial risk to the value of oil and gas assets.

£400k on care beds for the dead - I have attended my first audit committee which heard that the council has inadvertently paid £400,000 to private care homes for beds for people who have died. This seems to have been a mixture of some care homes not telling the county when their patient dies while in other cases they told the county

but no one in the county told the people making the payments Fortunately this was spotted by the head of internal audit and we are told better internal reporting measures introduced. The last time they checked the overpayments had reduced to just £40k. The county has recovered all the money it is owed. The county's own care homes were all outsourced about four years ago to Care UK. I suspect that when this contract happened, county staff were not geared up to control payments.

More say for backbenchers

Latest plans are for there to be four cabinet committees on the county council each with 12 members, to include two from our group and two from Labour, 8 Conservatives.

5. District Councillor's Report – No Report

6. Reports –

- i) **Footpaths** –Footpaths are fine they do like this warm weather so does my husband, it means that he does not have to cut them so often, we have at this present moment in time no problems if there is any we have not heard, dogs and owners are being good but I will not speak to loud in case something happens..
- ii) **Tree Warden** – Joy would like to thank Mandy and Marilyn for all their hard work in cleaning the sign posts in Whatfield and trimming the grass edges. Rupert is to cut up the tree in the Autumn. Joy is waiting for communication on her bench. David Dray to talk to her.
- iii) **Conservation** - Buckles meadow - It has been a particularly good year for pyramid orchids and also for bee orchids both being seen in new places in the parish. One surprising place was the piece of glebe land adjoining the playing field where there was a beautiful display of the two orchids and moon daisies. I wonder if this would be a piece of land the parish would put on its list of interest if it came up for sale. It is always of interest when extra parking is required for events. I had hoped to see signs of Buckles being cut but not so far.

Hunty's Vale - Richard has continued to cut the pathways. Unfortunately there is no sign of owl activity. It seem to have been a hard time for barn owls and several have been seen hunting by daytime which would seem to indicate a difficulty finding food. Perhaps the dry month we had is responsible. We have unfortunately lost a greengage tree which was planted by the Richardson family. When I showed pictures to Graeme at Crown Nursery he thought it was almost certainly a gnawing through by a vole or a mouse, another sign perhaps of the lack of food. I have communicated with the family and shown them the pictures and the opinion.

The Driftway - The trees continue to thrive and the pathway has been cut.

Questions from the public: None

7. Speeding Traffic After receiving the email from Robert Lindsay (CC) it was agreed that David Dray talk to him about our options and inform him that we are in the process of purchasing a SID for the village. An email to Robert Lindsay to confirm David Dray's appointment by the PC as our representative. Prop: David Cross Sec: Helen Landon unanimous.

8. Whatfield Emergency Plan The putting together of a plan to inform villagers of the Emergency Procedure for our Village. PC to come up with ideas.

9. 2017 Donations Donations were agreed for 2017 St. Margaret's Grave Fund for £300 by Paul Whittle and Sec: Simon Clifford unanimous and Richard Mower to be given £220 by David Dray and Sec: Helen Landon unanimous and Graham Smith to be given £150 by Simon Clifford and Sec: David Cross (Graham Smith abstained due to conflict of interest) unanimous and the clerk asked for a contribution towards a new printer and the PC agreed to pay £40 towards the cost. Proposed by Graham Smith and Sec: David Dray unanimous

10. Action Updates

BT Phone box Whatfield have now adopted our Telephone Box and we have the specification of what we need to repair and maintain the box. PC agreed that the Villagers should have a say in how the Phone Box is used and David Cross is to install a voting box inside the Kiosk and create posters advertising how to vote and where.

SID – Monks Eleigh have replied to the questions raised by our PC and we need to decide if we are ready to sign the agreement. The PC agreed to sign the Agreement Prop: David Cross Sec: Helen Landon unanimous. This was then signed and Clerk to send to Monks Eleigh the next day and email Clerk to arrange a meeting to purchase SID.

Allotments Are all in good order and we only have ½ allotments left to rent. David Dray proposed that two prizes be given at the end of the growing season. One for Best Kept Allotment and the other for Most Improved. This would be in the form of vouchers etc. Pro: David Cross Sec: Simon Clifford (David Dray abstained due to conflict of interest) unanimous

Standing Orders David Dray, David Cross and Paul Whittle all put forward their views on standing orders and it was agreed that the new Parish Councillors read The Local Government Act, 1972 and give their views to the PC. Pro: David Cross Sec: Helen Landon unanimous

SALC Simon Clifford sent an apology to SALCs for not being able attend their meeting and received an email confirming back.

11. Planning - Poplar Hall, Whatfield Road, Elmsett, has been submitted

12. Health & Safety – None

13. Accounts and Payments Great news our new TSB account is up and running I have transferred nearly all our money into this account. No outstanding invoices at present but cheque for Clerks wages needs to be signed. The balance in the TSB is £10,570 and Barclays is £412.29 totally £10.982.29

Next Meeting

4th October 2017, at 7.45 pm, Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.32pm

Signed Date.....