

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PETTAUGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD 25th JANUARY 2014 IN ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH AT 9.30 a.m.

Those present: Councillor Belinda Bulsing (Chairman), Councillor Michael Hook, Councillor Gordon Janson and Councillor Stephen Rowe. Mrs Margaret Marlow was Acting Clerk. Three parishioners were also present.

- 1. Welcome by the Chairman.** The Chairman welcomed those Parishioners present at the meeting, and thanked them for their support in attending.
- 2. Apologies for Absence.** Apologies had been accepted from Councillor Esther Thornton.
- 3. To receive Declarations of Interest.** Councillors declared their interest in item 7. The dispensation is covered by resolution passed at meeting 8/12/2012 minute 3.
- 4. To approve the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting - 9th November 2013.** Councillors voted to approve the minutes. This was proposed Cllr Hook, seconded Cllr Janson. The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.
- 5. Matters arising from the Minutes.** Item 9. The Parish Council are still awaiting confirmation on the paperwork for the change to signatories.
- 6. To further consider a proposed budget for 2014/15, and to discuss donations to local charities.**

Councillors discussed donations. It was agreed that any donation made by the Parish Council was made from parishioners precept contributions, therefore any donation should be to a local charity which would be of benefit to the community. A decision would be made at the next meeting. Councillors considered the budget and were happy with the revisions made by the Acting Clerk. A budget figure of £2,000 was voted on and agreed by all Councillors.
- 7. To discuss and set the Parish Precept for 2014/15.** Councillors considered the financial needs of the parish for the coming year. The Parish Council will finish the year on budget and still has reserves. Councillors wished to keep the precept figure at the same amount as this year. The figure was voted on and agreed by all Councillors to set the precept for 2014/15 at £1,750.00. Councillors then signed the form in compliance with regulatory requirements.

8. To consider and adopt a new Standing Order on the appointment of a Trustee as Pettaugh Parish representative to the Metcalf Education Foundation. Councillors agreed to pass a resolution to adopt a new Standing Order as set out below, on the appointment of a Pettaugh Parish Trustee for the Metcalf Educational Foundation. This resolution was proposed by Cllr Hook, Seconded by Cllr Rowe, and agreed.

Standing Order regarding the appointment of a Pettaugh Parish Representative to act as Trustee of the Metcalf Educational Foundation.

Following receipt of notification from The Metcalf Charities of the expiry of the current term of appointment, notices of the vacancy shall be placed on the Parish Notice Board and the Pettaugh website asking interested candidates to come forward within 21 days of the date of the notice.

Candidates should write to the Parish Council giving reasons for their interest in the appointment and details of any relevant experience. Candidates should be residents of the Parish of Pettaugh.

Once applications have been received the Parish Council will consider the information as quickly as it can and make a resolution appointing the selected candidate as the Trustee to the Metcalf Educational Foundation at the next Parish Council Meeting.

9. To discuss the appointment of a Trustee as Pettaugh Parish representative to the Metcalf Educational Foundation. The Parish Council has received a letter from the Chairman of Trustees of the Metcalf Charities informing the council of the expiry on the 4th March 2014 of the term of office of the Pettaugh Representative. The Parish Council has written to the current Pettaugh representative seeking to establish whether he wishes to be considered for re-appointment. No reply has so far been received. The Parish Council discussed the new three year term of office, and following-on from the previous minute agreed to place a notice on the parish notice-board and the Pettaugh website. They will also try to promote the role of the representative and the work of the Metcalf Educational Foundation. It is hoped that suitable, interested Parishioners will come forward to volunteer for this role on behalf of the community. The Parish Council wish to make an appointment at the next Parish Council meeting of a Pettaugh representative to take up the role after the 4th March.

10. To review and discuss the responses received to the Parish Council questionnaire on Speedwatch and Broadband. A newsletter with a questionnaire attached was delivered to all properties at the beginning of December, with the request that the questionnaire be completed and returned where possible. There was a 20% response from households. Cllr Hook said it was clear from the responses received that there was little support for Speedwatch and volunteers to undertake it, but most people were in favour of flashing signs. The Parish Council will get a working- group together to seek out and discuss finding.

Broadband. Cllr Rowe queried whether the service was up to what Parishioners were paying for. The questionnaire responses showed a large variation in download speeds, but the maximum

speed quoted was 2.3 mbps. A recent newspaper article had indicated that more money was being made available by Government for rural broadband. It was agreed to write to SCC for more information and to ask that Pettaugh be included on any new roll-out. It was also agreed to look at any commercially available options.

11. To receive a financial report by the Acting Clerk and to authorise cheque payments.

At the 25th January 2014 the Parish Council current account after payment of today's cheques stands at £4,942.29 of which £2,288.54 is allocated funds. The Business Saver account stands at £1,046.44. Councillors authorized the payment of cheque no 100328 for £15.00 to St Catherine's Parochial Church Council for use of the church, and cheque no 100329 for £60.11 to Mrs M Marlow for Administrative costs (Stationary, ink cartridges and postage).

12. To record correspondence received. A list of correspondence received for the period 9th November 2013 - 25th January 2014 was accepted for the record.

The Local Councillor (Newsletter of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, Issue 3 2013).

Letter 10th November 2013 to Treasurer St Catherine's PCC enclosing cheque payment made under LGA 1972 Section 214 (6) towards the maintenance of the Churchyard. Acknowledgement received.

Letter 14th November 2013 - MSDC - Dog and Litter Bin Emptying Service.

December and January report for the Thredling Division from CC Matthew Hicks - by e-mail.

Letter 24 December 2013 from MSDC Corporate Directorate re Precepts, Taxbase and Grants.

NALC Legal Briefing LO3-13. Section 137 Expenditure: Limit for 2014/2015

Letter received 23rd December 2013 from Mr Gee, Chairman of the Trustees, The Metcalf Charities re expiry of term of office of the Pettaugh Representative to the Metcalf Education Foundation. Reply sent to Mr Gee 15th January 2014.

Letter sent 14th January 2014 to the Pettaugh Representative Metcalf Education Foundation.

80 approx additional e-mails include weekly planning lists, and Rural Services Network bulletins.

13. Any other business. It was agreed to send the prepared draft letter re meeting with neighbouring Parish Councils regarding speed issues.

The meeting adjourned to take the public forum.

PUBLIC FORUM

Parishioners reiterated the views of councillors that any donations should be to local charities that would benefit parishioners. A parishioner highlighted that MSDC had a much lower reserves, £500,000, than many local councils. It was also stated how important it was to examine BT bills as they are now charging for items which previously had been free.

The Chairman reopened the meeting and returned to item 14.

14. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be on 26th February 2014 at 6.00 p.m. in the Church.

The meeting closed at 10.45 a.m.