

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PETTAUGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD 26th FEBRUARY 2014 IN ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH AT 6.00 p.m.

Those present: Councillor Belinda Bulsing (Chairman), Councillor Michael Hook, Councillor Gordon Janson and Councillor Stephen Rowe. Mrs Margaret Marlow was Acting Clerk. Two 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.** There were no apologies.

- 3. To receive Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.

- 4. To approve the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting - 25th January 2014.** Councillors voted to approve the minutes. This was proposed Cllr Janson, seconded Cllr Hook. The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.

- 5. Matters arising from the Minutes.** Item 6. Donations to Charities. This was discussed under item 13.

- 6. To further consider and update as necessary the Parish Council Financial Risk Assessment Document.**

Councillors reviewed the updated document presented by the Acting Clerk. It was considered that no change was necessary. Under 4 - Damage or loss to Council Assets, the Asset register had been updated. Resolution: Councillors reviewed and agreed to accept the Financial Risk Assessment Document as presented. Proposed by Cllr Janson, seconded by Cllr Hook and agreed.

- 7. To appoint an Internal Auditor for the 2013/14 Parish Council Accounts.** Councillors agreed to ask SALC to undertake the work. Resolution: Councillors were in agreement to appoint SALC as Internal Auditors for the Parish Council Accounts for 2013/14. Proposed by Cllr Rowe, seconded by Cllr Janson and agreed.

8. To discuss the Casual Vacancy following the resignation of a Councillor and the co-option of a new Councillor. The Parish Council received a letter of resignation from Mrs Esther Thornton on the 27th January. The Councillors were unanimous in offering their appreciation and thanks to Mrs Thornton for the work and support she had given to the council. The information regarding the vacancy was passed to MSDC Electoral Services, and a notice of vacancy was placed on the notice-board and the Pettaugh website. No election was called and MSDC confirmed that the Parish Council should co-opt as soon as practicable. Mr Andy Corrigan had come forward for co-option and was present at the meeting. Councillors agreed to the co-option of Mr Corrigan. Mr Corrigan completed his Acceptance of Office and was welcomed by Councillors and joined the meeting.

9. To discuss and appoint a Trustee as Pettaugh Parish representative to the Metcalf Educational Foundation. The Parish Council published the notice of the vacancy for a Trustee on the Parish Notice-board and website. A response was received from Miss Ruth Jack expressing an interest and desire to undertake the role. Councillors considered that Miss Jack, with her professional experience of working in the education of young people, would bring much value to the role. Resolution: The Parish Council proposed the appointment of Miss Ruth Jack to the position of Pettaugh Parish representative Trustee to the Metcalf Educational Foundation starting from the 4th March 2014 for a three year term. Proposed by Cllr Rowe, seconded by Cllr Janson and agreed.

10. To discuss the questionnaire on Open Spaces and Sport and Recreation Facilities received from MSDC. The Parish Council had received two questionnaires from MSDC People Directorate with the request they be discussed and completed by councils. These questionnaires were more applicable to much larger parishes and to town councils. The Parish Council was only able complete one small section. It was agreed that the questionnaires be returned with a covering letter giving details of the status and amenities of the village.

11. To discuss and update the position on Traffic Safety matters. The Chairman gave a brief resume of the position on traffic safety for the benefit of Cllr Corrigan. It was agreed that the working group be formed as soon as possible to start looking at the necessary costs and fund raising for flashing signs. It was evident from the responses to the council questionnaire that there was community support for flashing signs. The Clerk had written on behalf of the Parish Council to Winston, Stonham Aspal and Crowfield Parish Councils suggesting a meeting to pool ideas on safety matters.

12. To update and discuss the current position on the Mendlesham Biomass Renewable Energy Plant Planning Application. The Parish Council had been informed by MSDC Planning Services of the appeal by Eco2 Central Ltd against the planning refusal for the Biomass Plant. Any further comments need to be made by 4th March. The Parish Council had written to MSDC on the Planning Application on the 1st April 2012, 2nd July 2012 and 16th July 2013 strongly outlining its reservations on the increased traffic problems within the village. It was pointed out that the plant was only economically viable if it was burning local straw, not imported wood chip. Cllr Bulsing asked whether there were any new comments on a parish basis that could be made. It was agreed to write again emphasizing the damage locally by heavy lorries on inappropriate road. This has been especially apparent this winter, and the situation would only worsen if the Biomass

Plant went ahead. It was also apparent that straw being blown from vehicles caused blockage to drains. The Parish Council would write to the Planning Inspectorate.

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

The Acting Clerk updated the council. At the 26th February 2014 the Parish Council current account after payment of today's cheque stands at £4,927.29 of which £2,288.54 is allocated funds. The Business Saver account stands at £1,046.44. Councillors authorized the payment of cheque no 100330 for £15.00 to St Catherine's Parochial Church Council for use of the church. Councillors then discussed charitable donations. A previous discussion had not reached a decision, but it was now considered that a donation to the Citizens Advice Bureau would be appropriate in view of the support they provided for local people. It was proposed by Cllr Janson, seconded by Cllr Bulsing that a donation of £60.00 would be made to the CAB. This was agreed by all Councillors.

14. To record correspondence received. A list of correspondence received for the period 26th January 2014 - 26th February 2014 was accepted for the record.

The Local Councillor (Newsletter of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, Winter 2013/14).

Questionnaire received dated 24th January from MSDC People Directorate on Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities.

Letter received 27th January from Mrs Esther Thornton resigning her position as Parish Councillor.

MSDC Electoral Services - Notice of Vacancy in Office of Councillor, placed on Noticeboard and Pettaugh website on 29th January 2014.

Letter dated 28th January 2014 from MSDC Planning Services re Planning Application 0759/12 Mendlesham Renewable Energy Plant. Appeal against planning decision.

February report for the Thredling Division from CC Matthew Hicks - by e-mail.

e-mail from SALC with letter 21st February 2014 from Department of Communities and Local Government re Localising council tax support grant.

LAIS 1364 - VAT Consultation.

Notice re Ipswich and Suffolk Credit Union.

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

The meeting adjourned to take the public forum.

PUBLIC FORUM

Referring to the Mendlesham Biomass Plant appeal a parishioner suggested that the Parish Council letter should include a reference to the need for a Public Enquiry which was being suggested by the Mendlesham Residents Group.

The Chairman reopened the meeting and returned to item 15.

15. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be on 7th April 2014 at 6.00 p.m. in the Church.

The meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.