

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PETTAUGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD

24th FEBRUARY 2015 IN ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH AT 6.30 p.m.

Those present: Councillor Belinda Bulsing (Chairman), Councillor Andy Corrigan, Councillor Michael Hook, Councillor Gordon Janson and Councillor Stephen Rowe. Mrs Margaret Marlow was Acting Clerk. Four 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, all Councillors being present at the meeting.
- 3. To receive Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Bulsing declared a Disclosable Pecuniary interest in item 8.
- 4. To approve the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting – 19th January 2015.** Councillors voted to approve the minutes. This was proposed by Cllr Bulsing, seconded by Cllr Janson. The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.
- 5. Matters arising from the Minutes.** There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The Chairman suspended the meeting to take the public forum.

PUBLIC FORUM. A parishioner drew the Parish Council's attention to a footpath sign that had fallen down on the A1120 towards Town House Corner. Item 7 on the agenda had once again drawn a parishioner's attention to the Broadband speed and the upgrade of the telephone mast. It was queried whether it would be possible for the village to benefit with sighting of a 4G booster giving a wider range and speed to the immediate area. A parishioner stated that they had no objection to the application at item 8. Another parishioner stated they also agreed with this.

The Chairman reopened the meeting.

6. To discuss the current position on the provision of a VAS sign for Pettaugh. a). To consider all the available quotations and the various signs. Councillors reviewed the signs from the two companies which were approved by SCC. Two signs from the Messagemaker range and one from the Westotec range. The Parish Council had been advised that the first choice considered from Messagemaker would be too big and heavy to be moved by Councillors. The second sign from Messagemaker would be lighter, but would be smaller than the Westotec 'Mini Sid'. The Westotec 'Mini Sid' can be easily fixed with an Allen key and has room for a padlock to be attached. It also has the facility to collect data, which Councillors considered would be a useful option. It also has an option for solar panel connection, but Councillors decided not to opt for this. Councillors all decided that the Westotec 'Mini Sid' was the most appropriate option.

b) To pass a resolution for the money to be made available and the work to go ahead. Resolution: The Parish Council agreed to release funds up to £4,000 to purchase a Westotec 'Mini Sid' VAS sign, subject to remaining queries being satisfactorily answered. The resolution was proposed by Cllr Bulsing, seconded by Cllr Janson and agreed by all councillors.

c) Update on road safety. The Parish Council's attention had been drawn to two recent serious incidents at the stop street junction of the A1120 with Ipswich Way and Debenham Way. The first an accident where a lorry came from the junction and hit a car travelling from Debenham, causing major damage but thankfully no serious injury. The second incident involved a lorry pulling out in front of a car travelling towards Debenham from the direction of Ipswich Way. Councillors felt it was imperative to advertise and encourage all parishioners to report any incidents to the Parish Council and Highways Department. The Acting Clerk will prepare a notice for the web-site and the notice-board.

7. Parish Pre-Application Consultation on Proposed Base Station Installation at High Elm Farm.

The Parish Council had received a letter and plans from agents the Harlequin Group acting for Telefonica UK and Vodafone Limited. The plans concerned a proposed upgrade of the base station installation at High Elm Farm. The upgrade comprises the replacement of four antennae with two, and the installation of two new equipment cabinets and the ancillary development needed. Councillors viewed the proposed plans which are not significantly different to what is at present on site. They agreed that an upgrade was probably necessary (the present masts having been in place for ten years). Cllr Corrigan spoke of the Parish Council's responsibilities towards due diligence regarding Health and Safety. The letter from Harlequin states "All Vodafone and Telefonica installations are designed to be fully compliant with the public exposure guidelines established by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)". It was stated that masts only emit 7-8/100th of the recommended radiation limit. Councillors made no adverse comments. Referring to the views expressed in the Public Forum and the ongoing problems with mobile signals and broadband speed in the village, it was suggested that there might be an opportunity to improve the situation in the village. The Parish Council will reply to Harlequin Group asking if there might be an opportunity to interest Telefonica/Vodafone to provide a boosting device to help phone signals in the village, and also query what is meant by its compliance with Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection to check for the safety of parishioners.

8. To discuss an application made by the owners of Pettaugh Hall to MSDC under Section 119 of the Highways Act for the diversion of Footpath 20. Cllr Bulsing left the meeting for the discussion on this item and Cllr Hook assumed the chair. The letter from the owners gave clear and concise reasons for their wish to have the footpath which currently goes through their property diverted. This involves the footpath being re-routed round the boundary field margins. Historically this footpath was on a field margin until the field in question was incorporated into the Pettaugh Hall property in 1973. Cllr Hook said he had walked the footpath and he felt uncomfortable at walking through the garden. Other Councillors who also walked felt it was intrusive, as do many walkers, for the footpath to pass directly across the garden at the back of the property. Councillors were all in agreement that they would support this application for the diversion of a length of footpath 20. Cllr Bulsing re-joined the meeting.

9. To discuss and approve a charitable donation. At the last meeting it was agreed that a decision would be made on a charitable donation at this meeting. Councillors were informed that the Debenham First Responders had been called to Pettaugh at least three times since Christmas. After considering various other charities, Councillors were still of the opinion that the Parish Council should support this local charity. All Councillors were in unanimous agreement to make a donation of £60.00 to the Debenham First Responders to support their work.

10. To appoint an Internal Auditor to undertake the 2014/15 audit. Councillors were in agreement that SALC would undertake the internal audit.

11. To receive a report by the Acting Clerk and to authorize cheque payments. The Acting Clerk reported that electoral information and eight nominations forms had been received from MSDC. The notice of the election will be made on Monday 23rd March, and the closing date for nominations is 4 p.m. on Thursday 9th April. The Acting Clerk also reported on a number of e-mails received, expressing the concerns in Aspall and Debenham on the proposed expansion of Aspall Cyder.

Councillors had received a copy of the accounts. After authorization of the presented cheque the Parish Council current account balance will be £5,624.02 of which £2,288.54 is allocated funds for village safety. The Business Saver Account stands at £1,047.88. This balance included a VAT refund of £40.45. Councillors authorized the payment of cheque no 100343 for £15.00 to St Catherine's Parochial Church Council for use of the church, and the payment of a cheque to Debenham First Responders.

12. To record correspondence received. A list of correspondence received for the period 20th January - 24th February 2015 was accepted for the record.

Letter 20th January to Treasurer St Catherine PCC with cheque for church use 19/1/2015. Acknowledgement received.

e-mail from MSDC Financial Services confirming precept receipt and payment arrangements.

SALC 21st January relay of letter from SCC Cllr Newman re Flooding

e-mail 21st January from SALC with Section 137 Expenditure notification.

Notification of new Duty Office Service for pre-planning advice

Letter and plans 4th February received from Harlequin Group re Proposed Base Station Installation at High Elm Farm.

Letter 10th February from MSDC Corporate Directorate with Notification and time table for 7th May elections

LAIS from SALC – The Electronic Summons.

LAIS from SALC - Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.

Letter 11th February sent by e-mail to SNT and Police and Crime Commissioner re Accident at junction of A1120 and Debenham Way Pettaugh.

e-mail 13th February from PS Tony Watts offering support re above accident.

HMRC VAT refund notification

Letter 14th February from Mr J M Bulsing re Diversion of Footpath 20.

February 2015 report for Thredling Division from Councillor Hicks.

Additional e-mails include weekly planning lists, and Rural Services Network bulletins.

13. To set the dates for the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting. The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on the 19th May 2015 at 6.30 p.m. in the Church. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on the 28th April 2015 at 6.00 p.m. in the Church.

14. Any other business. There was no further business.

15. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be on 28th April 2015 following the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.