

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PETTAUGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD

20th JANUARY 2016 IN ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH AT 6.30 p.m.

Those present: Councillor Andy Corrigan (Chairman), Councillor Belinda Bulsing, Councillor Gordon Janson, Councillor Malcolm Owers 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.** There were no apologies for absence, all councillors being present.
- 3. To receive Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Rowe and Cllr Janson declared an interest in item 11.
- 4. To approve the Minutes of Parish Council and Planning Meeting – 2nd December 2015.** Councillors voted to approve the minutes. This was proposed by Cllr Corrigan, 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 commented on item 10, the discussion on the new Suffolk Policing Policy. The parishioner felt the village was not in a position to offer any further financial support to the Suffolk Constabulary.

The Chairman reopened the meeting.

Item 6 was taken after item 9.

- 7. To finalise the budget proposals for the financial year 2016/17.** The Acting Clerk had revised the budget figures following the amendments requested by councillors at the December meeting. The budget figure of £2,600 was agreed, proposed by Cllr Janson, seconded by Cllr Bulsing and accepted by Councillors.
- 8. To discuss the proposal made for a Community Facility and the means of achieving this.** Councillors had a very positive meeting with Mr & Mrs Thornton, on the possibilities of using Jan's Shop for a village meeting-place. It was decided that a 'flyer' would be delivered to all houses in the village, seeking parishioner's support and their views on the proposal. It was also agreed to hold an event around the beginning of June (the Queen's 90th birthday), in the form of a 'pop-up pub'. This would be an opportunity to ascertain the response of the village to the proposed use. Mr & Mrs Thornton wish the name 'Jan's shop' to be retained as a name for the venue.
- 9. To discuss the Suffolk Constabulary new Policing Policy.** Councillor Corrigan had attended the meeting on the new Policing Policy, held jointly by the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable. The County is losing 60 out of 150 PCSOs. All councils are being asked to consider increasing its precept to pay directly for a PCSO, and some of the larger towns have already agreed to this. There are six PCSO positions available to be funded by councils. The Parish Council was informed that at present Debenham was not on the list of PCSO support that would be lost. Cllr Corrigan said the Chief Constable assured the meeting that communities would not be left unsupported. Councillors decided it was not practicable for Pettaugh to be part to the proposal. It would involve a contribution of £2,800 from Pettaugh

in addition to the current precept. It was agreed to place this item on the agenda of the next meeting when the Police had the results of the online survey, and more information is available.

Councillors returned to item 6 for discussion.

6. To discuss and set the Parish Precept for 2016/17. Councillors considered the financial needs of the parish for the coming year following discussion on the previous two items. The Parish Council will finish the financial year with good reserves despite making the significant purchase of the Vehicle Activated Sign. Councillors unanimously agreed that the Council still had sufficient funds to enable the precept to remain at the same figure as the current year. A proposal was made to keep the figure unchanged by Cllr Owers, this was seconded by Cllr Rowe and agreed. The precept figure was again set at £1,750.00. Councillors signed the form in compliance with regulatory requirements.

10. To receive an update on use of the VAS sign. Following the last meeting the Acting Clerk had contacted SCC Highways and asked them to erect a pole on Debenham Way for use as a second site for the VAS to be used. This produced a prompt offer from County Councillor Hicks to pay for the pole from his Locality Budget. The Parish Council expressed its gratitude to Cllr Hicks for his ongoing support in the Parish Councils endeavours to reduce speed through the village. Cllr Janson said an additional bracket will need to be purchased from Westcotec as the bracket would not be interchangeable. The VAS sign will be put-up again shortly at the present site. Cllr Janson said he felt the colder weather had reduced the battery life between each charging. He asked that if any parishioners were aware of the sign not working, to please contact a councillor.

11. To consider a request from the Parochial Church Council for financial support for maintenance of the Churchyard made under LGA 1972 Section 214(6). The Parish Council had received a letter from the Treasurer of St Catherine's PCC giving details and copy invoices of the paid work undertaken in the maintenance of the Churchyard over the past year. The cost of the routine mowing undertaken by Mr Colin Rowe had come to £154.43. The Parish Council agreed to this payment. This was proposed by Cllr Corrigan, seconded by Cllr Owers, and passed.

12. To receive a report by the Acting Clerk and to authorize cheque payments. Late items were discussed under Any Other Business. After authorization of the presented cheques the Parish Council current account balance will be £2,813.93. The Business Saver Account stands at £1,048.40. Councillors authorized the payment of cheque no 100358 for £169.43 to St Catherine's Parochial Church Council for Churchyard maintenance and for use of the church, and cheque no 100359 for £49.44 to Dr H Marlow for Parish Council stationery costs (ink cartridges).

13. To record correspondence received. A list of correspondence received and sent for the period 2nd December 2015 – 20th January 2016.

Letter 9th December 2015 to Treasurer St Catherine PCC with cheque for church use 2/12/2015.
Acknowledgement received.

Letter 12th December 2015 to the Treasurer, Debenham First Responders with donation.
Acknowledgement and receipt received.

SCC Better Broadband to Suffolk newsletter – Winter edition

MSDC Locality Awards e-mail

MSDC - Notification of granting of planning application – Mission Hall

SALC – LAIS1385 – Public Service Ombudsman

Community Action Suffolk – Local networking Events

Letter from Suffolk Age UK requesting support and advertising 'Will Month – February 2016' and 'Secret Gardens of Suffolk 2016'.

Letter December 5th 2015 from Treasurer St Catherine PCC with a request for financial support towards the cost of the 2015 Churchyard maintenance.

December 2015 and January 2016 reports for Thredling Division from Councillor Hicks.
Additional e-mails include weekly planning lists, and Rural Services Network bulletins.

14. Any other business. A late item was the receipt of a letter and plans from the Harlequin Group requesting the Parish Council's view on an amended application on a proposed base station upgrade (the phone mast) at High Elm Farm. The Parish Council's consideration had first been sought in February 2015. The Councillors considered there were only minor changes to the first plans, and had no comments to make. It was noted that although the Parish Council had received this request, Cllr Owers, on whose land the base station stands, had so far received no communication on the proposals. Councillors asked the Acting Clerk to reply to the Harlequin Group.

Cllr Bulsing asked if there were any village plans to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday. It was thought that the only plans at the moment would be linked to the 'pop-up' pub at Jan's shop.

Cllr Corrigan has received an agreement that the Parish Council can adopt the phone box. He will proceed with the necessary paperwork, and he already has volunteers prepared to assist in caring for it.

Cllr Owers asked why the new replacement post box at Town House Corner was still sealed-up and not available for use.

The Acting Clerk was asked to request a repair of the Pettaugh sign approaching the village on the A1120 from Stonham Aspal.

15. Date of next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for the 20th April 2016 at 6.30 p.m. in the Church.

The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.