

## HONINGTON & SAPISTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in Honington & Sapiston Village Hall at 7pm.

In attendance: - Councillors Rob Williams, Stephen Read, Robin Howe, David Plampin, Debbie Cram and Mark Jacklin. West Suffolk Councilor Andrew Smith, Suffolk County Councilor Joanna Spicer, Euston Estate Manager Andrew Blenkiron and 6 members of the public were also present.

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome and Apologies	<p>Apologies were received from Councillor Ian Patterson-Parker and CDO Sqn Ldr Fixter.</p> <p>Chairman RW welcomed all those present and gave a brief outline of the procedures of a Parish Council Meeting. He then invited members of the public to address the Council.</p> <p>Mr King asked about when the bridge was going to be repaired.</p> <p>Mr Waterman reported that the road opposite his dwelling in Church Road flooded in the recent downpours. He informed the Council that originally a ditch was in place outside the graveyard but over the years this has been filled in?</p> <p>Mr &amp; Mrs Brown wished to discuss the issues raised by the recent flooding which effected their property.</p>	<p>The bridge was damaged on 8<sup>th</sup> April and SCC attended on the 9<sup>th</sup> April to erect barriers and make the area safe. The Council has written to SCC CEO Ms Beach to ask for an update. We await her reply.</p> <p>The Clerk will report a drains issue with SCC Highways.</p> <p>Discussion commenced once SCC JS arrived from her attendance at Hopton PC.</p>
2. Declarations of Interest	The Declarations of Interest form was circulated and signed by those Councillors declaring an interest.	

<p>3. Police Report</p>	<p>No representative from the Police was present.  Since our last meeting we have received reports of 2 incidents in Sapiston and 8 incidents in Honington.</p>	
<p>4. RAF Report</p>	<p>Sqn Ldr Fixter was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman RW informed Councilors that thanks have been received for the VAS outside the base and for the donation towards the Community Larder which opened recently.  Flying activity continues and the Base is currently being used by other RAF personnel from around the country for training purposes, including more flying activation.</p>	
<p>5. West Suffolk Councilor – Andrew Smith</p>	<p>WSC Smith gave an update on recent press reports of closure of the waiting room at the Bury Bus Station. This was due to reports of Anti-Social Behaviour. After liaising with interested parties, the facility has now reopened with the use of private security and CCTV.</p> <p>A meeting of the Local Plan took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> October and the proposals for the Bardwell Road (10 dwellings) and Troston Road (12 dwellings) will be put forward in the final consultation period to begin in January 2024.</p> <p>WSC Smith reported on the consultation from the Grass Cutting and Grounds Maintenance teams on seeking views from Parish Councils on where and when to cut and the use of weed killers in our area.</p>	<p>The Parish Council oppose these numbers.</p> <p>To be discussed by Councilors agenda item 14.2. RW to reply to the consultation by 24<sup>th</sup> November.</p>

	<p>The Council welcome the opportunity to discuss the Boundary Review with Ben Smith from WSC Election Department.</p> <p>WSC Smith will look to see if the Warm Spaces Grant is available for this coming winter. Councilor DP informed the meeting that the offer of help last year was not taken up by any residents and so the funding offered by the Warm Spaces Grant was not followed up.</p>	<p>Clerk and WSC to confirm date with Ben. (N Of A. He has been invited to the January meeting).</p>
<p>6. Suffolk County Councilor- Joanna Spicer</p>	<p>SCC JS arrived after attending Hopton PC.</p> <p>SCC have allocated over £1 million towards the repairs needed to Suffolk Road Signs. JS asked for a list of signs (triangle &amp; circular) that are in need of repair by the end of November.</p> <p>JS offered to help with signs that are dirty or overgrown in our villages by meeting up with Councilors.</p> <p>Councilor DC reported that the 30 signs painted on the A1088 have worn away.</p> <p>JS expressed her frustration at the delays experienced to the repairs at the bridge.</p> <p>Councilor RH reported some overhanging tree branches along the highway at Ixworth.</p>	<p>List to be submitted by end of November to JS.</p> <p>To be reported on SCC Website as the signs incitive only covers metal ones.</p> <p>We await a response from Ms Beach.</p> <p>JS informed Council these had been reported and the landowner informed. RW informed both property owners but in the absence of Mr Stock RW has cut the hedge.</p>
<p>7. Minutes of the last meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023.</p>	<p>The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman RW.</p> <p>Matters Arising:-</p>	

	<p>Chairman RW will speak with Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore about our lack of communication with the police after their last visit in January.</p> <p>Thanks were given to Councilor RH for writing a piece in the newsletter informing about the service provided by the CAB. He advised that e-mailing was preferable to receive advice.</p> <p>The upgrading of some of the footpaths has taken place. Unfortunately, whilst installing a new gate the workmen went through a water pipe.</p> <p>Councilor DP will raise the issue of better disability signage at the Village Hall with those on the committee.</p> <p>The Grit Bin on the Village Green Honington will need to be replaced as it has been crushed.</p> <p>Dr Smith wrote to the Post Office to complain about the poor service experienced recently. Councilor MJ had tested the service and his correspondence had arrived on time within 1 day.</p> <p>Chairman RW will ask JS about the current stance on speed bumps with SCC.</p>	<p>RW to contact Tim Passmore</p> <p>RW will speak with James Pickerin about this incident. AB was thanked for repairing the water pipe.</p> <p>DP – Disability signs</p> <p>Clerk to seek a new bin/quotes.</p> <p>RW to seek advice from SCC JS.</p>
<p>8. Matters Arising 8.1. Clerk’s Report</p> <p>8.2. Community Policing in Suffolk</p>	<p>A copy of the report presented to Councilors is included with the minutes along with comments made.</p> <p>Councilors were unable to attend the recent meeting.</p>	<p>RW to contact Tim Passmore about our concerns.</p>

<p>9. Highways</p> <p>9.1. Outstanding Matters</p>   <p>9.2. SCC – Road Signs</p>  <p>9.3. SALC - Milestone</p>	<p>Councilors reported that after the recent rainfall the flooding was substantial at Willow Green but dispersed quickly. The Bridge repairs have been discussed previously.</p> <p>As discussed in SCC JS report a fund to repair/replace signs has been launched.</p> <p>Milestone are the new SCC Highways partner and SALC are holding discussions with them to solve local issues.</p>	<p>List to be submitted to SCC JS by the end of November.</p>
<p>10. Planning</p>	<p>Council received notice of an application at Green Lane Ixworth Thorpe to change a 9-bed dwelling into a holiday let.</p>	
<p>11. Items for Discussion</p> <p>11.1. Flooding</p>	<p>Chairman RW presented a slide show showing the extent of the recent flooding.</p> <p>Meetings have recently taken place with some Councilors, Parishioners, Andy Moore (SCC) and Andrew Blenkiron (EE) to discuss solutions and to minimise the impact to those effected.</p> <p>AM will raise worksheets to remove silt from the drains and to look at the pipe under Boreham House. Guy Smith (SCC) claims that a previous owner of Boreham House accepted responsibility for this pipe. The current owners Mr &amp; Mrs King have inspected their deeds and found no evidence of this.</p> <p>It was agreed that this pipe is inadequate to cope with the amount of rainfall experienced recently.</p> <p>The issue of moving and raising the dropped kerb at the entrance to Parch House was also raised with AM. He will</p>	<p>GS to be asked for evidence of his claim. Land Registry should be able to provide an answer.</p>

<p>11.2. Bus Service 332</p>	<p>check to ascertain what height the kerb can be.  It was suggested that the residents of Juniper, Middleton and Parch Houses may wish to extend the existing kerb by private purchase.  AM will consult with Havebury about providing better flood defences. This could involve fitting flood gates as in other villages, as this is the second time in 3 years that no.1 and 2 The Drift have been badly affected.  Sandbags have been placed in the Bus Shelter for use in the event of excessive rainfall.  AM will provide more sandbags and Councilor MJ has agreed to fill them.  Mr and Mrs Brown provided Councilors with an outline of the issues and options they would like SCC and Councilors to consider. These were discussed. Councilor DP suggested that option 1 &amp; 2 should be explored further but appreciated that the money needed to fund such a project would be huge. AB agreed whilst expensive a thrust bore could be used under the road to prevent the water running down the Bardwell Road.</p> <p>SCC JS gave details of financial support available to Suffolk residents/businesses who experienced exceptional property flooding after storm Babet.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council have been awarded some money to “improve” rural bus services. Consideration is needed about</p>	<p>AM &amp; AS to liaise with Havebury.</p> <p>Councilor MJ to fill extra sandbags.</p> <p>Councilors agreed to await further updates from AM with regards to the ownership of the pipe and to see the effects of the clearing of the drains of silt. We would also await to hear about the options of raising and moving the dropped kerb.</p> <p><a href="http://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk">highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Newsletter Item  Responses and thoughts as to numbers who may wish to use such a service.</p>
------------------------------	--	--

<p>11.3. Street Light – Bardwell Road Sapiston</p>	<p>the route and timings of the 332-bus service and if and should it continue onto Thetford. Other local PC's will be consulted to determine if a bid for funding can be submitted.</p> <p>The Council have received a request (via SCC JS) from a resident to remove a street light from outside their property. Removing a street light is a complicated and expensive matter and would only be undertaken with the support of the Parish Council after extensive consultation with nearby residents and users of the area. After discussion the Council will correspond with the homeowner.</p>	<p>To be submitted to SCC JS.</p> <p>Chairman RW to write to the resident.</p>
<p>11.4. Village Hall Grant</p>	<p>The PC have received a request from the Village Hall Committee for £1,500. This is to help with the increasing costs of heating the hall. The Village Hall Committee are looking at ways to increase revenue and reducing costs. WSC AS discussed possible grants and would be happy to discuss these with DP. Chairman RW suggested solar panels to be considered in the future and obtaining quotes. Councillor RH proposed that we helped this vital resource of the village with the one-off grant of £1,500. This was seconded by MJ.</p>	<p>Councillor AS advised the meeting that funding was available for solar panels.</p>
<p>11.5. Speedwatch</p>	<p>Chairman RW updated the Council on the Speed watch group. We are thankful to the 7 residents of Sapiston and Honington who have agreed to</p>	<p>Forms to be completed and submitted.</p>

<p>11.6. Precept</p> <p>11.7. Book Box</p>	<p>join and undertake the training which will begin soon, once the paperwork has been completed.</p> <p>Precept figures need to be submitted to WSC by the end of January 2024.</p> <p>The book box outside the library has been stolen. After discussion it was agreed Councilor RH would purchase a new box.</p>	<p>Clerk asked for any financial considerations to be submitted to be added to the January agenda.</p> <p>Councilor RH to purchase.</p>
<p>12. Finance</p> <p>12.1. Cheques to be signed</p>	<p>Cheques agreed to be signed (RW, SR &amp; RH)</p> <p>D. Thrower                    £850.00</p> <p>Clerk's Wages                £535.70</p> <p>SALC Payroll                 £27.00</p> <p>Community Printing       £191.70</p> <p>Shelter Cleaning            £113.33</p> <p>Website                        £20.00</p> <p>Honington Charity          £200.00</p> <p>Jewson (post fix)            £19.03</p> <p>Coeval (VAS TR)            £4,591.20</p> <p>Clerks Expenses (6/12) £278.98</p> <p>Village Hall</p> <p>£1,500.00</p> <p>R. Williams (defib)        £24.29</p> <p>Prior to the meeting these cheques were raised:</p> <p>M. Waterman (xmas) £200.00</p> <p>CAS Insurance                £500.99</p> <p>Willow Tree (felled)       £600.00</p>	
<p>13. Correspondence</p>	<p>Items received include:</p> <p>Support for long covid sufferers and CAB support.</p> <p>20's plenty</p>	
<p>14. Matters to Report</p> <p>14.1. Playground Report</p>	<p>The latest copy of the report received by the Council was circulated before the meeting and comments noted.</p>	<p>RW to monitor the use of old photos.</p>

	<p>Chairman RW will continue to monitor the use of old photographs in the report. Councilors agreed the area recently seeded was looking good.</p>	
<p>14.2. Grass Cutting and Grounds Maintenance</p>	<p>WSC are consulting on the frequency of cutting grass areas and the use of weed killers within the area. After discussion, Councilors agreed that we enjoy a tidy village and that it should be down to parishioners to decide on designating land to become wild areas. The use of weed killers should be used if necessary. Thanks were given to David Thrower for keeping our green areas well-tended.</p>	<p>RW to reply to the consultation by 24<sup>th</sup> November.</p>
<p>14.3. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places</p>	<p>Comments of how versatile the Village Hall is when in use as a polling station have been submitted.</p>	<p>The clerk to arrange a meeting with Ben Smith to discuss Ward Boundaries.</p>
<p>14.4. Decarbonisation Fund</p>	<p>WSC has agreed to establish a Decarbonisation Initiatives Fund. This is to help those Parish and Town Councils who own street lights and need to update them to LED lanterns.</p>	<p>Honington &amp; Sapiston PC do not own any street lights.</p>
<p>14.5. Carol Service</p>	<p>Councilors have been invited by the Chair of WSC to the West Suffolk Civic Carol Service to be held in St. Edmundsbury Cathedral on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.</p>	<p>Responses to be submitted by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November.</p>
<p>15. Date of the Next Meeting</p>	<p><b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm in Honington &amp; Sapiston Village Hall.</b></p>	

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.05pm

Signed .....

Date.....

