

HONINGTON & SAPISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th Januaray 2024 in Honington & Sapiston Village Hall at 7pm.

In attendance: - Councillors Rob Williams, Stephen Read, Robin Howe, Debbie Cram, David Plampin, Ian Patterson-Parker and Mark Jacklin. Also in attendance were West Suffolk Councilor Andrew Smith, Suffolk County Councilor Joanna Spicer, Sqn Ldr Mark Fixter, Euston Estates Manager Andrew Blenkinsop, West Suffolk Council Chairman Cllr Roger Dicker, West Suffolk Council Governance Business Partner Ben Smith and 3 members of the public.

| ITEM | DISCUSSION | ACTION |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Welcome and Apologies | The Chairman RW welcomed all those present to the first meeting of 2024. Councillors were pleased to welcome Cllr Dicker and Ben Smith from West Suffolk Council who had accepted the invitation to address Councillors at our January Meeting. | |
| 2. West Suffolk Council Chairman – Cllr Roger Dicker. | Cllr Dicker introduced himself to all those present and gave a brief resume of his 18 years as a Councillor. Cllr Dicker is the current Chairman of the West Suffolk Council a post he holds as an Independent and his term of office is for 1 year. He currently oversees 64 Councillors as Chairman. Questions were invited. Councillors thanked him for his interest in attending Honington & Sapiston PC. | |
| 3. West Suffolk Council – Mr Ben Smith | Ben Smith introduced himself to Council as the Governance Business Partner for West Suffolk. He is the lead of Democratic/Election Services and was invited to address the Council regarding current Governance arrangements. Councillors were disappointed that our request to join Honington Station with Honington Village as submitted | Clerk to distribute slide show to Councillors once received from Ben Smith. A copy of the handout circulated is included with the minutes. |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| | <p>in 2016 following the Community Governance Review, did not happen and the PC were not informed about this.</p> <p>Ben distributed handouts that explained the breakdown of the warding arrangements and explained that St. Edmundsbury Borough Council approved the changes in 2016 but this was subject to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England’s review of warding arrangements as part of the creation of West Suffolk Council. As a result of this review by the LG BCE the wards of Honington (Village) and Honington (Station) were placed in different wards and the parish warding arrangements were retained.</p> <p>Clr RH expressed disappointment that the PC were not informed of this decision at the time.</p> <p>Clr RW spoke of the wish to have Honington as 1 unit, and all Councilors agreed with this.</p> <p>Ben informed Council that our wishes would be considered should the Council hold a Community Governance Review. It is anticipated this could be held before the next Parish Council Elections.</p> | |
| 4. Declarations of Interest | The Declarations of Interest form was circulated and signed by those Councilors declaring an interest. | |
| 5. Police Report | The Clerk has received an e-mail from Rachel Reeves. Rachel covers 35 parishes as the new | |

| | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| | <p>Rural Officer and will be covering Honington and Sapiston. She has asked that any concerns the PC has be forwarded to her. The PC look forward to working with Rachel.</p> <p>Since our last meeting there have been 12 reported incidents in Honington Village, 1 in Honington Station and 3 in Sapiston.</p> | |
| 6. RAF Report | <p>Sqn Ldr Fixter informed Council of activities coming up at the base over the next few weeks. Cllr RW had raised concerns over the maintenance of the ditches which are struggling to cope with the recent rain fall and having an impact on local roads and home owners' gardens. Council was informed that the field team would attend on Wednesday 17th January at 11.30am. Cllr RW was concerned that maintaining the ditches was not carried out regularly and work only seemed to happen once problems arose. Sqn Ldr Fixter assured Council the ditches were cleared last year.</p> <p>The situation with the Bus Shelter at Poplar Close is ongoing. The original bus shelter belonging to the PC was removed whilst works were carried out with the agreement it would be replaced like for like. The current shelter whilst being advertised as Vandal proof is not weatherproof.</p> <p>Thanks were given to the PC for the installation of the VAS on Green Lane. It is very efficient and has proved a useful</p> | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | <p>reminder to those using the area to watch their speed as they approach the entrance to RAF Honington and subsequent housing.</p> | |
| <p>7. West Suffolk Councilor – Andrew Smith</p> | <p>Cllr Smith had circulated copies of West Suffolk Council’s Strategic Priorities (2024-2028) document. This document covers the anticipated needs of the communities West Suffolk Council serves.</p> <p>Cllr Smith reported to Council that the Local Plan was progressing, and should be out for consultation from the end of January. Included in this plan will be the proposal for 12 dwellings on Troston Road Honington and 10 dwellings on Bardwell Road Sapiston. Councilors voiced concern that whilst new homes may be needed in West Suffolk, planners needed to be mindful of having the infrastructures in place to provide for these new homes and our Villages could struggle with this.</p> <p>Cllr Smith informed Council that the Grass Cutting and Grounds Maintenance Review has been completed. This has resulted in 3 new members of staff being employed and the commercial contracts will be cut back to allow for more routine work to be carried out.</p> <p>Cllr Smith had passed on details of Solar Panel funding schemes to the Village Hall Committee.</p> | <p>A copy of this document is included with the minutes. The link to this document will be made available.</p> |
| <p>8. Suffolk County Councilor – Joanna Spicer</p> | <p>Cllr Spicer updated The Council on further meetings held to resolve the flooding issues in Sapiston. Cllr Spicer is grateful</p> | <p>Mr King has agreed to have the pipe jetted to improve the drainage.</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <p>to Mr King for his co-operation and to Mr Blenkiron for his advice, guidance, and hands on approach to resolving the issues.</p> <p>Council was informed that Suffolk County Council jetted the pipe 3 years ago. Councilors expressed disappointment and frustration that SCC Rights of Way team had damaged the pipe in Bardwell Road whilst carrying out improvements. The Council had informed the RoW team that we did not wish to have these works carried out. Councilor RH voiced concern that with SCC so strapped for cash, money was spent on something we had asked not to be carried out.</p> <p>Cllr Spicer informed those present that the owners of Parch House, Vine House and Middleton will not be charged for applying to have the kerb extended at the entrance to their properties.</p> <p>It was reported that whilst recent rain water collected behind the bus shelter at the Drift the drains coped well and the properties of the Drift were spared.</p> <p>Councilors were disappointed to learn that there is still no date for the repairs to the bridge to commence. Cllr RH reminded Council that 9 months have now passed since the damage occurred.</p> <p>Cllr Spicer thanked Cllr RW for the list of road signs to be considered for</p> | <p>Thanks were given to AB for repairing the pipe the ROW team had damaged.</p> |
|--|---|---|

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | <p>repair/replacement or attention.</p> <p>Thanks, were also given for the responses received in support of the 332 Bus Service being extended to travel to Thetford. A plan is being created ready for the consultation.</p> <p>Concerns were raised from Councilors about media reports of cuts from the SCC Budget. Cllr Spicer informed the meeting that SCC are facing a shortfall of £74 million.</p> <p>Cllr RW asked Cllr Spicer about the current state of repairs to Compeign Way in Bury St. Edmunds. It was disappointing that such an important relief road was once again on an emergency closure notice.</p> <p>Cllr Spicer hopes that when the A1088 is closed for bridge repairs at Stowlangtoft that further repairs can be carried out on the road surface at Ixworth Thorpe. It is hoped these will take place in the spring 2024.</p> <p>Cllr Spicer informed Council that she has agreed to giving funds from her locality budget to the Suffolk Churches Conservation Society for use at Sapiston Church to help with roof repairs.</p> | |
| <p>9. Minutes of the last meeting held on 13th November 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>Cllr RW has written to Tim Passmore to explain our frustration at not receiving the</p> | <p>Council awaiting response.</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | <p>items promised at January's 2023 meeting.</p> <p>A quote of £190 has been received to replace the Grit Bin on Honington Village Green. Councilors agreed to monitor and decide at the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr RH informed Council that the Book Library was being well managed currently so the purchase of a Book Box for outside the library has been put on hold for now.</p> <p>Awaiting on an update on new disability parking signs.</p> <p>Cllr RW was frustrated that the current playground report still contained out of date photographs.</p> | <p>Agenda item for March 2024.</p> <p>To monitor.</p> <p>Quotes received after the meeting of £39.99 each, 2 required.</p> <p>Cllr RW will liaise with Inspectors.</p> |
| <p>10. Matters Arising 10.1. Clerk's Report</p> | <p>A copy of the report presented to Councilors is included with the minutes along with comments made.</p> | |
| <p>11. Highways</p> | <p>Outstanding matters have been covered within SCC JS report.</p> <p>A request has been received to install 2 more posts at the Blackbourne River area. This is to prevent vehicles obstructing the pavement.</p> | <p>Clerk to request 2 more posts</p> |
| <p>12. Planning</p> | <p>No planning applications have been received since the last PC meeting.</p> | |
| <p>13. Items for Discussion 13.1. Bus Service 332</p> | <p>Thanks were given for all the responses received in support of extending the 332-bus service to travel to Thetford. More than 15 parishioners showed an interest in supporting this proposal. A</p> | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Blackbourne Tree Group £500 Shelter Cleaning £113.33 EACH £150.00 | |
| 15. Correspondence | Items received include: Glasdon Product Leaflet Solar Renewable Services Suffolk Green Awards 2024 Breckland Beeline – Bus service from Thetford to Norwich £4 return, 6 days a week. | |
| 16. Matters to Report 16.1. Playground Report | The latest copy of the report received by the Council was circulated before the meeting and comments noted. Cllr RW is frustrated at the continuing use of old photographs within the report. The PC also confirmed they are satisfied with the use of the concrete posts around the slide. | Cllr RW to liaise with the inspector. |
| 16.2. Grass Cutting and Grounds Maintenance Review | As discussed with Cllr AS earlier in the meeting this review has been completed. The review has recommended 3 more full time positions, external work for Schools and private organisations will cease, giving teams more capacity for WSC workloads. Equipment will be updated to optimize cutting. WSC will continue to cut SCC Highway verges (8-10 cuts a year) Weed control options and alternatives to remain under review. | |
| 16.3. Village Sign | It is hoped the new Village Sign will be ready for delivery before our next meeting. | |
| 16.4. SALC 's Payroll Officer | Charlotte Haines has been appointed the new Payroll Officer for SALC. | |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| 16.5. Brecks Outdoor Festival | This festival will take place from 7 th – 2 nd September 2024. Dr Smith has expressed an interest to hold a guided walk around the Villages. | |
| 16.6. West Suffolk Parish & Town Forum | Monday 18 th March at 7pm in Mildenhall. | Cllr RW has agreed to attend. |
| 16.7. FOIL | The Friends of Ixworth Library have a number of coffee mornings (1 st Saturday of the month) and film afternoons (Sunday afternoons – usually the last Sunday of the month) taking place. | Details in the Newsletter and on the Website. |
| 16.8. Litter Pick | Councilors agreed to hold the annual litter pick on Sunday 3 rd March from 10.30am. Meeting points at both Village Greens. | Clerk to book litter picking equipment. |
| 16.9. Street Light | Cllr IPP reported that the street light by the Blackbourne Tree Group is out. | Clerk to report to SCC. |

NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 11TH MARCH 2024 AT 7PM IN HONINGTON & SAPISTON VILLAGE HALL.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.55pm.

Signed Date.....