

## HORHAM AND ATHELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 1 March 2017 in the Old School 7.30pm

1. APOLOGIES – Cllr. Lawrence Weaver

PRESENT – Cllr's Hav Wilkins (chairman); Keith Hawes (vice-chairman); Christine Cooper; Pip Florance; Celia Morphett, Jill Peters; District Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Gibson-Harries; Angela Wilkins (clerk) County Cllr Guy McGregor.

2. REPORTS County Council – Mr McGregor stated that there would be no increase again this year in Council Tax and £8million has been contributed to adult social care. Highway maintenance is on the turn with more repairs being undertaken. £200 thousand has been taken out of the library service with the library in Eye being re-located. Mr McGregor said that Sizewell C is progressing well and stressed the benefits of the project. Paddock House had been sold to District Council now that Hartisemere Place is established. Questions were put to Mr McGregor. District Council – Mrs Gibson-Harries said that the Old Paddock House site was to be developed into new housing. Increase in Council Tax of 2.6% for band D properties. Mid Suffolk are investing by building new council housing- asked if the village needed new smaller houses for example to encourage growth.

3. MINUTES of meeting held 23 November 2016 previously distributed were signed by the chairman

4. MATTERS ARISING – Local Government Finance Settlement – The Government has announced they will not be introducing a referendum for parish councils. The Government has stated proposals will be deferred this year while keeping the level of precepts set by town and parish councils under close review. Parish councils are expected to clearly demonstrate restraint when setting increases that are not a direct result of taking on additional responsibilities. 30mph Signs - The faded 30mph signs at the Eye end of the street have been replaced.

5. CORRESPONDENCE - Street Names and Numbering –Councillors said that possibly surnames of prominent families from the past could be put forward as a suggestion when a new development is proposed within the village. Village Plan – Up-to-date information needs to be sort before any decision to carry out a parish plan. Suffolk Police – Terms of Reference – Primary concern is to ensure officers are in a position to respond to emergency calls. To achieve this it has been necessary to review the current working practices of police constables. *(Full details attached to minute book)*

MSDC- Change to Governance Arrangements – In December Mid Suffolk decided to change to a Leader-Cabinet form of governance effective from May 2017. The main features of the change will be to move from a Committee system to operate as a Leander-Cabinet model which is a system involving some decision-making powers being vested in a maximum of ten Councillors who form a Cabinet.

6. TELEPHONE KIOSK –Designing has now started. The planning stages took far longer than first thought but the project is now well under way. The Parish Council will cover all costs.

7. HIGHWAY MATTERS – Temporary Closure of part of B1117 - Horham Street was closed for three days last month to connect two new properties to electrical mains. Originally the road was due to be closed for seven days with no access for vehicles effectively splitting the village in two.

8. PLANNING – Application 0552/17 Erection of rear extension, loft conversion with dormer roof extension. Front porch and new 3 bay cart lodge with room over at The Old Rectory, Horham Road, Athelington. **PC support**

Application 3397/16 Removal of hedgerow on land at Meadow Farm Athelington is going through appeal. Planning Inspectorate Reference ENV/3162675

Between meetings:

Application 5023/16 - Outline Planning Permission sought for erection of one two storey dwelling & separate garage with access. Barnacre, Worlingworth Road, Horham – PC would welcome application for smaller affordable housing in the village, however this outline application by the size of the plot will not fit into that category. Additionally this application is outside the village envelope area of development – therefore any approval would be believed to be against the district planning criteria for planning development. **PC refuse**

Application 0328/17 – Erection of a two storey extension, lobby and store. Church View, The Street, Horham. This application is from a long standing resident of Horham who wishes to improve the cramped accommodation of this listed cottage allowing and his family to remain in the village. Horham and Athelington Parish Council consider the exterior of this extension to be tasteful and balanced and compliment the character of this listed property via a discreet link to which it is attached. **PC support**

Application 4081/16 – Use of land for siting 6 holiday use lodges with ancillary construction of approach drive and hard standing at Athelington Hall Log Cabin Holidays, Athelington Hall, Horham Road, Athelington. PC had reservations to locating log cabins at Athelington Hall with previous application. Access to this site is along a very narrow unclassified road. Residents have reported extra traffic flow as the number of lodges has increased over the years. We therefore feel that six more lodges could lead to even further developments raising safety and traffic issues. **PC objects**

9. FINANCE - Financial Risk Assessment drawn up by the clerk was presented to the council for approval. It was proposed this be accepted by Keith Hawes seconded Pip Florance.

Bank balances held @ 30 December 2016

NSI £88.06 (interest £5.26) C/A £1870.23 Business Saver 101.63

The following payments were approved - Proposed by Keith Hawes seconded by Christine Cooper

Horham & Athelington Village Hall Fund (Old School for meetings) £52.00

Mrs A Wilkins (Clerk's Expenses) £31.95

Mrs A Wilkins (Clerk's Salary 2016/2017) £695.00

Celia Morphett put forward a proposal that the clerk's salary be increased from £625pa to £695pa (the last increase 2008) seconded by Jill Peters carried.

Transparency Fund Application – The purpose of the fund is to cover the extra burden of costs to parish councils towards setting up a website. The clerk will complete and submit an application for funding towards the cost of OneSuffolk fee of £60

10. MATTERS Raised BY COUNCILLORS -

*Website* - Cllr Cooper asked if village dates could be posted on the website to avoid clashes with other organisations and villages.

*Potholes* - Cllr Hawes reported that there were several deep potholes in Water Lane which needed attention.

*Parish Meeting* – Cllr Morphett suggested that Mel Harvey Communities Officer be invited to attend the Parish Meetings in April and offered to contact her.

*Airfield* – It was noted that a strong burning smell appeared to be emanating from airfield.

*Bird Scaring devices* – Cllr Cooper said that bird scaring devices in nearby fields are being discharged at all hours and it appears that some land owners are not adhering to set guide lines.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING was confirmed for 24 May 2017 - Annual Parish Meetings 26 April 2017.

As there was no further business the meeting closed 9.35pm