

Geldeston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall on 8th April 2009

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

R. Edmunds, E. Peters, A Norman, T Morton, J Tuttle and B Ashfield

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:

Mr M Peters, Mr P Cracknell, Mr S Rolt, Mr B Norman, Mr J Oakly, Mr and Mrs Barker

Minutes taken by Lucy Seary

WELCOME

Council Chairlady welcomed all in attendance

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

M Fenwick

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

3. MINUTES OF MEETING, MARCH 2009:

Approval of amended minutes proposed by TM. Seconded by AN.

Minutes were approved.

4. CRIME REPORT

The crime report from SNC has reported 2 crimes in Geldeston for the month of March. AN advised the council of an incident in the village where a young female entered a property and stole a purse while the owner was still in the house. There were other young people outside the property and they all then left together. There was no suggestion that the people were from the village and police had suggested they may be connected with other thefts in the Beccles area. Villagers were reminded to remain vigilant and keep valuables away from doors and windows where opportunists might see them.

5. ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

Target 1: The Environment – wildlife & footpaths

5.1 River Walk

AN raised concerns about the rubbish at Three Rivers. Some of the rubbish has gone but it is still a mess. It appears to be used as a regular drinking place. LS to contact the Broads Authority. A litter pick was arranged for 17th April to collect litter from around the village.

5.2 Composting

The composting Group has not yet decided whether to continue as an independent group (separate from the Parish Council). Independent status could mean additional grants are available to them.

Target 2: Improving Parish Amenities

5.3 Village Hall

Peter Cracknell reported to the Council on the village hall. The work to the windows will start on 20th April. Quotes are currently being obtained for the kitchen refurbishment. The film showings were a huge success and thanks were given to Brian, Alison, Hannah and George Norman who all worked hard to make the films a success. The film showings made close to £1000 profit for the village hall and benefited the Wherry with additional customers. Thanks were also given to Mike Peters for installing the hearing loop which is not only beneficial to those with a hearing impairment but it will also assist the village hall to obtain funding and grants in the future. The Parish Council and Composting Group were also thanked for their financial support over the last year.

5.4 Bus Shelter

EP will be meeting shortly with the builder to confirm the work to be done to the bus shelter.

5.5 Hedging

The hedge planting is now complete and the tree removed from the Saw Pit. A villager has offered buy a replacement tree in the Autumn. EP will follow up on this very kind offer. Now the tree has been removed the Council discussed the need to additional screening across the bottle bank area. EP and LS to get costings for Willow and Norfolk Reed panels.

5.6 Playing fields

EP provided the Council with a summary of the costs for the playing field. The field is rarely used and the condition of it is unsuitable for football matches. The Council discussed a number of uses for the field, such as a wildlife area, open play area, dog walking area etc. The Council believes it is an important resource for the village and should not be lost. A sub committee will meet to discuss the ideas further (EP, AN, TM, JT)

5.7 Playground

JT has almost completed the improvements to the playground which included lowering the top of, and fixing the climbing frame, putting in the new slide, removing the sandpit and laying new chippings. Some of the tyres will also be replaced shortly. LS to arrange a playground inspection when it is all complete. The playground will reopen Sunday 12th April.

Target 4: Plan Documents

5.8 Flood Alleviation

TM attended a flood alleviation project meeting in Acle. The plans propose abandoning the bank along the cut, at the corner, and at the bottom of Dunburgh Hill, to the river and creating a footpath along the old railway line. The river bank footpath would be maintained but would not be relied upon as a flood defence. We are awaiting full plans and consultation.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

March 2009 / April 2009

The clerk read out correspondence which will be circulated for Councillors information: SNC re. tree removal, 2 letters regarding the proposed boundary changes in Norfolk. The Council received leaflets regarding the Norfolk 'Festival of Arts'.

7. NEW ISSUES

Nothing to report.

8. PARISH 10

8.1 Hearing loop

Mike Peters advised the Council how to use the hearing loop and suggested the tables are moved closer to the hearing loop unit for meetings so our voices could be picked up better.

8.2 BESTL

In relation to the Council's discussion on the flood alleviation project, Mr Oakly recommended to the Council that from his experience in working with BESL it is important to get everything agreed in writing and well in advance.

9. FINANCE

The clerk sought approval for new items of expenditure and provided Council with information about the current status of the bank accounts.

Expenditure to be agreed:

1. Clerk pay increase in line with NALC
2. NALC annual membership fee
3. SNC dog bin emptying
4. S. Rolt hedge trimming
5. Anglian Water rates
6. Digger hire
7. Chippings for playground
8. 2 copies of 'The Parish Councillors Guide'
9. Upkeep of the churchyard S137

Expenditure items 2 to 8 (inclusive) were agreed.
Proposed TM. Seconded BA.

Items 1 and 9 to be discussed further at a finance meeting held on 23rd April at 7.30pm.

11. AOB

11.1 AGM

The AGM will be held at our May meeting when the Chair and Vice Chair needs to be elected. EP requested people consider who they wish to elect.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Next meeting Wednesday 13th May 7.00pm

Meeting ended at 9.10pm.