

Geldeston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall on 11th February 2009

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:

Dr J Oxley, Mr M Peters, Mr T Game, Mr B Norman

Minutes taken by Lucy Seary

WELCOME

Council Chairlady welcomed all in attendance and remembered Tony Scora who passed away late last year. He was a regular attendee at Parish Council meetings.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

3. MINUTES OF MEETING, JAN 2009:

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

Minutes were approved.

4. CRIME REPORT

Tony Game had no crime reported for the previous month. BA had heard of an incident where glass bottles were thrown down the street.

5. ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

Target 1: The Environment – wildlife & footpaths

5.1 Footpaths

The Council has been sent a letter from SNC about the regrading of Snakes Lane and Sandy Lane. The map was unclear and MF offered to take the map away to check the footpath codes.

5.2 Asbestos

Tony Game confirmed that the asbestos has not yet been collected as a special contractor is required to take it away, however the other rubbish has been collected.

5.3 Composting

MF confirmed the composting group will be receiving £511 this year and has won an award from SNC.

Target 2: Improving Parish Amenities

5.4 Bus Shelter

EP has received a quote for repairing the whole roof which exceeded £1000 and exceeds the budget allocation for the job. TM suggested that only the basic repairs are completed on the Parish owned half of the roof, and a larger allocation of money is made for the bus shelter in next years budget. MF suggested contacting Adnams to highlight the problems with the bus shelter and see if they wish to pay for the repair. EP to contact Adnams and go ahead with the original repair quote (as agreed in Jan meeting).

5.5 Dog Bins

There is still a dog bin that needs placing in the village. EP suggested the end of Heath Road as a good location but suggested we checked with SNC if they would collect from this location.

MF suggested that aesthetically it might not be the best place and maybe it could be placed next to the rubbish bin by the village hall.

LS to contact SNC to confirm where they would collect from.

5.6 Hedging

Members of the Council met to agree the location of the new hedging which includes on the Saw Pit, Snakes Lane, and the playing field, and set the dates for planting. SNC have been contacted to gain permission to fell the plum tree on the Saw Pit and it was agreed that the tree needs to be felled before the hedging is planted around that area. AN questioned the need for permission to fell the tree. EP advised that permission was required because it is in a conservation area. The PC have been asked to complete a form regarding the tree and return it to SNC. LS to complete and send off the form.

MF asked if one of the days set aside for planting could also be used to clear Layden Lane.

EP has had a number of volunteers offer to help and will co-ordinate when they will be needed. EP suggested the outside hedge of the playing field needs cutting and will contact the person who did it last year to arrange.

5.7 Playing fields

Rabbits are still a problem. JT suggested a village bonfire on the playing field in November. LS to check with the insurance company regarding restrictions.

JT was approached by a villager who complained about the state of the playing field. The carcass of the shed has now gone and on the occasion when broken glass was reported it was cleared away asap. The slide can be put in when the digger is available. Additional playbark will be required and the old playbark dug out. MF confirmed that the old playbark will not be good for composting as it has been processed and is not easy to compost.

Target 3: Road Safety

5.8 Road surface

The Council raised concerns about the road surface deteriorating. Tony Game and LS had contacted SNC about the issue. The loose surface has been removed and we are waiting for the contractor to return and repair the damaged area.

Target 4: Plan Documents

5.9 Flood Management

Leaflets have been delivered. RE raised a concern that there is a hole in the dyke and confirmed there are flood warnings in the area.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

January 2009 / February 2009

The clerk read out correspondence.

7. NEW ISSUES

Nothing to report.

8. PLANNING

The Council discussed the proposal by SNC to build additional affordable housing in Geldeston. It would need to be built on agricultural land adjacent to the village with the need for minimal new roads. The council discussed two possible locations: a field owned by Wotton Town trust between Kells Way and West End, and part of the playing field on Station Road. BA confirmed that if there are people within the village needing housing then the Council has an obligation to investigate the possibility. MF also highlighted the option of joining with Gillingham and building a large number of houses allocated to each village. EP had discussed this option with Gillingham who were not keen to have a large number of houses built within their village. The Council agreed in principle to have additional affordable housing. LS to contact SNC to take this forward.

9. PARISH 10

Mr Oxley raised the issue of dog fouling which is getting worse. EP confirmed that anyone who witnesses someone's dog fouling and the owner not picking it up, can be reported to the dog warden at SNC. LS to include in the Parish Magazine and on the notice board highlighting owners responsibility.

JT has received complaints of someone driving up and down the footpath on Geldeston Hill and obstructing the footpath. EP suggested that if someone is illegally blocking the footpath then it be reported to the police.

Brian Norman was selling tickets for the next cinema evening, Easy Virtue. Morris will be shown on March 25th.

Tony Game confirmed the boundary commission is delayed until July. The criteria for the gypsy & travellers sites has changed following complaints from the public. New site list will be available on the website.

The Council has received concerns about work being undertaken on the Newlands Caravan Park. The Broads Authority is investigating the concerns.

10. FINANCE

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

Invoices to be approved: Expenses for Mrs Peters £12.25

AN proposed approval of the expenses to be paid. JT seconded. Council agreed and payment of the expenses were approved.

The Clerk received the forms from Barclays bank to apply for additional signatories on the account. MF, BA and TM agreed to become signatories.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Next meeting Wednesday 11th March 7.30pm

Meeting ended at 9.35pm.