

Geldeston Parish Council

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

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:

Mr M Peters, Mr T Tomkinson, Mr S Rolt

Minutes taken by Lucy Seary

WELCOME

Council Chairlady welcomed all in attendance

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

B. Ashfield and M Fenwick

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

3. MINUTES OF MEETING, FEB 2009:

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

Minutes were approved.

4. CRIME REPORT

The crime report from SNC has reported 1 crime in Geldeston for the month of Feb.

5. ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

Target 1: The Environment – wildlife & footpaths

5.1 Verges

LS has sent an email to SNC requesting the summer cut of the verges is delayed until the end of July to allow the wild flowers and wildlife to flourish.

5.2 Composting

The Composting Group are applying for a grant to buy a trailer and are currently completing the paperwork. Thank you to Tony Game for all his help.

Target 2: Improving Parish Amenities

5.3 Village Hall

The AGM for the Village Hall committee will be on 1st April at 7.30pm. AN reported that the VH Committee has contacted the Highways Dept to see if it is possible to have a dropped curb near the side door of the village hall to make it easier for wheelchair access. They have also asked for a designated disabled parking space outside the hall. Nothing as yet has been agreed.

5.4 Dog Bins

AN had a request from a villager that if the new dog bin is placed in Heath Road, that it not be placed by the entrance to property.

5.5 Hedging

The new hedge planting is nearly complete. The existing hedge on the village green is particularly tall and in need to trimming before the birds start nesting. AN suggested this should be done as soon as possible. It was proposed that Snowy Rolt complete the work next week – trimming the hedge and removing the ivy. Proposed TM, seconded RE.

5.6 Playing fields

Hedging is being planted around the playing field on 12th March. EP has the financial figures for the last few years and will look at how much the playing field costs to manage. The Council needs to decide what should be done with the space / how it can be used in the future.

5.7 Playground

JT has been waiting to borrow a digger but believes it appropriate to hire one to get the job complete. JT to get costs for updating the playground and hiring a digger for the next meeting.

Target 3: Road Safety

5.8 Road surface

AN asked if there was any further news about repairing the road surface. EP confirmed we are still waiting.

5.9 Signage

The Council discussed the lack of a village sign along the Old Yarmouth Road when approaching the village from Gillingham. It was decided that one was not necessary,

6. CORRESPONDENCE

February 2009 / March 2009

The clerk read out correspondence which will be circulated for Councillors information: Proposed Travellers sites, South Norfolk Alliance, Greater Norfolk Development proposal.

7. NEW ISSUES

Nothing to report.

8. PARISH 10

8.1 Bus Shelter

The Council were asked for an update on the bus shelter roof. EP confirmed that Adnams had been contacted and they are going to send someone to look at their half of the roof.

8.2 Village Seat

Snowy Rolt confirmed the village Coronation bench is nearly repaired and will soon be back on the Saw Pit.

8.3 Neighbourhood fund

Tony Tomkinson informed the Council about the fund which provides grants of up to £2000 for community projects. LS to follow up and get the forms to complete.

9. 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 LS
Proposed AN. Seconded JT.

The audit paperwork for year ending March 08 has been received from Dana Adams. It is not quite complete. LS to complete the form and find out if there is an asset register. TM to make inquiries about an internal auditor.

10. PLANNING

The Council requested an update on the Broadlands planning investigation of the Newlands Caravan Park. LS to contact Broadlands. The Council raised concerns over the lack of information from Broadlands. Tony Tomkinson suggested writing to John Packman (Exec Dir) under the Freedom of Information Act to request information.

11. AOB

11.1 Saffron Site Meeting

EP, RE and Mr Cully attended with Ms J Parramint from Saffron. Ms Parramint had not seen the report from the previous visit. EP has put together a summary of the issues discussed. The Council discussed the problem of residents driving along the footpath for the playground. This is a danger for anyone walking along the footpath and in particular children playing in the playground. Saffron confirmed at the site meeting that the playing field was the responsibility of SNC. LS to contact SNC to highlight the issue. Suggestions included turning the footpath in a driveway and fencing it off from the playing area. JT confirmed that previous suggestions of a gate were strongly opposed.

11.2 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 8th April 7.30pm

Meeting ended at 9.00pm.