

Geldeston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall on 16th June 2010

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

J Tuttle (Chair), E Peters, R. Edmunds, M. Fenwick, A Norman

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:

Mr M Peters, Mr T Game (SNC), Dr J Oxley, Mr B Norman, Ms M Rose, Mr J Langran, Mr C Smith, Mr & Mrs Streames, Mr P Cracknell, Mr G Millard, Ms G Barker, Mr & Mrs Whitlam

Minutes taken by Lucy Seary

WELCOME

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Mr T Morton, Mrs B Ashfield

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Mrs Fenwick re. Rabbit discussion and correspondence received.

Mr J Tuttle re. Sponsorship for Kimberly Aspland

Mrs A Norman, land owner re. BESL flood alleviation project

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

LS advised the Council that TM was standing for Vice Chair. MF proposed. All agreed. No other nominations received.

4. CRIME

The PC has received information from Norfolk Police regarding milk money being stolen from doorsteps and sheds being broken into. Mr Game confirmed there were 2 reports of thefts in Geldeston. RE had reported someone removing aerials from cars outside her property.

ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

5. Target 1: The Environment – wildlife & footpaths

5.1 Layden Lane

The upper end of Layden Lane is blocked by fallen trees / branches. The land is being cut back by the council but only as far as the vehicle can go, though there has been no attempt to clear it. LS to contact SNC to ask for it to be cleared.

5.2 Fly tipping

Rubbish has been left at the entrance to Stockton Road and along Heath Road (where Sandy Lane crosses it). LS to report to SNC.

5.3 Composting

MF requires a copy of the receipt from the purchase of the replacement tools to satisfy the grant requirements from SNC. LS to check the records for year end 08 / 09.

5.4 Garden hedges

EP requested that a notice be put in the Tidings magazine to remind people that hedges should not encroach on the footpaths. LS to arrange.

5.5 Roads

Pot holes have appeared along Station Road by the cross roads which need repairing. Also the Anglian Bus that drives through the village drives particularly fast. LS to contact Anglian Buses.

Target 2: Improving Parish Amenities

5.6 Village Hall

The VH Committee is awaiting further funding opportunities. AN asked about the line dancing which had been cancelled from the hall. Mr Cracknell advised the council that the line dancing organisers had cancelled the booking after they were advised that they would require 3rd party insurance to run a business from the hall. The hall is fully available for any charity or not for profit organisation to use, as this is covered under the VH insurance. If the hall is used for a money making venture then the organisers would require their own insurance.

5.7 Playground

The inspection is due this month. The playground continues to be very well used.

5.8 Sports field

The Council heard a very informative presentation from the GREENE Group which included a possible future layout for the field. A picnic is planned for the 18th July on the field where people can come and browse the various ideas. The PC were asked to agree to the continuation of the GREENE Group. All agreed and people were very impressed with the progress made so far. A further presentation will be made at the Sept meeting.

Mr Cracknell asked about the lease arrangements as the field is owned by the Poors Trust. AN confirmed the lease shows the field must be for community use, which clearly this is.

Target 3: Road Safety

LS advised the PC that NCC have agreed to look into the problem of lorries driving through the village, possibly with additional signage.

LS advised the PC that the slabs around the Church yard will be included in the Highways schedule of works.

EP advised the PC that the fingerpost sign at Kirby Cane is still missing. LS to follow up.

The Anglian bus continues to drive at excessive speed through the village. LS to contact Anglian buses.

The drains are again blocked along The Street with sand accumulating around the drain. The road needs to be swept to clear the debris. LS advised the road sweeper was in Ditchingham 2 days previous and is likely to be in Geldeston shortly. LS to follow up with SNC.

Target 4: Planning Documents

Flood alleviation project: The high tides have been coming up over the banks at Dunburgh and along the stretch towards Beccles. The Broads Auth has been checking the widths and depths. EP asked if it would be possible to ask BESL and / or Broads Auth to walk us through the work that has already been done. LS to follow up.

AN expressed concerns that the marshes have been dry and is worried the works are excessively holding up water. It is very important the marshes are not left to dry out.

Archaeologists have been on site along the river bank where posts have been uncovered from a track. LS to ask if it is possible for people to go and have a look at the site. LS to contact Broads Auth about having a display board to inform visitors of what has been found there.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

May 2010 / June 2010

LS read and distributed the correspondence.

7. NEW ISSUES

7.1 Notice Board

EP asked about the use of the PC notice board. She had been asked to display an advertising flyer for a local business and declined as the board is used for PC, information and events only. The PC agreed this is the intended use of the PC notice board and suggested the VH could provide a village notice board and charge a small fee for adverts.

7.2 Rabbits along Heath Road

Following the discussions at the May meeting LS and JT advised the Council of the possible costs to gas or fence the woodland areas along Heath Road to assist the local farmland. LS read a letter from Ms M Rose and Mr J Langran regarding the rabbits. The PC discussed the issue and decided it was not financially viable to do anything at this point as more rabbits would quickly move on to the land. JT has spoken to a game keeper who would be happy to ferret the rabbit burrows at no charge, however this needs to be done at the end of the year. MF did not wish the PC to spend any money on the problem but would be happy for the land to be ferreted for free. PC to discuss again at the end of the year.

8. PARISH 10

Ms G Barker informed the PC that 4 reflectors are missing from the sharp bend along Yarmouth Road. Also the Highways Dept has been strimming the bark from her hawthorns. The verges have been strimmed twice in 3 weeks which is particularly excessive.

TG confirmed this is a problem experienced by other parishes.

Mr Cracknell asked Mr Game whether there are plans for SNC to move forward with the recycling. TG explained the plastics currently collected in Norfolk are more valuable (sold for more) than the mixed plastics collected from Suffolk Council. There are no plans for this to change.

MF advised the PC that a wheelbarrow has been stolen from the composting group. A wall of rubble is being built around the area to dissuade further problems.

Mr Smith advised the Council that the local businesses had successfully met to form a working group to promote their businesses. This is currently on hold following the imminent departure of the Wherry landlady.

9. FINANCE

The Clerk presented the proposed expenditure and the current status of the bank accounts. Proposed RE, seconded EP. All agreed.

EP asked if the PC would consider sponsoring Kimberly Aspland, following JTs previous request. Kimberly is a runner living in Geldeston who runs for GB and is hoping to qualify for the Paralympics in 2012. JT left the room and the Council discussed the request. It was agreed that the PC, and the village, wishes to support Kimberly but would not pay money from the PC funds. It was suggested that she has a stand at the village fayre to ask for sponsorship.

10. PLANNING

None

11. AOB

TG from SNC informed the PC that SNC were considering joining with Breckland for some services to reduce costs. It was projected to reduce costs by £4m over 2 years. The plan is no longer going ahead.

JT has received a complaint from a villager regarding the behaviour of a neighbour. LS to follow up with Police and SNC neighbourhood team.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Next meeting Wednesday 14th July 2010 7.30pm

Meeting ended at 9.35pm