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DITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The 2012 March meeting was held on the 12th at 7.30 p.m. with Cllr. Green in the Chair and the following present – Cllrs. M.P. Ankrett, Chadd, Cossey, James, Pegg, Kirkpatrick, Mulley and Weston, together with clerk John Smith. Also present were county councillor Tomkinson, district councillor council Allen, police support volunteer R. Roe and five members of the public.

1. Apology for absence received and accepted from Cllr. M.C. Ankrett.
2. There were no members interests to record.
3. Minutes of the meetings on 16th Jan. & 13th Feb. were confirmed and signed.
4. Matter arising concerned Cllr. Tomkinson's investigation concerning Hollow Hill Road gritting which he confirmed not to be on the current route. He would happily support council representation to have this added and the clerk would deal with it.
5. Reports County Councillor Tomkinson had no matters to report and asked if councillors had any items for him which resulted in a request to have Hollow Hill footpath concrete slabs replaced following accidents and the state of the hedge fronting the maltings site in Pirnow Street. With the latter most likely the responsibility of P.J. Livesey the clerk was instructed to look into the matter with a view to having it cut back. With further meetings to attend he left at 7.40 p.m.

District councillor Allen gave a comprehensive report on recent activities among which were the traveller problem on the Earsham/Hedenham border, site allocations regarding developments, no increase in council tax etc.

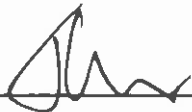
Police Support Volunteer R. Roe was welcomed on his first visit and it was obvious that he had a good knowledge of the regular perpetrators of our regular vandalism and this gave councillors cause for optimism that at last positive action would result.

6. Finances With 4th quarter figures varying little from those forecasted in January apart from burial fees income being a further £100 down resulting in £1,000 reduction for the whole year income was much as expected. On the payments side general admin. was £100 less than budgeted and village tidying showed a surplus.

With burial fees being far less than usual Cllr. Green requested Cllr. Cossey to compare memorial fees with those of Waveney District Council as he had previously intimated that ours were much less.

Cheques as per the annexe, plus Talk Talk £46.72 were confirmed.

7. Planning Committee Chair, Cllr. Weston reported on the 13th Feb. meeting and on the meeting prior to this one. A small number of uncontroversial local plans had been considered. The Clerk holds separate minutes.


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He also reported on letters sent from DPC to the Broads Authority (BA) following DPC's last meeting. These letters had conveyed the Council's support for the Maltings Plans and had answered an enquiry from the BA re S106 monies. He further reported on DPC representation to the SNC Planning Committee where he (and Councillor Allen) had addressed the meeting. The SNC Planning Committee resolved to support the plans for the Maltings and supported the view that S106 monies be managed by DPC for the community. Appreciation was expressed for the way DPC had managed the planning application.

8. Advisory committee reports Planning covered under item 7.

Local Development Chair, Cllr. Chadd reported that furthering council participation on what had previously been thought of as purely police matters had not been progressed further. Mrs. Pat Butler was able to relate her experiences with the police and the Chair's proposal that a further workshop be convened would be acted upon.

Maintenance & Environment Chair, was arranging a visit to the play area and this would be before the annual inspection. Allotments were in order with no problems.

9. Matters not decided by Committee

The clerk gave a resume on the background of what had become the annual village tidy and with likely costs of a 1K this year a proposal from Cllr. Kirkpatrick that this cease altogether, later amended to this year, was 2nd by Cllr. Chadd and unanimously agreed. Cllr. Kirkpatrick's proposal that the village be leafleted to encourage residents to give a little time over Easter to pick up litter near their homes and use their own bins would be acted upon.

A report on the recent Eastern River Valleys Neighbourhood Board meeting was given but it could be said "It is still finding its way...." Information was given on two forthcoming meetings- CLP 13th March & Hastoe's 15th March.

Renovation costs for the Village Sign would be £350 and on Cllr. James's proposal, 2nd by Cllr. Pegg unanimously agreed to be put in hand.

10. Council Working Practices Future agendas and minutes were unanimously authorised for electronic distribution on Cllr. Kirkpatrick's proposal, 2nd by Cllr. Weston. Standing Orders would be duly amended

11. Co-option of Councillor With the need for transparency in filling this vacancy an item in both Parishioner and notice board would be displayed and Cllr. Weston's proposal that the co-option be made at the May meeting was unanimously agreed after having been seconded by Cllr. Mulley.

12. Correspondence

None was to hand.

13. Urgent other business A Mr. Fred Hartwell made it known that he was available to fill the vacancy and Cllr. Green stated he was aware. Cllr. Kirkpatrick gave details of a memorial service to be held on Friday for the recently deceased head teacher of the village school.



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14. Next Scheduled Meetings

Planning Committee 16th April and 21st May
Annual Parish & Annual Parish Council 21st May.

15. Items for next Agenda

Co-option of councillor.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9 p.m.



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