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DITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The 2013 January meeting was held on the 21st in the village hall at 7.30 p.m. with Cllr.Green in the Chair & the following present – Cllrs.M.C. & M.P.Ankrett, Cossey,James,Mison,Mulley,Ogden & Weston together with clerk John Smith. Also present were District Cllr. Allen & one member of the public, David Fairhead.

Parishioner Question Time opened with the clerk explaining that the original invitation to Bungay Town Cllr.Ward to enlarge on the idea of siting chicken statues on the roundabout and the subsequent withdrawal was because it had become apparent that her attendance was not in an official capacity.

David Fairhead felt some of our rubbish bins were not being emptied as regularly as expected and this would be investigated by the Maint.& Environment Com. RK
Cllr.Mulley suggested that the meeting should end by 9p.m. and Cllr.Green recognising the inclement weather stated that he would endeavour to do so.

1 Apologies for absence were received & accepted from Cllrs.Chadd, Kirkpatrick and the police.

2. No Members Interests were declared.

3. Prior to the Minutes of the last meeting being discussed the clerk made public, misgivings sent to him by Cllr.Chadd concerning his interpretation of certain events. These had also been brought to his attention by Chair and Vice Chair but Cllr.Maureen Ankrett strongly disagreed and following discussion the minutes, as they stood, were confirmed & signed.
To avoid any ambiguity the clerk would, in future, involve Chair & Vice Chair in the preparation of his minutes.

4. Matters arising

Loddon Road overnight parking would, hopefully, be prevented by fishing permits drawing attention to the Estate notices forbidding such parking.

5. Reports


Explanation of Agenda item position change was explained to the meeting with Dis.Cllr.Allen noting that the reason was to ensure that Ditchingham Councillors are allowed time to lead the business rather than follow the discussion introduced by both District and County Councillors.

Police details listing crimes in the village, kindly provided, were given by the clerk, who was instructed to ask that attention be given to prevent mis-use of the bus shelter and to ask for an update on any progress with regard to solving recent burglaries. JS

6. Finances

Cheques as per Annex A were authorised. & the 3rd qtr.internal audit as per Annex B confirmed.

Budget position to 31st December, as per Annex C, brought a small query from Cllr.Cossey which was satisfactorily answered.He also intimated that charges in



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in general were being increased.

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The Chair instructed the clerk to ascertain the best way to account for and report grants income and expenditure in the accounts.

JS

Precept information papers were tabled for discussion. The Chair reminded the meeting of their November resolution and the communications received from South Norfolk Council over recent months and updated the meeting on the option to consider the tax relief grant of £2,091 which could be taken this one year so enabling the original precept to be lowered by that amount, or to leave the voted precept to stand with the consequent result being that the £2,091 would be additional income to the Parish.

Dis.Cllr.Allen's request to participate in the discussion at this point was refused. Cllr.Cossey's proposal that the lesser amount be taken did not have a seconder and with everyone else in favour, the original submission for £20,000 would stand with the £2,091 to be added.

£20,000


JS

Barclays Bank Mandate on a proposal from Cllr.Martin Ankrett, 2nd by Cllr. Maureen Ankrett it was unanimously agreed that the new mandate be authorised enabling cheques to be signed by any two of the following councillors- Cllrs.Cossey,Green and Weston. Furthermore the clerk, John Smith, could transfer funds between the two accounts.

7. Planning Committee report as per Annex D with internal alterations at 16 Thwaite Rd.,also SNC approved as was 30 Windmill Green. Signs on the roundabout were deplored and the Lynfield plan was approved with parking provision stressed.

8. Internal Advisory Committee Reports

Planning & Highways Chair, Cllr.Weston, gave information on the 18/12/12 meeting at which all members were present together with Cllr.Green, Bob Edwards(NCC Highways Engineer),David Law(Traffic Management Officer Police) & Eric Wimpenny(SAM volunteer). SAM data was also discussed.

Six positive proposals were put forward to improve safety at the bottom of Hollow Hill and Bob Edwards would report back but at the time of this meeting tonight has not done so.

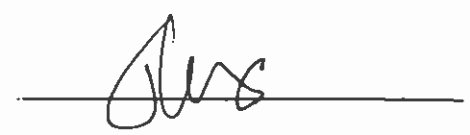
Liaison with the landowner adjacent to the current footpath would ascertain views on a path just inside his land.

JS

The SAM(speed awareness monitor)activity in the village had been discussed fully at a meeting convened by Dis.Cllr.Allen and this would be elaborated upon in her report. Road surfaces had been breaking up in recently resurfaced areas and NCC Highways were dealing with the problem.

The advisory committee had met at the roundabout with a view to being more aware of the feasibility of chicken statues being requested there and at this point discussion resulted in a vote being taken on council policy regarding the subject.

Consistent with the Council's policy the Chair proposed that support not be given to any scheme which meant cluttering the roundabout and Cllr.Martin Ankrett 2nd this with seven in favour.



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Local Development Chair, Cllr.Chadd, being absent, her report was given on her behalf by Cllr.Ogden and this reported a December meeting in which members were involved in discussing policies to be put in place with regard to the committee aims and that these be recommended for adoption by the full council in due course.

Grants from the NCC Community Construction Fund and the Norfolk Foundation had been awarded for £8,926 and £5,000 respectively.

The Committee had also met to consider three tenders for the proposed work and Cllr.Weston had given a great deal of time to ensure the correct choice would be made.

Maintenance & Environment Chair, Cllr.Kirkpatrick, being absent it was reported that the Wren grant was being actively pursued and questionnaires had enabled all interested to participate to help with future development of the play area.

Cllr.Ogden had produced an excellent analysis of the results which would be made available to four design companies identified by Cllr.Weston..

At this point item 10 was brought forward and confirmation was given to the decision of the Local Dev.Advisory Committee's re the contractors for the skate park project. whose examples were displayed. On the Chair's proposal 2nd by the Vice Chair it was the unanimous wish that Highline Extreme's tender be accepted.

Appreciation for the considerable efforts of Cllr.Weston in bringing matters to such a satisfactory conclusion was noted.

Village litter and dog mess bins would be an agenda item in March .

JS

Finance & Resources had had no need to meet so no report at this time.

The Chair reminded the meeting that it was 8.50p.m. and that as previously noted he wished to conclude the meeting as soon as practically possible.

9. External Reports

Dis.Cllr.Allen introduced her report informing the meeting that it had been emailed to the Chair, Vice Chair, and the Clerk that afternoon. Her report gave further information on the SAM activity and she had high hopes of obtaining a grant to allow more pro-active results, as desired by Cllr.Mulley.

ERV Neighbourhood grant is about to be paid out and she was pleased to have worked closely with Cllr.Weston to bring about this satisfactory conclusion. Chair, Cllr.Green, commented that the Terms of Reference of this body were ambiguous. Understandably disruption had been caused to refuse collections because of the bad weather and the garden rubbish collections put on hold.

Cllr.Allen then proceeded to elaborate on issues concerning the Precept setting process; the Chair noting the time, and that the issue of the Precept had already been transacted invited the meeting to hear Cllr.Allen's report or to move on. With the meeting clearly wishing to progress to the next item as this matter had been fully debated and finalised by the parish council the Chair refused her further input on this subject.

At this point Dis.Cllr.Allen abruptly left the meeting.

11. Council Working Practices



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Terms of Reference & Council Policies

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The Chair commented that the planned update on policies and working practices would be better deferred pending the next item to be introduced by Cllr. Maureen Ankrett.

At this point Cllr. Maureen Ankrett commented on the openness of tonight's meeting which had overcome her misgivings on procedures and felt much more participation had taken place. She was happy to withdraw her request that the Council consider the new ways of working to look at Committees and (whether) it continued to be run as it was doing. The Chair proposed that as this item was of such significant influence on the Council's working that a special meeting should be held for the debate.

The Chair acknowledged and accepted this request as did all councillors, except Cllr. Cossey who still felt it should be held.

Consequent to Cllr. Weston's proposal that, recognising Cllr. Maureen Ankrett's current support, then at this time, no special meeting was necessary was 2nd by Cllr. Maureen Ankrett, and carried with six votes for.

Cllr. Maureen Ankrett also made the point that whilst our district councillor had done much on behalf of the council, she supported the resequencing of the Agenda and confirmed that meetings should in the main, be with less external influence.

Chair, Cllr. Green, informed councillors that he had E mailed 119 clerks in SNC district to enquire on the way their councils were run with regard to committees etc. To date 60% had responded and the information would be shared in March. JG

12. To Notice Correspondence received

Invitation to provide a nominee for possible election to the SNC Executive Committee was left on the table.

A parishioner's request for a bus shelter in front of the village hall would be passed to the Maintenance & Environment Advisory Committee for consideration. RK/JS

The Waveney Valley Trust, based at Earsham, were making it a priority to clean rivers and asked that bins, for litter and dog mess, be placed in the Pirnhow Street cul-de-sac as it was at present finishing in the nearby river. This would be a further item for the M & E Committee at the next meeting. RK

13. Urgent Other Business No satisfaction had been obtained concerning signs from Norwich when reaching Ditchingham and NCC had intimated that a "friend" at SNC might be able to help. JS

The cemetery gates had been damaged, by a vehicle most probably, and the clerk would investigate what needed to be done. JS

14. Next scheduled meetings are,
Planning Committee 18th Feb. 6p.m. 2013.
Full council 18th March 7.30p.m. 2013

15. No further items for the next agenda.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.40p.m.

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