

DITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

<p><u>The 2013 Annual Parish Council meeting</u> was held in the village hall on Monday 20th May at 8.30pm with retiring Chair, Cllr.Green,in the Chair, &amp; the following present:Cllrs.Ankretts, Cossey, James, Kirkpatrick, Mison, Mulley, Ogden &amp; Weston, together with clerk, John Smith.</p> <p>Also present were Dis. Cllr. Allen and two members of the public.</p> <p>1. <u>Election of Chair</u> Cllr. Green followed customary practice and proposed Vice Chair, Cllr. Weston, for the new Chair who stated that he would be happy to take over but wished to make his position clear. In his view, it was essential that his Vice Chair could fulfil the duties required for what was now a demanding job necessitating some considerable time commitment to administrative responsibilities. He would be pleased to have Cllr. Green in that position or alternatively he was happy to remain Vice Chair under his chairmanship. Cllr. Kirkpatrick ascertained that Cllr. Green was happy to continue and proposed that he do so for a further year. Cllr. Cossey felt that Cllr. Weston should become Chair with a new Vice Chair appointed with Cllr. James sharing this view. However, on it being put to the meeting as to whether any councillor was prepared to become vice Chair, no Councillors expressed any interest, and in order to move the business forward, the Chair temporarily adjourned the meeting to allow a show of hands (i) for those prepared to be Chair, (ii) for those prepared to be vice Chair. Both Councillors Green and Weston indicated in both show of hands that they were prepared to stand in each capacity with no other Councillors indicating any willingness to stand. The Chair resumed the meeting, and Cllr. Kirkpatrick proposed that Cllr. Green become Chair for another year which Cllr. Maureen Ankrett seconded and the motion was carried by majority vote.</p> <p>2 <u>Election of vice Chair.</u> Similarly Cllr. Weston would remain as Vice Chair. Proposed by Cllr. Kirkpatrick, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr. Mauren Ankrett and carried by majority vote.</p> <p>3. <u>Apology for absence</u> was received and accepted from Cllr. Chadd.</p> <p>4. No <u>Members Interests</u> were declared.</p> <p>5. <u>Committee memberships.</u> As was pointed out by Cllr. Weston that with the Chair &amp; vice Chair roles remaining unchanged it would technically not be necessary for any changes to be made. It was unanimously agreed that existing memberships be extended. This business referring to both advisory &amp; sub committee membership.</p> <p>6. <u>Minutes</u> of the meeting on 18th March were confirmed and signed.</p> <p>7. <u>Matters arising.</u> The very successful Litter Pick had resulted in an Award of £250 from SNC.</p> <p>8. <u>Village Hall.</u> With the Clerk and Cllr. Weston on the Village Hall Committee as independent members this would continue and the latter reported a £5K grant</p>	Action By
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obtained by their Secretary for which she was to be congratulated

Clerk

9. Cemetery Fees (tabled). Cllr. Cossey reported that except for Full Plots our fees were in line with those generally charged and these might well be increased by £50 to £250. This was unanimously agreed after Cllr. Mulley's proposal to do so and was seconded by Cllr. Martin Ankrett.

10. School Governor's Report given by Cllr. Kirkpatrick stated that it was to become an Academy which had been necessitated by it having been put on Special Measures. A recent Ofsted had now confirmed the school to be good and the Chair requested that councillors show more interest in the school and support the forthcoming fete.

#### 11. Finances

- (a) Annual Audit Section 1 was unanimously confirmed and signed on Cllr. Martin Ankrett's proposal 2nd by Cllr. Mulley as was (b) Section 2.
- (c) Financial outturn 2012-2013 brought no comments or questions.
- (d) Cheques as per Annex 3 were approved as was an additional one for council insurance following the Chair's request that Councillors confirmed their support for rolling forward the current policy without further review.

12. Planning Committee. Chair, Cllr. Weston had nothing further to report other than that given at the APM and it is attached to these minutes. Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held prior to this meeting are a separate record.

#### 13. Advisory Committee Reports

Planning already covered. No additional business.

Local Development as per that given at APM which is attached to these minutes.  
Maintenance & Environment Chair, Cllr. Kirkpatrick had spoken to the lady organising the village event on the Dip (28th July) who had confirmed considerable interest with only insurance costs troubling her. However it was known that the DUC had offered to underwrite any loss. His report, as given at the APM is attached.

Finance & Resources. With the Chair of this advisory committee, Cllr. Green, having tabled recommendations for budget expenditure in the coming year it was agreed also to discuss Item 17 at this stage. This included a further (tabled) paper which detailed the state of litter and dog mess bins, seats and other assets. Their condition was quite shameful and considerable expenditure (at least £2K) was required to address this situation. This could be lowered with repairs and renovation where possible Cllr. Cossey felt. He would be prepared to assist.

Cllr. Green tabled a paper which included 2 proposals changing the way funds already committed by the Council should be used to tackle this new priority. However, following discussion it was agreed that: £1,000 allocated to the Local Development & Community Planning (Advisory) Committee, together with the £250 Big Litter Pick "prize," should be added to the £500 allocated to Maintenance & Environment (Advisory) Committee. A total sum of £1,750 would, therefore, be available for remedial action.

KW

This was agreed following Cllr. Kirkpatrick's proposal, seconded by Cllr.

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Cossey. With the project to improve assets crossing several committee's remits Cllrs. Cossey, Mulley, Ankrett and Weston would take it on using their expertise to carry out repairs and purchases as necessary.

14. External Reports

Police As reported at the APM and attached to these minutes.

District Cllr. Allen enlarged on her Pauline's Posting which is also attached.

15. Correspondence

The clerk reported on a letter from a resident querying the Precept increase which the Chair had satisfactorily answered as nothing further had been heard. The Chair remarked that the spirit of his reply is posted on the Council's web site.

16. Issues not decided by Committee. No issues were to hand

17. Councils assets. Dealt with earlier in conjunction with Item 13.

18. Other Urgent Business. Cllr. Mulley expressed further concern on the Hollow Hill footpath. While the meeting determined that this matter had been previously attended to, it was agreed that Cllr. Mulley's continued concerns be noted by the Planning & Highways committee.

19. No items for the next agenda.

20. Next scheduled meetings were confirmed:

Training in new Standards Regime 17th June 7pm

Full council meeting 15th July 7.30pm

Planning Committee also 17th June 6.30pm if need be.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm