

MONK SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 11th February 2020

The meeting commenced at 1900 at the Bedfield Sports Pavilion

02/20 - 01 Present

- David Entwisle (DE - Chairman), Graham Wigley (GW – Vice Chairman), Julian Sayer (JS), Charles Bagnall (CRB), Cliff Arndt-Snelling (CAS), Julie Giles (JG) and Caroline Berkley CJB).
- Geoff Robinson (GR), as Parish Clerk.
- Matthew Hicks (SCC and MSDC Ward Councillor for Item 02/20 – 08 MH)

02/20 – 02 Apologies for Absence

- None required.

02/20 - 03 Declaration of Members Interests.

- Councillors were reminded of the need to notify any changes to their circumstances which may affect their Declaration of Members Interests. There were no changes reported.

02/20 - 04 Public Open Session

- There were no members of the public present.

02/20 - 05 Minutes of the Last Meeting (26th November 2019)

- These were agreed and signed by DE as an accurate record.

02/20 - 06 Action Points from the Minutes

- Suggestions for the inscription to be placed on the cabinet containing the WWI book of remembrance in the church had been prepared by GW. After a brief description it was agreed that it should read “Feel free to open the cabinet and read about the lives of Monk Soham’s Fallen” This will be notified by CAS to Chris Hill, who has agreed to do the artwork.
- Gay Clarke had expressed the view that the Coffee Caravan should revisit the village in the Spring. GR to liaise with Gay.
- JS had researched the cost of providing a seat on the land next to the village Sign at The Green as being £600, including paving etc. MH agreed to provide £400 from his Local Amenities Grant and for the project to proceed. GR to arrange with MH.

02/20 - 07 Police Report

- GR stated that the Suffolk Police crime website showed no recorded crimes in the village for the period November and December 2019.

02/20 -08 Report of District & County Councillor

MH attended and stated that:

- The Ipswich Northern Route had been placed on hold due to opposition from the district councils who would not support the governments requirement to fund it only if they allowed a large number of new houses to be built around it. However, this needed to be confirmed by the council cabinet.
- The Care Quality Commission had rated Suffolk care locations at 89.4%. which was a tremendously good result.
- The annoyance of the public regarding unnecessary and prolonged road diversions was to be tackled by the introduction of a permit system, with a contact telephone number always to be available at the site.. This would fine utility companies for over running diversions and road closures. The System would be self-financing.

- A review of children's centers was to take place but its likely that only two closures would occur. In addition, any savings would be put back into the system which would help establish outreach locations in village halls, etc.
- Little could be done about mud on the road which was very frequent at this time of the year during the sugar beet harvesting season.

02/20 - 09 Financial Update

- GR explained that there had been no income since the last meeting.
- Expenses during the same period had been £100.00 to Robert Girling for Hungers Green upkeep.
- GR stated that anticipated expenditure for the rest of 2019/2020 was £375.00 for the clerk's second half year salary and PAYE and similarly, £77.34 for his expenses. Other anticipated expenditure included £60 for the annual donation to the parish magazine and an agreed £18 for Fred Clayson to improve the village website.
- Following the agreement at the last meeting regarding an increase in the Clerk's salary from 1st April 2020, GR had prepared a new contract for consideration by the Councillors, which had been circulated. This included revision of the HMRC tax free homeworking allowance from £4.00 a week down to £2.00 and for three hours per week salary. The total cost of this was £1531.00 per annum. After a brief discussion this was unanimously approved and the new contract signed by GR and DE.

02/20 - 10 Planning Applications

- DC/18/05088 (The Long House – Garage Conversion to House) – refused by MSDC. MSDC had considered the comments from the Parish Council regarding the fencing off of the proposed driveway and had informed the applicant that he must remove the fence and sheeting. He has removed the latter but has still to comply with the rest of the MSDC instruction or apply again for planning permission. GR to monitor.
- DC/20/00207 (The Firs – erection of poly-tunnel) – Supported by the PC & still with MSDC for a decision.
- DC20/00250 (Demolition of house and erection of two detached houses – Next to The Oak). This had been received from MSDC and was discussed a length. It was agreed to support the application if one house is built on the site of the current building but not for two as proposed. Some doubt was also expressed as to the claim that the current building had originally been two semi-detached dwellings but this had not been the case for many year and had been a single dwelling for some considerable time. Also, that any building should maintain the current building line vis a vis the original ancient green aspect of the site. JG also hoped that the current building had been assessed for historical architectural features. GR to advise MSDC accordingly.

02/20 - 11 MSDC Revised Joint Local Plan

- GR stated that there was no update on this, but an ongoing consultation period was planned for the Summer of 2020.
- Little of practical use had been gleaned from the recent Parish Liaison Meeting in Stowmarket

02/20 - 12 Countryside Group

JG updated the meeting on the Countryside Group, the salient points of which were:

- The Hungers Green oak trees seem to have recovered from an invasion of caterpillars during the Summer,
- The offer of horse chestnut saplings had not been taken up but there was a need for other tree planting on Hungers Green
- The Green had been cut during July and September and Robert Girling had done a superb overall job as usual. Suffolk Wildlife Trust was being consulted over the problem of creeping thistles.
- The buckhorn and Jubilee Oaks were doing very well.
- The Roadside Nature Reserve had suffered from excess road traffic but will hopefully recover this year.

GR stated that ongoing complaint regarding Monk Soham footpath (MS27) being used by horses was

still with SCC who are looking into the situation. GR stated that many footpaths were currently unusable or at best, usable with great difficulty due to the very wet weather that farmers were having to deal with. He will monitor the situation in the coming Spring months and take action accordingly, if required.

02/20 - 13 Other Correspondence and Any Other Business

- GR had liaised with the RBL regarding the letter that had been received from DSSAFA about possible VE75 celebrations in May 2020. He had also liaised with Gay Clark (regarding the church) and Kathy Thurman (RBL) but had nothing further. The RBL seemed to indicate that they were “in conflict” with the DSSAFA over the matter but nothing, as yet, had been heard further from either party.
- The infamous humps in the road on Snares Lane had been improved. SCC Highways had also responded to reports of several other potholes. Flooding on Kenton Low Road had also been raised on behalf of a local resident, who will now deal directly with SCC Highways. Other flooding on Monk Soham Road, Bedfield had also been resolved via SCC Highways. GR to continue to report problems as they arise.
- JG stated that a study of the footpath map indicated that some rights of way had been omitted, especially near or in Ashfield-cum-Thorpe. After a detailed explanation by JG, it was agreed that she would take the matter up directly with The Ramblers Association on behalf of the Parish Council.
- The possibility of a village litter pick was discussed and although there were volunteers, there did not appear to be anyone prepared to organise a definitive event. CB stated that Bedfield School intended to organise an event and that it may be possible to link something together. JG said that she would add something thanking people for collecting litter on their walks for an article that was planned for the church magazine.
- A request for a donation from Suffolk Age UK was considered but not deemed appropriate.
- DE raised the current activity regarding the storing of chicken waste in the dip at The Green. GR explained that he contacted Jo Heyward of Catchment Sensitive Framing who had promised to look at the site and offer advice.

02/20 - 14 Date of Next Meeting

- The date of the next meeting, which will be the AGM, was fixed for 1900 on Tuesday 12th May 2020, followed by the Annual Village Meeting at 2000. GR invited topics for the latter to be submitted. Both to be held at the Bedfield sports pavilion.

The meeting closed at 2020.

Chairman.....