

# MONK SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## (Draft) Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 held at the Bedfield Community Pavilion

The meeting commenced at 1901

### **02/22 - 01 Present**

- Graham Wigley (GW - Chairman), Julian Sayer (JS), Cliff Arndt-Snelling (CAS), Julie Giles (JG), Charles Bagnall (CRB) and Caroline Berkley (CJB)
- Geoff Robinson (GR), as Parish Clerk.
- Matthew Hicks for Item 02/22 – 08 below.

### **02/22 - 02 Apologies for Absence**

- David Entwisle (approved).

### **02/22 - 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. None were declared.

### **02/22 - 04 Public Open Session**

- There were no members of the public present.

### **02/22 - 05 Minutes of the Last Meeting (23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022)**

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

### **02/22 - 06 Action Points from the Minutes**

- CJB had produced an excellent poster highlighting the need to clean up after dogs. It was agreed to place them at strategic points on/near footpaths at Monk Soham Green. JG did not see the need to currently display them at Monk Soham/Hungers Green as there doesn't seem to be a dog fouling problem at the moment.

### **02/22 - 07 Police Report**

- GR stated that the Suffolk Police crime website for the period October to December 2021 showed one recorded crime, viz on Low Road in December 2021. This was "theft" but no further details are shown.

### **02/22 - 08 Report of District & County Councillor (MH)**

- GR had previously circulated MH's written reports.
- MH invited questions and was asked by CJB to clarify the policy on school bus transport to Thomas Mills and Debenham High Schools. The problem involved parents not being able to pay for places on the buses, which appeared to have spare capacity. MH said that it was difficult to assess capacity as some parents entitled to free transport had stopped using the buses due to COVID. He asked CJB to email him, especially where the parents lived marginally outside of the free transport area.

### **02/22 - 09 Financial Update**

- The overdue second half year precept payment of £1,125.00 had been received from MSDC. No other income in the current financial year is expected
- Payments since the meeting in November 2021 have been £146.57 for the insurance renewal (SALC), £17.00 to the RBL for the Remembrance Day Wreath, £35.00 for the Information Commissioners (Annual fee) and £11.00 in bank charges (HSBC).
- Expected expenditure for the rest of the 2021/22 year is anticipated to be the Clerk's second half year salary, PAYE, plus expenses amounting to £637.83, £147.45 and £90.00

respectively. In addition an anticipated payment of circa £20.00 in further bank charges. Payment of these was authorised.

- GR produced a summary that showed a figure circa £1,418.00 would be carried forward to the 2022/23 financial year, without prejudice to any unforeseen circumstances.
- GR had finally found a bank willing to take over the bank account from HSBC. This was the Nat West, who charge no monthly fee and 70p per cheque. The application was at an advanced stage.
- It was agreed that GR will ask Paul Burrows to be the 2021/22 Local Auditor.

#### **02/22 - 10 Planning Applications**

- DC/21/03467 (Next to The Old Post Office - One Self-build House). Refused by MSDC.
- DC/21/05324 (Abbey House – Erection of Greenhouse) – Approved by MSDC.
- DC/22/00278 (Monks Cottage – Amendment of previous Application) – approved by MSDC.
- DC/22/00462 (1 Hillside Cottages – Extensions) – discussed & supported. MSDC to be notified.
- DC/22/00462 (Abbey House – Erection of Garage/Cart Lodge etc) – discussed and no objections. MSDC to be notified.
- The granting of the proposed improvements to The Oak were acknowledged and supported.

#### **02/22 - 11 Countryside Group.**

JG summarised the activities of the Countryside Group and other village environmental issues, the salient points being:

- JG asked JS if he was still willing, if necessary, to undertake using a tines technique and other work in future to improve the general growth on the Green, should Robert Girling (RG) be unable to do so this year. JG estimated, without prejudice to costing the job, that approximately seven hours work may be required for cutting, topping, harvesting and removal which would cost in the region of £39 per hour. JG to liaise with RG nearer the time.
- Graham Giles, the Tree Warden, has retired and was thanked for his contribution on Hungers Green and throughout the village in general. Paula Booth is considering where to accept the offer to be the new Tree Warden. A discussion then took place regarding the role of a Tree Warden, vis a vis what the Parish Council required. This varied between only inspecting Hungers Green for insurance purposes and/or a wider role to include duties such as identifying tree planting opportunities throughout the village on an ongoing basis. GW to speak to Paula. The possibility of engaging a private contractor to assess the trees on Hungers Green was also considered (GR to scope).
- Footpaths in some places remained difficult to use due to excessive farming near or across them. It was hoped that the acquisition of the Bouverie land by new owners would improve relations with the appointed contractors (and owners) from circa autumn onwards.
- The trees supplied under the MSDC project had been planted by a volunteer party, supervised by Paul Booth. Paula (and the volunteers) was thanked for her excellent contribution to the village and project.

#### **02/22 - 12 Other Correspondence and Any Other Business**

- GR had recently reported several potholes around the village, which SCC Highways had responded to very quickly. He will report several potholes in and around Snares Lane.
- A parishioner had raised the issue of speeding at Oakfields, Monk Soham Green. GR outlined the long history of speed limits in the village, which had been imposed without consultation at Long Green and completely ignored on School Road. They have since flatly refused to change them or consider additions. It has continually proved impossible to interest the police to consider speed checks due to “lack of data”. He also reminded councillors that they had recently turned down a request to be part of a Speed Watch Group in Worlingworth. It was the view of the Councillors that it’s a far-reaching problem and whatever was done, a major problem would be website delivery drivers who regard “time as money”. GR agreed to research the cost and practicalities of installing a speed recording device.

- In response to a query from a parishioner, it was agreed that whilst the Parish Council had no specific plans to organise an event for the Queen's Platinum Event in June, they would consider supporting an organisation or individuals who did. It was thought that something may be organised by individuals using Monk Soham Church as the location.
- GW encouraged everyone to support the recent Healthwatch Suffolk Circular by completing the attached waiting times survey. GR added that it had also been circulated in Bedfield, was on the websites and had been included in a recent Community Club newsletter.

***02/22 - 13 Date of Next Meeting***

The date of the next meeting, which will be the AGM was fixed for 1900 Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022, followed by the Annual Village Meeting at circa 2000, to be held at the Bedfield Community Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 2015.

Signed.....(Chairman)