

CROWFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11th January 2016 at 7.00pm in the Morris Room of the village hall.

PRESENT. D Brander, Chairman; Councillors Hart, Shoote, Roger Williamson. L Rowe, Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE County Councillors M Hicks, District Councillor T Passmore, Mr M Ling (resident)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors Baker, Scott, Ross Williamson.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING held on November 9th 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record. Also the written Minutes of 14th September 2015 signed.

Matters Arising

VAS We have received confirmation from SCC that a grant of £500 has been approved. Payment is conditional upon the grants from other sources being obtained. It must be utilised by March 2017. Tim Passmore recommended that an application be made to MSDC for a £1500 grant to be made from the locality budget. It was agreed to make such an application.

The posts for the sign have been installed by SCC. The owner of the adjoining property in Stone Street had asked for the post to be removed. It was agreed to look for a third location when the purchase order had been placed for the sign.

Councillor Passmore informed the meeting that the police would shortly be acquiring two mini vans that would add to the resources available for roadside speed enforcement.

Stonham Barns Alan Shoote and Charles Williamson attended a liaison meeting in December. The planning application submitted by Stonham Barns in September was still being processed by MSDC and the content of it had not yet been made public. Stonham Barns intend to hold an open day to explain their plans.

Village Hall Land Registration We are waiting to hear from the land registry

Recreation Ground Play Area Improvement Project

An open day has been held that informed residents about three possible schemes and sought their feedback. The event was attended by two vendors of equipment. A final plan is being prepared.

Councillor Hicks said that he may be able to assist with funding.

Annual Safety Audit of the play area

The VHMC have inspected the wood rot identified in the annual audit and will take steps to make any necessary repairs.

Finance

Current Bank Balances; CA £2231.42 DA £1359.33

Cheques agreed and signed 100376 £48.00 SALC course fee. 100377 £144.00 Vertas Group grass cutting. 100378 £54.78 MSDC Play inspection fee. 100379 £46.00 VHMC Hire of hall.

Precept year 31st March 2017

It was agreed that the precept would be increased by £200 to £2500, an increase of 8.7%. The above inflation increase was required to cover exceptional items such as the VAS sign and the registration of the Village Hall with the land registry. The bank balance was expected to fall by £1300 during 2016. Precept form completed and signed.

External Auditor Last year it was announced that the need for an audit by the government appointed auditor would not be required as from the year ending 31st March 2017. This would be replaced by the web based transparency rules although we would continue to have our own appointed external auditor. The role fulfilled by Stewart White. We have received notification from SALC that there are some new regulations regarding the appointment of external auditors although it is not clear if they will apply to small parishes such as ours. They are trying to obtain clarification. The government will opt us into a scheme where we must use an auditor of their choice unless we opt out. Once we are opted in we are committed to that arrangement for five years. It was agreed that we should opt out of the scheme as the costs of participation were not known and the duration of our commitment was concerning.

Planning

There have been no new planning applications since the last meeting.

Planning matters from earlier meetings:

New Access & Fence at Debenham Rd.

The owner of the property attended the meeting to discuss the new fence that he had erected alongside Debenham Road. In the opinion of MSDC planning department the fence did not comply with Schedule 2, Part 2, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015. He was advised that the parish council did not have authority over planning matters and that he should obtain agreement with MSDC as to the steps to take to achieve compliance.

Coddenham 4G mast

Councillor Hicks believed that the mast would be completed by the early summer this year and that all mobile phone providers would make use of it.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

MSDC have written to us agreeing that we will be entitled to 15% of any CIL levied on Crowfield developments. This will be subject to some yet to be defined rules. Councillor Passmore did not believe parish councils would receive 15% of CIL receipts.

Emergency/Disruption Planning

We agreed at our last meeting to write to village organisations and this was done. Replies have been received with the exception of the PCC. The replies indicate a willingness to discuss the subject but not a lot of enthusiasm was evident. It could be a matter for discussion at the AGM.

Stonham Aspal School Bus

Letters have been sent to SCC and connected parties outlining why it is not a safe walk for children. A reply has not been received.

Reports from CC Hicks and DC Passmore.

Informative reports were received from both Councillors. Items included the Fire Service Consultation; Suffolk Active Villages; Budget setting and Local Police Review.

CORRESPONDENCE

SALC. Invitation to nominate someone for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2016.

AOB

Broadband The full Suffolk Better Broadband roll out programme through 2019 was expected to be published by the end of October. A limited programme for 2016 only was released in December and Crowfield was not part of that. Councillor Hicks advised that there is a temporary delay in finalising plans because of funding issues at national level. He believed the delay would be about eight weeks. Annual meeting. This to have the same format as in previous meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 14th March 2016

The clerk advised Meeting that she would be unable to attend due to a holiday. As no other convenient date could be found, it was agreed that a parish councillor would take the Minutes. There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 9.05pm