

CROWFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 14th March 2016 at 7.00pm in the Morris Room of the village hall.

PRESENT. D Brander, Chairman; Councillors Baker, Hart, Scott, Shoote, Roger Williamson, Ross Williamson.

IN ATTENDANCE County Councillor M Hicks.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from the Clerk, Lynne Rowe. The minutes of the meeting were taken by D Brander

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING held on 11th January 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Speeding & VAS

A total of £2000 has been received in Grants. £500 from SCC and £1500 from Tim Passmores MSDC locality budget. SCC have also covered the cost of pole placements.

A purchase order has been sent to Westcotec for a sign plus two fixing brackets. This is in accordance with the decision made at the November 2015 meeting. The order will not include analytical software. The cost excluding VAT is £2725. The net cost to the parish council after recovering VAT and deducting grants will be £725.

A meeting will be held with the people who have volunteered to manage the placement of the sign. Matters to be discussed at that meeting are organisation, safety and technical settings.

It was agreed that SCC highways will be asked once more to identify a site for the sign at the southern end of Stone Street.

Gosbeck Parish Council would be updated and asked if any Gosbeck residents would be interested in volunteering to assist with the placement of the sign.

Recreation Ground Play Area

Play Area Improvement Project

A series of fund raising events are being held. The open day and the children's disco were both well attended and the net proceeds have been banked by the clerk. Future events are planned including an Easter Egg trail and a Wine & Cheese night.

A final decision on the layout of the new play area has been delayed until all potential vendors provide updated plans

Village Hall AGM

At the village hall annual meeting it was reported that finances had improved during the past year in comparison with the previous two years. A small loss was incurred on hirings but a surplus was made after taking into account fund raising.

Stonham Aspal School Bus

SCC Councillor Hicks informed the meeting that SCC would not consider making the school bus available to children in Debenham Road. They had a process for considering applications for school transport and were unwilling to deviate from it.

A reply or acknowledgement has not been received to the letter sent to SCC. It was agreed to send a

follow up letter.

Stonham Barns

MSDC have yet to make public the full details regarding the content of the planning application that was submitted by Stonham Barns in September 2015. The publication is said to be imminent.

VILLAGE BROADBAND

There is no indication that the roll out of BT fibre optic high speed broadband will occur in the near future. An alternative wireless system from a local firm is being tried in the village. Initial indications are that it will be an improvement upon the existing BT connection for many homes.

WEBSITE MANAGEMENT

The parish website continues to be maintained and enhanced by councillor Hart. The meeting thanked him for his past and ongoing contribution to improving communication within the village.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following items were noted as being received:

MSDC – Suffolk year of walking.

Queens Birthday Commemorative medals offer.

SALC Newsletter.

PLANNING

Applications

An application has been made to erect a barn at Gosling Farm (Ref 0372/16). Councillor Hart declared an interest. The meeting considered if the building would cause any loss of amenity or nuisance to properties nearby. The building would be screened by existing hedging and trees and would use existing road access. It was decided that there were no reasons to object to the application.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

MSDC have issued information regarding their team of five people who will manage the collection of the CIL. Central government recommended that parish councils receive a minimum 15% of any CIL collected but MSDC have restricted that by putting in place a maximum payment to the village of £100 per application. As a result CIL will make a negligible direct contribution to the village.

FINANCE

Bank Balances & Available Funds

Current Account	£4388.03	(Including grants received of £2000 & recovered VAT of £273.39)
Deposit Account	£1359.33	
TOTAL	£5747.36	

Reserved Funds:

Playground Project	£253.61
VAS Sign	£3270.00 (Including VAT)
Available Funds	£2223.75

Cheques Approved & Signed

Chq 100380	Clerks pay	£296.00
Chq 100381	Clerks tax to HMRC	£8.00
Chq 100382	Ladywell Accountancy	£25.00

Chq 100383 Vertas (Grass Cutting) £144.00

The large increase in grass cutting charges was noted and discussed. Efforts to find alternatives to Vertas had been unsuccessful. It was agreed that the Vertas quotation for 2016/17 of £509 (before VAT) would be accepted.

REPORT FROM SCC COUNCILLOR HICKS

Councillor Hicks updated the meeting on the latest positive OFSTED report on Suffolk schools. He also gave an update on the Suffolk Better Broadband project.

AOB

The following incidents were reported:

A slow moving car had been seen in the village. The car occupants were trying the doors of parked vehicles.

Two deer had been found shot in a ditch in Spring Lane.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Annual Village Meeting Monday 18th April

Parish Council Meeting Monday 9th May

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 8.45pm