

23. Present:

23.1. Councillors - D E Wheeler (Chairman); L J Barton; C Pearson; Mrs S Cornell.

23.2. In attendance – County Councillor James Waters; District Councillor Brian Harvey; two parishioners; the Clerk.

24. Apologies:

24.1. Cllr P Gibbs (at work).

25. Declaration of Interest:

25.1. None.

26. Reports:

26.1. County Councillor.

26.1.1..Cllr James Waters reported that following pressure from his office dates for a Highway Inspection had finally been proposed by Guy Smith of Suffolk County Council highways. The county has been considering the Devolution Agenda and a response will be sent to Government during September. Colin Noble is the new Leader of the Council and doing well. Consideration being given to charging for brown bin collections. Had been contacted for comment following the road accident on the Freckenham side of Worlington which killed four people.

26.2. District Councillor.

26.2.1..Cllr Brian Harvey said that he has been appointed to the Planning, Licencing and Overview and Scrutiny committees. He mentioned the two Gypsy planning applications beside Elms Road; one (four pitches) refused, the other (three pitches) approved.

26.3. Police.

26.3.1..No report had been received from PCSO Becky Simpson. Cllr Harvey said that David Bowman has taken over as chairman of the Forest Heath Crime Prevention Panel. He suggested that the parish should seek to get an organiser for Neighbourhood Watch in the parish.

27. Minutes:

27.1. The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2015 had been previously circulated. The minutes were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

28. Matters Arising not covered in the Agenda:

28.1. None.

29. Planning:

29.1. Applications received:

29.1.1..Rectory Cottage, Church Lane ~ Trees in a Conservation Area: T2 Ash pollard; T3 & T4 Ash fell. No objection.

29.1.2..The Old Rectory, Church Lane ~ Trees in a Conservation Area: T1 Yew reshape crown; T5 & T6 Ash pollard. No objection

29.2. Decisions:

29.2.1..None.

30. Highways Inspection:

30.1. The Chairman Confirmed that he has dates for the annual inspection with Cllr Waters and the Highways Department which will probably be undertaken on 7th August.

31. Recreation Ground and other Assets:

- 31.1. Inspection of play equipment. The Clerk had reported that Forest Heath District Council would undertake a monthly inspection at £23.50 + VAT per month and an annual inspection, through an independent firm, at £49.00 + VAT. **Resolved** that Forest Heath District Council should be instructed.
- 31.2. Cllr Barton reported on the improvements to the recreation area and mentioned that the gravel path is still not satisfactory. Confirmation had been received for Palmers in Fordham to repair the damaged fencing.
- 31.3. The Clerk had reported that the existing security post has seized up and that a replacement above ground post would cost up to £120.00 + VAT. **Resolved** that the Clerk should purchase and have installed.
- 31.4. The Clerk had reported that he has received an estimate for painting the swings, slide and round frame at £600.00 + materials. It was felt that this was a high figure and alternatives should be sought.
- 31.5. The Clerk had suggested that, to seek to reduce the amount of dog messes left on the recreation ground, the existing dog bin should be moved to one of the entrances and a new bin provided at the other; approximate cost of the new bin being £125.00 + VAT. **Resolved** that this should proceed.
- 31.6. The Chairman suggested that further notices should be erected concerning dog messes and warning that dogs would not be allowed if the problem persisted. Contact to be made with Forest Heath over signs designed by children.

32. SALC Summer Briefings:

32.1. Note of the Summer Briefings was circulated. Cllrs Barton, Campbell and Cornell (subject to confirmation) to attend the Planning Essentials at Fornham St Martin on 27th August. Cost of £10.00 + VAT each.

33. Financial Matters:

- 33.1. Approval was given to the payment of the following accounts-
- 33.1.1..£148.39 to Gipping Press for the printing of the Summer *Parish Pump*.
- 33.1.2..£18.89 to the Clerk being reimbursement for purchase of a new Minutes binder and parcel courier of the Speed Gun for calibration.
- 33.1.3..£25.00 to Came & Co being the additional insurance premium for the new play equipment.
- 33.1.4..£120.00 to Hills Accounting Services for the Internal Audit of the 2014-2015 accounts.
- 33.1.5..£130.00 to Peter Taylor Whiffen for the editing of the Summer *Parish Pump*.
- 33.1.6..£84.60 to Speedar Ltd for calibration of the speed gun.
- 33.2. Consideration was given to donations to charitable organisations under Section 137 for the forthcoming year. It was **resolved** that a contribution of £60.00 be made to the Suffolk Accident Rescue Service; East Anglian Air Ambulance; St Nicholas Hospice; Vitalise; Royal British Legion; West Suffolk Blind Association, the Bury St Edmunds and West Suffolk Samaritans and the Alzheimer's Society.
- 33.3. The Clerk mentioned that he has received the Internal Auditors report on the 2014/2015 accounts and that no action points had been noted. The Clerk mentioned that the report will be on the web site under the Transparency Code.

34. Working Group Report:

- 34.1. Right of Way Improvement. Cllr Barton mentioned that the path is very overgrown again. He will request the County Council to clear and suggest that it should be done three times each year.
- 34.2. Risk Assessment - The Clerk mentioned that a full assessment was undertaken in May.
- 34.3. Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. The Clerk mentioned that no further amendments are required.
- 34.4. Neighbourhood Planning. It was suggested that this should not be proceeded with. It was mentioned that only one council in Forest Heath (Newmarket) has considered proceeding in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 34.5. Recreation Ground Improvements. Reported earlier.
- 34.6. Emergency Planning. Cllr Pearson said that no further amendments are required.

35. Parish and Town Forum:

- 35.1. It was noted that the next meeting is on 5th August.
- 35.2. The Chairman mentioned that Forest Heath has suggested that parishes should produce some archive material for display. Suggestions included the Freckenham Book, History of the Village, History of the Church, Photographic Album of the construction of the new village hall.

36. Clerk's Report:

- 36.1. This had been circulated.

37. Correspondence Received:

- 37.1. None circulated.

38. Urgent Business:

- 38.1. The Chairman said that he has been searching for a replacement Clerk and has agreement from an ex parish councillor, who no longer lives in the village, who is willing to take on the role being Hilary Gurner. All agreed to her appointment.
- 38.2. Concern was raised over the hedge growing across the vehicular entrance to the recreation ground and suggested that it should be cut back.
- 38.3. Concern was raised over the hedge growing across the footpath adjacent to Pound Cottage and agreed that the owner should be contacted through the selling agent.
- 38.4. Concern was raised over the hedge growing across the Freckenham Road into Worlington (out of parish).
- 38.5. Cllr Pearson mentioned that he attended a Locality Funding meeting in Bury St Edmunds.

39. Next Meeting:

- 39.1. Confirmed that the date of next meeting will be 21st September at the village hall at 7.30pm

Signed:

Date: