

RINGSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 23rd November 2015 at 7pm in Ringshall Village Hall.

Present: Mrs L Hitchcock (Chairman), Ms C Boniface, Mr J Phoenix, Mrs K Benton, Mrs A Jones, Cllr J Truelove, Cllr D Whybrow, Mrs H Nunn (Clerk) Parishioners: Mr M Snowling and Mrs B Wilson
Mr Martin Render from the Community Heartbeat Trust

The Chairman welcomed Mr Render who went on to speak about the benefits of having a defibrillator in the village. Mr Render answered several questions put by councillors and advised that a key code would be logged with the ambulance service to avoid theft or misuse. He went on to say that the cost of a defibrillator would be in the region of £1400 to £2000 with a 10 year guarantee. This sum includes a seminar for residents to teach them how to use the defibrillator and how to carry out CPR. Annual running costs would be in the region of £100 and installation would approximately £200. Mr Render advised that should the parish council wish to go ahead it could be organised within two weeks with installation after that.

The Chairman thanked Mr Render for his comprehensive talk and confirmed that the matter would be discussed by councillors during the meeting.

Public Forum

Cllr Truelove circulated her report to councillors and stressed that her offer of financial assistance towards the purchase of a defibrillator still stood.

Mrs Wilson asked councillors to consider approaching Anglian Water with regard to the implementation of mains sewerage in the village as they experience problems with the cesspit each time it rains. The Chairman assured Mrs Wilson that the matter will be put on the agenda for the January meeting.

The VHMC report will be circulated to councillors.

Cllr Whybrow's report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and he spoke about several issues contained therein and also confirmed that MSDC will be increasing the cost of emptying litter and dog waste bins by £5 per bin.

1. Apologies for absence

Mr Andrew Stone

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on September 22nd 2015

These were agreed as a true record and duly signed and dated by the Chairman.

Mr Phoenix asked why the assignment of the village hall lease was not on the agenda as he felt it had not been properly completed. Mr Snowling advised that as the Charity Commission will not raise the issue again unless the Management Committee chooses to do so, it was felt that the matter need not be taken further. After some discussion Ms Boniface proposed that a letter be sought from the village hall management committee stating that it has signed off the matter to cover any possible future repercussions. This was unanimously agreed and a letter will be sent to the management committee.

4. SALC training

Councillors agreed that this training had brought up some interesting points – handouts from the training were circulated to those unable to attend.

5. To discuss highway matters

SCC had ordered new signs, asked the residents at Broadview Farm to cut back the hedge and advised that vodaphone had been asked to deal with the water emanating from the inspection cover on Ringshall Hill. Ms Boniface pointed out that flooding had again occurred in Great Bricett – the clerk will follow this up with Bricett Parish Clerk.

6. To discuss grass cutting on verge outside school

The clerk had been unable to ascertain exactly who is responsible for this area and it was agreed by councillors not to pursue the matter further.

7. To discuss the implementation of a housing needs survey in the village

Ms Boniface spoke on the benefits of having a housing needs survey within the village and after some discussion Mr Phoenix proposed that the council ask MSDC for a presentation on the matter at the next meeting. Cllr Whybrow will liaise with the clerk.

8. To receive a financial report and discuss budget proposals

The clerk reported the following balances:

Community Account £1604.49

Business saver account £8215.47

Bills paid since the last meeting: SALC payroll service £16.80, SALC tailored training £252, Mrs L Hitchcock refreshments for retirement tea party £46.21 and Community Action Suffolk £214.89 annual insurance renewal.

The budget proposals were discussed, Mr Phoenix suggested that the donations to CAB and Headway were removed, explanations were given as to why these were included.

The purchase of a defibrillator was discussed, Mrs Hitchcock said that the Hitchcock family would donate £250 towards the costs which together with the £1000 from Cllr Truelove's locality budget only a further £750 would be required. Ms Boniface proposed that the council goes ahead with this purchase, the proposal was seconded by Mrs Benton and agreed unanimously.

The clerk will provide councillors with information from NALC concerning the clerk's salary and current rates of pay prior to the next meeting when the budget proposals will be confirmed and/or amended and the precept set for 2016/17.

9. To discuss dog fouling on the playing field

Mr Snowling stated that the CCTV cameras now covered much of the playing field and he asked how councillors wished to proceed should any perpetrators be caught on camera. After some discussion it was agreed to monitor the situation until the New Year and discuss the matter again at the January meeting. The clerk has included a piece in the parish magazine and the article will be delivered to households in the village who do not take the magazine to ensure all residents understand the situation.

10. To discuss the burnt out car on Lower Farm Road

The car has now been removed following intervention by the Parish Council to Wattisham Airfield and the local council.

11. Update on the Community Emergency Plan

Mrs Hitchcock reported that the plan, drafted by Mr Kemp was now with MSDC for approval. Mr Kemp had written confirmation from Wattisham Airfield that they would help the village in an emergency situation.

12. To confirm a date for the litterpick

Saturday March 5th – the clerk will write to Wattisham Airfield asking for their co-operation.

13. Update on the parish council website

The clerk reported that Mr Brian Robertson had the website up and running. It was agreed that a donation of £200 be given to Mr Robertson. The clerk will apply for this through the Transparency Fund.

14. To discuss the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations

It was agreed that the Parish Council would again financially support the VHMC in any celebrations it organises.

15. To discuss planning matters

This item was covered by Cllr Whybrow's report which is appended to these Minutes.

16. To confirm the date of the next meeting

This will take place on Tuesday January 19th at 7.30pm in the village hall. Dates for future meetings will be set once available dates are received from the booking clerk.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm