

RINGSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Ringshall Parish Council held on Tuesday March 21st 2017 at 7.00pm in Ringshall Village Hall.

Present: Mrs C Free (Chairman), Mrs L Hitchcock, Mr D Kemp, Mrs A Jones, Mr J Phoenix, Mr N Last, Mrs H Nunn (Clerk), Cllr J Truelove, Cllr D Whybrow
Mr R Gardner, Mr R Curtis

Speedwatch presentation

Mr Gardner gave a brief background to the speed watch scheme and explained how it works; teams of 6 volunteers, trained by the police to use speed detection equipment, record vehicles travelling at over 35mph and these are then reported to the SNT in Stowmarket. Checks are carried out on vehicles and the information is then passed to the police team at Landmark House who issue letters; after three letters the police will call on the driver. If a car is detected at travelling in excess of 50mph the police will automatically visit the driver. The village can identify sites to be monitored but once selected they will become fixed points and checks cannot be carried out elsewhere.

Mr Curtis is a member of a speed watch team and advised that they are there to educate people, not to catch them out. The costs involved in setting up a local scheme include the purchase of a radar gun at approximately £1000 including calibration, community speed watch signs and hi-vis jackets. Mr Kemp pointed out that Ringshall would be joining Somersham and Great Bricett so only the jackets would be required. Mr Curtis suggested that costs such as calibration in the third year, replacement batteries etc could be shared with an amount deposited annually in a fund for ongoing costs. Mr Curtis confirmed that volunteers would never have to give evidence but if any volunteer was threatened it must be reported to Suffolk Police. No formal agreement is in place, other than agreeing to the rules and regulations of speed watch so the village could withdraw from the scheme as and when.

Mr Kemp thanked Mr Gardner and Mr Curtis for their presentation.

Public Forum:

The report from the VHMC had been circulated.

Cllr Truelove circulated her report which included children's SEN needs not being met, civil parking enforcement and Suffolk libraries remaining open. Cllr Truelove reported at length on the rogue fish sellers in the Bosmere Division and warned residents to be cautious.

Cllr Whybrow's report was circulated and included the positive use of monies reinvested locally through the right to buy scheme, the Communities Team work to support a range of activities locally, the funding fair at Metfield and the Open Spaces Survey.

1. Apologies for absence

There were none.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 27th 2017

The minutes were approved and duly signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. To receive a financial report, approve payments, grant and donation requests

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Community account: £2309.88

Business saver account: £7332.71

Bills to be paid:

The Clerk's salary and expenses to 28th February 2017 at £613.10

Street lighting and maintenance to March 2017 £384.67

Councillors approved payment for both items

Donation requests from:

Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS), Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau, Four Parishes magazine

Councillors approved donations of £50 for each.

The VHMC had requested payment of the grant but the Clerk asked that this be deferred until the next meeting as approval now would mean two grants being paid in the same financial year.

The Speed Watch scheme was discussed at this point. Mr Kemp proposed that he looks for six volunteers and that councillors read through the leaflets left by Mr Gardner and the item is included in the May meeting. The proposal was seconded by Mr Phoenix and unanimously agreed.

5. To receive a report on the litter pick

Mrs Hitchcock reported that the event was very successful with twenty-two volunteers taking part. Mr Kemp asked that thanks be given to Mrs Hitchcock for all her efforts in organising the litter pick each year and for carrying out some of the work prior to the event. Councillors agreed and thanks were given.

6. To discuss highways matters

The Clerk reported that the ditch alongside the playing field had now been cleared and the repair work completed at the culvert on the z-bend. However the signs had still to be replaced and the ditch opposite Charles Hall still requires repair.

7. To discuss planning matters

The application for 4 dwellings on land at Lower Farm Road had been approved by MSDC. Following a request by the Chairman, Mrs Free, Cllr Whybrow will look into what the community needs to do as and when the CIL monies become available.

8. To approve the letter to residents of The Orchard regarding parking on Lower Farm Road

The Clerk reported that she had not sent the letter proposed at the January meeting as she was unsure about the legalities of such correspondence. After some discussion, it was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance and look again at the issue at the May meeting.

9. To discuss the availability of planning training

The Clerk has received the latest training programme from SALC and suggested that councillors look at having this training through SALC's tailored training. The Clerk will look into costings and availability and advise councillors by email.

10. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council and will take place in the village hall on Tuesday 30th May at 7pm.