



Mutford PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held at Mutford & Rushmere Village Hall on Monday 8th April 2024 at 7pm

166/23 Present

MPC Cllr Warnes (Chair), Cllr Glendinning, Cllr Read, Cllr Armstrong

In attendance Angela Colbridge (Clerk), SCC Cllr Cloke, ESC Cllr Scrancher

Members of the public x 1

167/23 Apologies for absence

MPC Cllr Wilby, Community Police Officer R Cunningham

168/23 Declaration of interest personal or prejudicial to this agent

Cllr Warnes declared a possible interest in item 18

169/23 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council of Monday 4th March 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr Glendinning, seconded by Cllr Armstrong, that the minutes of the meeting of 4th March 2024 be accepted as a true record. This was agreed.

The minutes were signed by the Chair.

170/23 Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda

None

171/23 Chairs Item

None

172/23 Reports

172/23/1 East Suffolk Council - ESC Cllr Scrancher informed council that the cost of annual parking across 52 long stay car parks has been reduced from £650 - £350 per year. Annual tickets can be purchased via the RinGo app, at myringo.co.uk or by calling 020 3046 0010. Demolition work has begun on the Lowestoft Seafront and work on the new cafe complex on Jubilee Parade will begin this week. The Field to Fork grant scheme has reopened, the closing date for applications is 30th April 2024. Details can be found on the East Suffolk Council website.

172/23/2 Suffolk County Council - A full report from SCC Cllr Cloke will be circulated to councillors and uploaded to the parish council website in due course. Cllr Cloke highlighted the large number of highways issues which Suffolk Highways has been in receipt of, including pot holes, road signs and resurfacing. Budget money is not always available.

172/23/3 Police – Nothing to report from the Police.UK website for Mutford for the month of February 2024.

173/23 Correspondence

173/23/1 Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Parish Council - Thermal Imaging

The Clerk has received information from SSWE PC regarding a Thermal Imaging project that was available to them earlier in the year. The current project, running until April 2024 is fully booked, the clerk has emailed greensuffolk for information on any possible future projects.

173/23/2 Suffolk Highways - Sand on the highway

Suffolk Highways have confirmed that works to remove sand on the Highway on Beccles Road will be carried out within 20 days of 20th March 2024, subject to weather conditions and access. The Clerk updated that this work was listed as being carried out on 3rd April 2024.

173/23/3 SALC - Section 137 expenditure limit for 2024/25

The Clerk reported that the sum has increased from £9.93 to £10.81 per elector.

174/23 Finance

174/23/1 Approval of Outstanding invoices

R Sawyer Playground Maintenance March 2024 £210.59

A Colbridge Invoice from Travis Perkins for playground materials £516.90

Roberts & Son newsletter printing April 2024 £40

SALC 6 months payroll services to March 31st 2024 £27

Suffolk.cloud website support and hosting fee 2024.25 £110

SALC membership subscription 2024/25 £262.91

Proposed by Cllr Glendinning, Seconded by Cllr Read

174/23/2 Account balance

The Clerk noted a rolling estimate of £9,315.54

175/23 Planning

175/23/1 To consider any planning applications

None

175/23/2 To receive outcomes of planning applications from ESC

DC/24/0602/FUL Replacement Entrance Gates and Boundary Treatments, Site Address: Oakland Lodge, Mutford Wood, Mutford, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 8HG - **Awaiting decision**

175/23/3 Other Planning Matters

SCC/0124/22W - Construction and operation of anaerobic digestion plant and associated infrastructure, Land at Copland Way, Ellough, Beccles, NR34 7TL - SCC Cllr Cloke updated council with the following information: Site visit at the proposed site Friday 19th April 2024, Planning Meeting Thursday 25th April 2024.

176/23 Telephone box/Book swap - Update

The Clerk read out a request received that the proposed £20 expenses per month, as agreed by the parish council, is split between the 3 current volunteers. This was agreed,

Proposed by Cllr Warnes, Seconded by Cllr Glendinning

177/23 Power to fund works to property relating to the affairs of the church

The council were informed that, following the insertion of a new section 19A into the Local Government Act 1894, as of 26 December 2023, the Parish Council can use its discretionary powers to fund church repairs or improvements if the direct benefit of expenditure accruing to the council's area or residents is commensurate with the expenditure incurred.

178/23 Clerks appraisal/Salary review

Cllr Warnes reported that, together with Cllr Glendinning, the Clerk's Appraisal and Review of remuneration had been completed. The recommendations will be considered at the next meeting.

179/23 Play Area

The Clerk informed council that the Playground Inspection Course taking place in July of this year is now fully booked. Future courses will be considered as a possibility for the current maintenance person to attend. Treatment of the wooden picnic bench and the wooden slatted bench is now required, the council agreed to this work being carried out.

180/23 Paddy's Pit

The forming of a working party for the area was discussed. A brief discussion was also held on the possibility of erecting a bird hide. This was ruled out due to the lack of parking available in the vicinity. It was agreed that the area would be left to the wild at the present time.

Signed Chair _____ Clerk _____ Date _____

181/23 Blocked ditches

The clerk informed council that a number of concerns previously reported on the Suffolk Highways online reporting tool have now had work carried out. There are 3 outstanding reports which are yet to be actioned by Suffolk Highways, 2 of these being reported very recently. These will be monitored. Details of any future concerns can be reported on the Suffolk Highways online reporting tool or forwarded to the clerk for reporting. Local County and District councillors have kindly offered guidance on these matters.

Adjournment for questions from members of the public

No questions

The Chair offered thanks to Mr Benham for the excellent work he has done in putting together the Mutford News since taking over the role last year.

182/23 Any other business of which due notice has been given

i) A request from St. Andrew's Church was put to the Parish Council regarding a possible contribution from the PC towards the WC facility situated in the churchyard at St. Andrew's. The current cost to service the facility is £80 a year. It was suggested that, if the PC agreed to any funding request, the WC be advertised locally in the Mutford News as a facility for the village. This will be proposed to the PCC.

ii) The Clerk informed council that the enforcement officer at ESC has confirmed that follow up visits are not conducted following the approval of planning permission. Following the report of concerns relating to a previous planning application in the village, reference DC/19/2526/FUL, the Clerk will contact the ESC enforcement officer for advice.

iii) A request has been received asking if the Parish Council can enquire about the site at Windy Acres, Mutfordwood Lane. The Clerk will look back over the historic paperwork and be in touch with ESC to check that our understanding of the site conditions are accurate.

183/23 Requests for items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting

None

184/23 Date and time of next meeting. The Annual meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 20th May 2024, to immediately follow the Annual meeting of the Parish which will be held on the same evening and commence at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 20:22.