

Stansfield Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th July 2015

Councillors present: Trevor Lang, Jane Ballard and Ed Cardozo

Also present: Mrs J Ince (clerk), County Councillor Mary Evans and District Councillor Peter Stevens. PC Darren Marshall and PCSO Anthony Welford arrived at 8.39pm

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Sarah Douglas Pennant, Sarah Hopkins and Robert Dennis.

2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda

Trevor Lang declared an interest in the planning application for Laurel Bank Farm, Assington Green (see item 8a below)

3. Approval of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 20th May 2015

It was resolved that the minutes were correct. The chairman then signed them.

4. Report from the Safer Neighbourhood Team

No crimes have been reported since the last meeting.

PC Marshall spoke about the 'Nottingham Knockers' who have been in the area recently. They are an organised group of ex convicts who sell cleaning wares. They should have a pedlars' license but can be overbearing when they visit homes. Any inappropriate selling should be reported to the Police. Residents should ask to see their pedlars' licence and note the unique reference number on the licence.

Trading Standards is also interested in finding out about them and like to know what areas they are targeting. Trading Standards can be contacted by ringing 0845 54040 506

He also spoke about Police Direct which is being upgraded to Police Connect. Up-to-date information is cascaded out to the community. Residents can subscribe by submitting their contact details.

5. Report from County Councillor Mary Evans

Mary Evans spoke about the following:

- The footpath across the water meadows on Thurston Lane is very overgrown. The path does not get cut routinely as it is grazing land, but it has been added to the cutting programme for next year.
- The Mobile Infrastructure Project which is proposing to site a mobile phone mast in Assington Green (subject to consultation and planning permission)
- The suggestion to switch off the street lights in Stansfield from midnight to 5.30pm. It was resolved that the clerk would e-mail Peter Stevens to find out if it is feasible to switch them off from midnight until 5.30pm along with the map of street lights in Stansfield.
- Clare Police Station has now closed but there will be a drop in session from 10 - 12 every Tuesday at Clare Fire Station
- The County wide consultation on the Fire Service. One option being considered is to increase the number of retained crews to create a bigger pool if needed during the day.
- Six million pounds is spent per annum subsidising the cost of the brown bins. Mid Suffolk already charges for the brown bin collection. SCC is facing more cuts and is proposing to cut its subsidy of the brown bin collection. The aim would be to encourage more composting. There will be a consultation about the future of the brown bins.
- Work has started to replace the gas main in Clare
- With the budget decision to pay employees a living wage, the cost to SCC will be 11 million pounds but no extra money will be provided by Central Government.

6. Report from Borough Councillor Peter Stevens

Peter Stevens spoke about Suffolk County Council's proposal to cut its subsidy of the brown bin collection. If SEBC decides to charge for this service, it could cost households £35 per year. He also spoke about the Energy from Waste facility in Gt Blakenham and encourages people to visit the facility.

7. Update on list of actions agreed at the last meeting

There are no outstanding councillor actions.

8. Finance

a) Approval of payments

It was resolved that the following payments would be approved:

- J P Ince, expenses, LGA 1972, s111 - **£21.44**
- C A Jobs- grass cutting and trimming of the hedge - Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b) or s11 - **£82.50**

b) Statement of receipts and payments

It was resolved that the statement of receipts and payments would be approved.

c) Bank Mandate form

Trevor Lang has completed a personal details form to submit to Barclays.

d) Procedures for electronic banking to ensure the safeguarding of the Council's funds

It was resolved that this item would be postponed until the next meeting.

9. Planning**a) DC/15/1274/LB - Laurel Bank Farm, Assington Green, Stansfield - LBA - internal and external alterations associated with conversion of barn to single dwelling**

It was resolved that no objections would be made to this application.

10. Highways/rights of way issues/Transport issues**a) To discuss the findings of the inspection of the Council's property and decide what action to take**

It was resolved that this item would be postponed until the next meeting.

b) Emptying of the dog and litter bins

It was resolved that this item would be postponed until the next meeting.

11. Correspondence:**a) Letter from James Cartlidge MP about the mobile phone signal in Stansfield and the possibility of siting a mast in Assington Green - for information only****b) E-mail from Harlequin group about the possibility of siting a mobile mast in Assington Green**

It was resolved that:

- The Council has no objections to the proposal as it will improve the mobile network in the area, but it will consult with the local community in the next few weeks
- The Council would display information about the proposed mast at the village fete to give residents a chance to respond.
- The clerk would produce a flyer for the residents in Assington Green which Jane Ballard agreed to deliver. Trevor Lang agreed to enlarge the information received from the Harlequin Group to display at the fete.

c) E-mail from SEBC giving details of the next Parish Conference on Monday 12th October 2015 in Haverhill starting at 6pm - for information only**d) E-mail from Suffolk Philharmonic Orchestra offering free community concerts**

Information about the concerts was passed on to the Village Hall Committee

e) E-mail from SNT re the way speeding will be policed in future

Now that there are no longer any priority setting meetings, villages will be grouped and speeding checks carried out in rotation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.53pm.

Signed (Chairman) Dated