

CLOPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on 15th. March 2012 in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors R Compton (Chairman) S. Freeman, L. Pennington & C. Angwin & the Clerk, G. Kimmerling

In attendance SCC Cllr. Bellfield, Anna Elmon, Communications Manager, Gressingham Foods and 11 members of the public.

The meeting commenced in Open Session.

The Chairman welcomed Anna Elmon and invited her to give a report.

Ms Elmon explained that the main complaints about Gressingham Foods are speeding drivers and lorries taking the wrong routes. Measures to combat these problems are:- all drivers who use the site are issued a Driving Information sheet (in English, Lithuanian, Polish & Romanian); an emphasis on speeding restrictions; maps showing the villages affected & an agreed slight change of route. The website has a map showing the routes & the correct post code for sat. Nav. The Company handbook has information on misconduct & gross misconduct re speeding. It is also proposed that all company drivers have a card in their windscreen as identification.

Questions and comments.

It was suggested that Ms. Elmon tries out the routes as the HGVs take up all the road in some places. Some lorries have been stopped because they were going the wrong way and they had missed the return route on the instructions.

The County Council route takes HGVs down Drabbs Lane so none should drive further along the B1078 through Clopton but they do. This is because it is much shorter to cut through to the A14. Lorries going to Redgrave cut across country to Coddendam – this is not the correct route. Lorries carrying live ducks take short cuts as there is a time limit on how long they can be transported. It appears that the volume of traffic has greatly increased. Ms Elmon said the site has not expanded and there are no plans to expand. She was not aware that any land had been purchased here. It was felt that the site had doubled in size in the last 6 years.

A lot of lorries visit the site at night and the lights are on all night. Other issues causing concern are;- light pollution; smells at night when the lagoons are pumped out; noise from the new fans, day & night. The cost of road repairs in Looms Lane came to £175,000 – the roads are not suitable for the volume and size of traffic.

Speedwatch carry out speed surveys & it was suggested that someone from Gressingham Foods should join in.

There is a lot of litter in Looms Lane – fast food cartons etc. More litter-picks by Gressingham Foods would help.

Cllr. Compton summed up the discussion:-

- 1) Gressingham Foods to take part in the Speedwatch surveys
- 2) Ms. Elmon to attend a meeting in May (possibly APM) to discuss other issues
- 3) Gressingham Foods to have regular meetings with residents – 4 to 6 monthly
- 4) Gressingham Foods to have regular contact with the Clerk regarding local issues.

Ms. Elmon and 10 members of the public left the meeting.

SCC Cllr. Bellfield gave a report from SCC – SCC will have saved over £42m in the last financial year & 1400 members of staff have left. It has to save £26m in the next two years. The Council tax will remain the same for 2012/13. SCC own 2500 properties in Suffolk and are planning to rationalise these. The Police & SCC are moving into Landmark House in Ipswich. Almost all the county parks have been taken over by Town & Parish Councils. Businesses are urged to register on the County website re Broadband by the end of March.

SCDC – no change to the Council tax. The partnership with Waveney is progressing well. SCDC have to save £2.1m this year.

Cllr. Compton said that 22.5 thousand businesses have not registered for Broadband. More people need to register to get faster Broadband.

The Clerk read out the Police report from P.C. Burrell– included in the Minutes folder.

The Open Session concluded at 8.25 and the Parish Council meeting commenced.

Agenda Item	Discussion/Detail	Action
1. Apologies for absence	Cllr. Pryke – unwell & P.C. Burrell	
2. Declarations of Interest	Cllr. Pennington – Item 6c – personal interest	
3. Minutes		
Meeting held on January 19 th . 2012	Proposed by Cllr. Angwin, seconded by Cllr. Freeman & agreed by the Parish Council to accept the Minutes as a true record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.	
4. Matters outstanding from the Minutes		
a) Land Registry update	Cllr. Compton has a copy of the Conveyance document re the land. Once the original is held by the Parish Council the land can be registered.	Clerk to request the original from Richard Taylor.
b) Pond by concrete road	Mr. Taylor is happy for the Parish Council to improve this area. Cllr. Compton suggested applying for a grant from the Community Environmental Action Fund and this was agreed. The Clerk will contact Hacheston for a visit to their environmental project on April 19 th at 7p.m. & also Charsfield.	Cllr. Compton to apply for grant. Clerk to contact Hacheston & Charsfield
5. Finance		
i) Financial statement as at 15/03/12	Copies given to all Parish Councillors	
ii) Approve invoices for payment	G. Kimmerling – Clerk’s salary £223.12 (tax£55.60)(449) G. Kimmerling – Clerk’s expenses £11.52(450) Suffolk ACRE – Subs £25.00(451) PROPOSED Cllr Pennington, seconded Cllr. Freeman & agreed by the Parish Council. All chqs dated 15/03/12 & signed by Cllrs. Compton & Freeman	
iii) To consider any other financial matters	Cllr. Angwin signed the necessary papers from Barclays Bank to add his name as a signatory. Cllr. Compton had read through the Clerk’s contract and there was no need for any changes. NALC had agreed no increase in Clerk’s wages for 2012/13	
6. Planning		
i) Planning Decisions		
	None received	
ii) Planning Applications		
	None received.	
iii) Other Planning Issues	The campsite at the Vineyards has been closed. The Clerk read out two letters relating to the request for a 5 caravan certificate for a site at Shop Farm, Shop Road. It was felt this was unsuitable because of the dangerous junction with Shop Road & the B1078 & Shop Road is very narrow in places. C11/2283 The Meadow, Hill Farm, Drabbs Lane. An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State for the Environment – Ref APP/J3530/A/12/2169548 date 07/02/12. It was decided not to add any further comments to the appeal.	Clerk to write to the Camping & caravanning Club & SCDC opposing the application.
<i>SCC Cllr. Bellfield left the meeting.</i>		
7. Village Litter Clean up.	SCDC had sent information re Spring Clean, Suffolk. It was decided not to take part.	Page 116

8. Village Design Statement	Cllr. Angwin had prepared drafts of the Clopton VDS which had been circulated. Cllr. Compton proposed that comments on the draft should be sent to Cllr. Angwin who would then make any amendments, produce another draft document & e-mail this to the Parish Councillors. Once approved, he would consult with SCDC on the document. Cllrs. Compton or Pennington would accompany him to SCDC. Cllr. Compton sincerely thanked Cllr. Angwin for all his work on producing the document.	Cllr. Angwin to produce revised draft document & take to SCDC.
9. Queen's Diamond Jubilee.		
	The Clerk met with interested parties and agreed a pic-nic on Saturday June 2 nd . from 3 – 5p.m. at the Village Hall. She produced a leaflet which Cllr. Pennington will produce & Cllr. Compton will get copied and arrange distribution to all properties. Cllr. Freeman asked if an extra £50 could be agreed from Parish Council funds to cover the cost of the food. PROPOSED by Cllr. Angwin, seconded by Cllr. Pennington & agreed by the Parish Council to give £150 towards the pic-nic.	Cllr. Pennington to produce leaflet, Cllr. Compton to get copied & arrange distribution asap.
10. Speedwatch		
	Malcolm Gooch may be moving so a new co-ordinator is needed. Cllr. Compton has spoken to Cretingham about joining & they are happy with the costs. Little Bealings have yet to decide. Woodbridge NHW may start a separate scheme or all areas of Woodbridge with a 30m.p.h. may join Clopton's scheme. The organisers are considering purchases an improved speed gun.	Clerk to send details of expenditure to all parties and chase those who haven't contributed this year.
11. SALC		
	No-one can attend the meeting on March 19 th . Cllr. Compton to attend June 25 th , Cllr. Angwin Sept. 17 th & Cllr. Pennington Dec. 6 th . if possible.	Cllrs to attend SALC meetings.
12. Community Emergency Planning		
	Cllr. Pennington asked if this could be changed to Community Communications & this was agreed. SCDC have changed the main provider for the web site & Cllr. Pennington will make any necessary changes. She tries to check the Clopton News site daily.	
13. Correspondence		
	None.	
15. Questions to Chairman		
	No questions.	
Next Meeting	Thursday May 17th. 2012at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.	

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) Date _____ Page117