

CLOPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Clopton Village Hall at 7:30pm
on Thursday 21st March 2013.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Present: Cllr R Compton (Chair) Cllr C Angwin (Vice Chair) Cllr J Pryke Cllr T Fryatt Cllr A Yallop</p> | <p>In Attendance: County Cllr P Bellfield 7 Clopton Residents Mrs E Brown (Clerk)</p> | <p>Apologies PC Howgego</p> |
| <p>CPC025/13 Chairman's Welcome Cllr Compton welcomed everyone to the meeting including District Cllr Bellfield who may be taking on the role of Chairman of Suffolk Coastal District Council.</p> | | |
| <p>CPC026/13 Police Report Cllr Compton read the Police Report (<i>attached</i>) written by PC Howgego. Cllr Fryatt informed the meeting that vehicle thefts in the area have been occurring and encouraged everyone to ensure that their vehicles and out buildings were kept secure at all times.</p> | | |
| <p>CPC027/13 Public Forum</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. T Dockerill asked for agenda item 8.2 (Flooding in Shop Road) to be discussed in the Public Forum. This was agreed. Mr. Dockerill thanked Cllr Bellfield for going to the site of the flooding and asked the Council what they had done about the situation. Cllr Angwin has had email and phone correspondence with Mr. Tony Buckingham (SCC Highways) Originally Council had been told that funds had been applied for to carry out work in the next financial year. However Mr. Buckingham's boss (Mr. David Chenery) decided that it should be ascertained whether landowners were responsible for the maintenance of the ditches/pipework rather than using public money to correct the issue. Highways could not find any plans detailing who is responsible for the ditches/pipes and asked for the Parish Councils help. Cllr Angwin had found the planning applications and drawings requested in the Parish Council Archive room. Decision: Documents to be taken to the Highways Dept in Saxmundham for copying. Parish Council to retain the originals. SCC policy is to insist that Landowners keep their ditches/pipes clear. Cllrs and residents believe that it is tree roots that are causing part of the blockage and restricting water flow. Mr. T Dockerill reported that an SCC tanker had come to clear the flooding and the Tanker driver had managed to dislodge some debris. Cllr Yallop has removed items from his inspection hole and that the water is now draining faster. The water levels in this area are still high. This issue urgently needs to be resolved as it is preventing children from accessing the school bus service. Mr. John Dawson informed Council that notices on Church Lane, an unmade road, state it is a footpath, he has informed SCC Highways Dept. The response from Mr. David Chenery was that the Landowner had carried out a private investigation of records which led him to believe that Church Lane was a footpath; SCC will evaluate this information and come to a decision; the footpath signs were put up prematurely and that the Parish Council will be consulted in due course. Mr. Dawson advised the meeting that the land drains which empty onto the lane were probably unlawful but that individuals should probably not walk on the edge of the field in order to escape the mud. | | |
| <p>CPC028/13 County and District Cllr Peter Bellfield</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Council Tax – Upon questioning Cllr Bellfield informed the meeting that the leader of SCC has said that he will not increase the SCC element of the Council Tax in the next 4 years if he is re-elected in May. Schools - The final area around Stowmarket to change from a 3 tier to a 2 tier system will go ahead. Over 97% of the 7,427 individuals applying for secondary school places got their 1st choice. SCC have purchased 20 vehicle activated speed signs for the police and speed watch groups to use. The Suffolk Fire service merger with Cambridgeshire Fire Service will NOT be occurring. Offshore Wind Farm, laying cables through the County. Construction traffic will be in the vicinity of Clopton, further consultation will take place. Cllr Bellfield has spoken to SCC about the inappropriateness of more lorry traffic in the area. Northern Ipswich Development Scheme, highways infrastructure is currently lacking so there will be a detrimental effect on villages nearby, Cllr Bellfield is trying to address this. | | |

**Cllr
Angwin
or Cllr
Bellfield.**

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>7. Sizewell C, SCC is trying to ensure that parishes West of the A12 will have minimal impact. Workers commuting to the site along unsuitable roads is thought to be an issue (eg B1078), number plate recognition cameras have been suggested with penalties for construction workers. (e.g. parking permits removed from offending vehicles). Either Woodbridge or Wickham Market will be the site for the car Park and Ride. It is thought that it will be about 3-5 years before work commences.</p> <p>8. SCDC has asked the Boundary Commission to consider reducing the number of District Councillors by 12.</p> <p>9. SCDC will shortly be putting £100,000 towards helping community groups set up Neighbourhood Plans.</p> <p>10. 2 planning applications will shortly require a response from the council (Larkvale Stud and Hill Farm).</p> <p>Cllr Fryatt asked Cllr Bellfield that considering there is a shortage of Primary School places nationally whether Suffolk also has a shortage. Cllr Bellfield admitted that some areas of the county are short of places but that these are usually in the urban rather than rural areas.</p> | |
| <p><i>Public Forum Closed, Cllr Bellfield and Mr T. Dockerill left the meeting. Parish Council Meeting commenced.</i></p> | |
| <p>CPC029/13 To Receive Apologies There were no Apologies.</p> | |
| <p>CPC030/13 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th January 2013 Cllr Fryatt requested that the minutes relating to Agenda Item CPC010/13.2 should be amended as he had 'recommended' an accurate drawing of the drainage system be made. This was agreed by those present. Following this the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2013 were approved and signed as a true record. Proposer Cllr Fryatt, Seconder Cllr Yallop.</p> | |
| <p>CPC031/13 Publication of Minutes Decision: Unapproved minutes to be published in the public domain.</p> | |
| <p>CPC032/13 Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Applications Received Cllr Yallop declared an interest regarding flooding in Shop Road and signed the book.</p> | |
| <p>CPC033/13 Resignation of a Parish Councillor Cllr Compton had received Cllr Freeman's resignation, this casual vacancy can be filled by co-option and that he is looking for someone to do this. It was agreed that Sylvia Freeman should be thanked for the work she had done for the Parish Council over many years. Clerk will write a letter of thanks, Cllrs to make suggestions to Cllr Compton regarding a gift/purchasing and dedicating an item in the village to her.</p> | <p>Clerk All Cllrs</p> |
| <p>CPC034/13 Parish Clerk Cllr Compton had also received the clerk's resignation, she has agreed to continue taking the minutes and keeping the finances up to date without being responsible for them until a new clerk has been appointed. Council approved Cllr Compton's suggestion to ask Janet Clarke (a previous clerk to the Council) to assist in the interim. The post will also be advertised.</p> | <p>Cllr Compton</p> |
| <p>CPC035/13 Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reclamation of VAT. Cllr Compton is still waiting for written information from SALC. Flooding in Shop Road. <i>This was discussed in the public forum (CPC027/13.1).</i> Flooding in Clopton generally Cllr Compton re-iterated that he felt the main cause of flooding in the village is due to the lack of maintenance by land owners for their ditches and the poor quality of gully digging by SCC. (SCC have been informed.) The ditch along the playing field requires attention and the deeds show that this is the responsibility of the Village Hall Management Committee, Cllr Compton will write and inform them. Cllr Fryatt felt that flooding issues in the county were generally caused by landowners neglecting their ditches. Cllr Angwin informed the Council that during his discussions with the highways dept at Saxmundham he had found out that responsibility for pipes <600mm diam. had moved from Ipswich to Saxmundham in the last few years but no plans had been provided to show where these pipes were hence Saxmundham Highways dept only finds out once problems occur and are reported. Cllr Fryatt felt that more pressure should be put on SCC to improve the situation. Cllr Pryke felt that fly-tipping and weather patterns may also be affecting drainage in the area. Cllr Compton and Cllr Angwin will write to SCC Highways about flooding issues in the village. Horses on footpaths. Cllr Compton reported that a large horse is being ridden in the area on footpaths and fields. Residents are requested to be vigilant and report any sightings. Mr. R Taylor has a toll system allowing riders to use his land. Clarification is required on the legal position of horses being exercised on paths etc. | <p>Cllr Compton</p> <p>Cllrs Angwin + Compton</p> |

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| agricultural buildings are being used as a residential unit. | |
| CPC038/13 Review Parish Council Risk Assessment. Decision: Cllrs to look at the 2 documents provided by Cllr Angwin and discuss at the next meeting. The fixed asset register may need to be updated. | All Cllrs |
| CPC039/13 Community Action Suffolk <i>This was discussed in agenda item 9, Finance.</i> | |
| CPC040/13 Wildlife Area by the Concrete Road Cllr Compton has arranged a public meeting on Thursday 18 th April at 8pm in the Village hall to discuss the Wildlife area. Mr.R Taylor will attend. Cllr Pryke gave his apologies. | |
| CPC041/13 Parish Plan Cllr Compton to provide Cllr Yallop with a copy of the Parish Plan. Cllrs to consider which issue raised in the plan they should next try to address. | Cllr Compton |
| CPC042/13 Community Bus Service Cllr Freeman used to be the contact for SCC regarding the community Bus Service. Mr. J Dawson is prepared to be the contact for SCC and will pass information to Mrs. D Hughes for the newsletter/website and parish Council Clerk. Mr Dawson was thanked for his help with this. | |
| CPC043/13 SCDC Core Strategy Main Modifications Consultation Cllr Fryatt explained that the Main Modifications are to make the Core Strategy 'sound' for the Inspector and involves mostly areas where further housing is to be built. Clopton is designated as 'countryside' and is not expected to have housing development. Decision: Council not to respond to the consultation. | |
| CPC044/13 Annual Parish Meeting No additional preparation is required for the Annual Parish Meeting. | |
| CPC045/13 SALC Report Cllr Fryatt reported that he had attended the last meeting and seen a presentation about super fast broadband in Suffolk. Sizewell C had been discussed and also Neighbourhood Plans. SCDC had not been helping groups develop their NPs apparently due to a lack of resources. Letter's to MP's had led to SCDC now doing more to assist with NPs. | |
| CPC046/13 Speed Watch Report Speed watch currently have use of one of the new mobile vehicle activated speed signs to use. | |
| CPC047/13 Urgent Decisions since the Last Meeting The Clerk has sent a letter to Mr M Gooch to confirm his role as the Main Co-ordinator of the Clopton Community Speedwatch Group. | |
| CPC048/13 Correspondence <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Clerk read a letter of thanks from the Clopton Bell Restoration and Community History Project. 2. The Clerk has received letters from East Anglian Air Ambulance, Disability Advice Service and the Citizens Advice Bureau asking for donations. Council passed the letter from the Disability Advice Service to a representative from the WJ Steel and Poors Charity for their consideration. 3. Cllr Compton read a letter from the Camping and Caravanning Club stating that they have decided not to proceed with their application for a Certified Site at Shop Road. | |
| CPC049/13 Matters for the next meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looms Lane Operators Licence Applications 2. Neighbourhood Plan – Burgh Parish Meeting is discussing this on 18th April at 19:30 in the church/Old School room. 3. Review of Parish Council Risk Assessment. | |
| CPC050/13 Date of next Meeting The Annual Parish Meeting is on Thursday 16 th May at 7:00pm in the Village Hall. The Annual Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 16 th May at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Thursday 18 th July at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. | |
| <i>Meeting closed at 9:55pm</i> | |
| Chairman: Date: | |