

RINGSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday July 19th 2016 at 7.30pm in Ringshall Village Hall.

Present: Mrs C Free (Chairman), Mrs L Hitchcock, Mr J Phoenix, Mrs K Benton, Mrs A Jones, Mr D Kemp, Cllr J Truelove, Mrs H Nunn (Clerk).

Public Forum:

Cllr Truelove's report which was circulated to councillors, included an update on devolution and the poll carried out across Suffolk which showed that 25% of the public knew little or nothing about the devolution process with a similar proportion never having heard of the proposals. This is a Government scheme which may, with a new Cabinet in place, be reviewed. Cllr Truelove also spoke about the review carried out into adult care resources.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr David Whybrow and Mr Nigel Last

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none

3. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on May 24th 2016

The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. To discuss highway matters

Philip Wright from SCC Highways had advised the Clerk that orders had been made for the works along Stowmarket Road and it would just be a question of time before they are completed.

The Clerk had been advised that a French drain may be constructed on Ringshall Hill but councillors agreed that this did not seem to be a viable option. The Clerk will ask Highways for clarification.

5. To discuss the implementation of mains drainage in Ringshall

The Clerk had spoken to Mrs Wilson who confirmed that they had taken steps to resolve their drainage problems but she stressed that she would still be interested should mains drainage come to the village. After some discussion councillors agreed that any significant future development would put extra strain on the current drainage and that the matter would need to be looked at again should this situation arise.

6. To receive a financial report and approve payments

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Community Account: £ 1134.78

Business Saver Account: £10,530.14

The VHMC had requested the release of the donation of £500 towards the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations, the invoice for £192 for bin emptying from MSDC was due for payment and also the Clerk's salary and expenses to May 31st at £559.37 (made up of one month at £150, two months at the new rate of £200 and £9.37 postage, printing and contribution to telephone calls). Councillors approved these items for payment and the cheques were duly signed.

Cllr Truelove offered £200 retrospectively towards the parish celebrations for the Queen's birthday. The clerk will send a letter setting out the total cost and the amount of the parish council's contribution.

7. To discuss septic tank emptying charges for the village hall

Martin Snowling, VHMC chairman outlined the background to the charges which were agreed between SCC and the Parish Council at the time the village hall was built. The VHMC had worked out approximate numbers using the hall and usage of the toilet facilities and felt that 20% was a fair amount for them to pay. Councillors agreed that if the VHMC were satisfied with this figure they would support it. The Clerk will send a copy of the minutes to SCC as confirmation.

8. To approve the proposed risk assessment

The risk assessment had been circulated to councillors who approved its content and it was agreed that this should be put on the parish council's website. The risk assessment will be reviewed on an annual basis at the same time as the budget proposals are discussed.

9. To discuss defibrillator training and weekly checks.

The Clerk reported that despite two emails to CHT no reply had been received. Cllr Truelove offered to speak to Martin Render at CHT on behalf of the Parish Council. Dates in September were put forward with a start time of 7pm. Mr Kemp offered to carry out the weekly checks once confirmation was received as to what it entailed.

10. Hi-vis jackets for CEP volunteers

Mr Kemp had heard nothing from MSDC – it was agreed that the jackets be purchased online if nothing was forthcoming from MSDC.

11. To receive an update on the future of the village hall

Mr Snowling reported that since the last parish council meeting the VHMC had met and resolved to accept one booking per month from next year. The VHMC no longer hold any more fund-raising or social events but the bar will still open once a month. The quizzes held by the church will remain. Two new volunteers had been found for grass cutting making a total of 6. The toilets will need to be refurbished and the bar prices are to be increased. Councillors agreed that these measures were a good compromise which ensured that the village hall would remain in use.

12. Councillor training

The Clerk will obtain dates for training for councillors who did not attend the tailored training and chairman and report back to the next meeting.

13. To discuss the appointment of a tree warden

It was agreed that this post should be held by a member of the council and although no one had any expertise in this area, Mrs Free volunteered to take on the role working with Mrs Hitchcock. Information would be sought from the Woodland Trust.

14. Items for discussion at the September meeting

No matters were put forward.

15. To confirm the date for the September and November meetings

The next meeting will be held in the village hall on Tuesday 27th September at 7.30pm. Due to a prior commitment the hall is no longer available on November 22nd. The meeting will therefore be held on Monday November 21st November 2016.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm