

MINUTES OF EARL SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 9 January 2017 at 7.30pm

AT EARL SOHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chairman David Grose

Cllrs Andrew Patterson, Lucy Murrell, Celia Peacher, Mark Rutherford, Anna Goymer

Clerk not present

Minutes taken by Mrs Sara Crimp

Cllr R Vickery County Councillor

Public: 9 members of the public attended (list of names held by Chair)

1 No apologies for absence

2 It was agreed that Sara Crimp should take the minutes

3 Declarations of interest: Celia Peacher re pay rise for husband for maintenance of the cemetery

4 The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 14 November 2016 were confirmed and signed

5 Public comment:

Mr Hinton asked when he would receive a response to his letter after the last meeting. The Chair said that he will get back to him as soon as possible; the items raised, need careful consideration

Mr Sharpe asked if agendas and minutes of meetings could be put on the website, Mr Hinton also in favour. The organiser of the website is currently unwell; Cllr Rutherford will look into this

6 New Councillor applications viewed and voted in unanimously. Papers of acceptance, signed by Councillor applicants.

Cllr Goymer had completed the website information but had not, as yet, submitted photo'

7 Budget:

Thanks to Cllr Rutherford extended by Chair for his assistance

The precept to be in by 20 January

Proposal to raise by 2% to £7344.

See Budget spreadsheet for itemised detail

Detail understood and agreed by councillors

Areas, particularly discussed:

- Membership of LCPAS rather than SALC and difference in costs. There would be an admin. fee of £200-£230. Information has been requested from LCPAS and SALC which can then be debated at the next meeting
- Concern that more money may be needed for training, bearing in mind the recent vacancies
- It was agreed that there would be flexibility to help with this, eg miscellaneous line in budget

The Chair proposed the budget. Cllr Rutherford, seconded. All accepted

8 Safety concerns were raised about public numbers at future meetings. It was agreed that meetings would be held on Thursday evenings when the Village Hall has no other regular users. The Chair will circulate new dates for the meetings

9 The formation of a Neighbourhood Plan was voted through at the last meeting.

Information, on this, to be circulated via the village website. Issues re data protection and eligibility to comment, were raised. Use of a code may help.

The Chair and Cllr Rutherford to form a sub-committee with non councillors (Mr Mark Sargeantson, Mr Chris Sharpe, Mr Neil Warden, Mr Bruce Hinton – the latter needing to take into account, possible conflict of interest)

There may be some money from SCDC but monies to fund the plan will need to be raised

More information will be gleaned from a meeting at SCDC on 18 January

The meeting was adjourned at 8.20pm to allow for public comment

10 The recycling bins on the village hall car park are to be permanently removed. The practicality and revenue was questioned. Other sites were suggested but it was agreed that those residents who may be affected should be canvassed. It was suggested that the need for recycling facilities and opportunities for comment should be put on the Neighbourhood Plan

11 Cllr Murrell still very concerned that there seems to be no solution to the problem of the village green erosion. She and other councillors agreed that although they are legally parked, there are large vehicles (eg the fire engine) parking on The Rookery side of the road, meaning passing vehicles are being pushed into the side of the green. It seems that the Council cannot afford to widen the road. Is the Council/Highways aware of the hole in the road?

Councillor Vickery then arrived to address the meeting. He had spoken with Highways. David Chenery has suggested the provision of wooden bollards against the verge to help prevent further erosion. Finance to be explored

12 Cllr Vickery as above

Apologies from Cllr Hudson who raised, by email, the issue of a Waveney/SCDC merger and the thoughts of the Parish Council on a referendum. The PC unanimously felt there was little benefit in further consultation. A decision on the proposed merger is to be made next month

Cllr Hudson also acknowledged various planning issues which have been forwarded to the District Council for consideration by the Development Control committee

13 Planning application DC/165038/LBC. (Soham House, Brandeston Rd) No objections

14 Correspondence received. No comments

15 Cheques for matters listed on agenda, were approved, except LCPAS. Signatories signed cheques.

Donation cheque to village hall gratefully received by John Ravenscroft. Receipt to be given

16 The ditch issue has been resolved

AOB

Cllr Patterson recently attended a course on health and safety. There should be a designated health and safety officer. Cllr Patterson volunteered to inspect the site and complete a risk assessment.

Sibton Parish council approached Cllr Patterson re concerns about the effect on the A1120 as a result of future Sizewell C traffic. Sibton are looking for support from other affected villages

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed

Dated