

BUXHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th March 2013 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Mrs. Anne Hicks
Cllr David Steed
Cllr Chris Hall
Paula Gladwell – Clerk

Cllr. Peter Jordan (chair)
Cllr Keith Proctor

County Cllr Penny Otton,
District Cllr John Matthissen,

- 2012/326 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr. Hubert Mitson, Cllr Derrick Gant, PC Annelly Miles
- 2012/327 **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Proctor Item 5f non-pecuniary interest (min no 2012/337)
- 2012/328 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – It was proposed by Cllr Jordan that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved with all in favour. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 18th January 2013 were signed as a true record. Cllr Proctor asked that the potholes in Kiln Lane be reported again.
- 2012/329 **Adjournment for:**
District Council Report – Cllr Matthissen gave his report. The budget has been signed off with the government grant accepted again rather than increase council tax. Cllr Matthissen suggested that this will cause problems in the long term as the two year freeze on council tax will take the council through an approximate 6% inflation increase which will mean in order to keep income levels the same in future years large increases will be needed at a time when any rise over 2% will incur a referendum. The management structure is in place with joint responsibility for the two councils. There have been no compulsory redundancies up to now however all remaining employees are now to go through the process of integration and application for their existing jobs. A new committee structure integrating both councils will be agreed on 11th April.
Cottage Farm and Bakers Puddle enforcement actions are still ongoing. Neither enforcement orders have been complied with so prosecutions will proceed.
Cllr Otton Report – Cllr Otton gave her report. SCC submitted their budget aiming to cut £24.9m for this financial year. This included £7m from Adult and Community Services, and £2.5m from remodelling Children's services.
The Liberal Democrat Group submitted an amendment to the budget aiming to improve services in a number of different areas. £650,000 to School Improvement Services – to employ additional advisors that go into schools to provide guidance to help schools improve their level of attainment, which drastically needs improving in Suffolk. £475,000 for providing an additional 1900 days of supply work providing it is matched by school funds. £300,000 to help Suffolk County Council commit to a pilot scheme that would increase the number of foster carers for the most vulnerable children in Suffolk. £300,000 to respond to local community requests for 20mph zones in Suffolk towns and villages.
This additional funding they believe would help to improve attainment in Suffolk, care for those vulnerable children and improve localism after the speed limits team in Suffolk was disbanded. Unfortunately, the Liberal Democrat amendment was defeated. County Council's Cabinet made the decision on Tuesday the 26th of February to abolish the middle schools in Stowmarket and Stowupland. The Liberal Democrat group attempted to get the decision called into the Scrutiny Committee as they felt the justification for making this decision was flawed. Of particular issue was the lack of funding to provide top class schools in this area, as the plans will see a split site school created in Stowmarket. The contrasting statistics provided by the Council and the campaign group were also highlighted, as well as issues over safety.

The call in was rejected on the grounds that the Cabinet had all the required information to hand, which means the decision has now been approved. The Lib Dem group are disappointed that an opportunity to look again at such a large issue to which so many parents and pupils feel passionately about has been refused.

The catering provider to schools in Suffolk, EATS, has provided assurance that the meat provided in its schools does not contain any horsemeat. The vast majority of meals provided for children in Suffolk schools, are created in house, and beef used by EATS is of assured food standard (Red Tractor accredited). The red tractor logo is a guarantee of both quality and origin.

The final stretch of the bridleway from Chilton Way has now been completed.

Police Report – The clerk read PCSO Sian Uttley's report. One crime has been reported between 21/01/13 – 17/03/13. A dwelling burglary along Brettenham Road where entry was forced to a patio door and an untidy search was made. A number of items have been stolen.

Community Speedwatch is not running in Buxhall but Suffolk County Council has made available 10 SID machines to be used by the CSW schemes. The co-ordinators of each scheme have been given the contact details to arrange its use. If there is anybody interested in starting up this scheme please contact Annelly and we can sort something out. There are successful schemes currently running in Felsham, Hessett, Gedding, Beyton, Drinkstone, Wetherden, Elmswell, Norton with Woolpit and Onehouse up and running in due course.

SNT will welcome PCSO Collette Denny who will be joining them at the end of May in replace of Sian.

The next priority Setting meeting for members of the public to attend is 7pm 2nd April 2013 at MSDC Dove Room. This meeting is for you to raise issues that which you feel should be something we should concentrate on.

The SNT has been collating intelligence and have participated in 4 drugs warrants around the area in the last few months. All have been positive with possession, supply and cultivation of cannabis being identified. This has resulted in one male being charged and another currently going through the court system; one male and two females have also received warnings.

Public Session – No questions.

Meeting resumed:

2012/330 **Planning** – There were no applications to consider.

2012/331 There were no MSDC decisions to note.

2012/332 **Finance** - The following payments were approved with all in favour: Clerks salary for Jan and Feb

2012/333 EFM Grass Cutting £734.40

2012/334 The clerk's financial report for March was approved.

2012/335 It was resolved to ratify the decision to opt for Option 2 of the MSDC request to confirm the precept requirement in light of their further amendment to the tax base. It was agreed that residents should incur no increase and therefore the precept request was reduced to £3645 with the increased grant of £170. This ensured that the budget requirement was met without the need to use reserves whilst ensuring that the annual amount payable by a Band D household remained at £23.40. Prop Cllr Hall with all in favour.

2012/336 It was resolved to appoint SALC to carry out the internal audit for 2012/13. The Terms of Engagement and Audit Plan were approved. Prop Cllr Hall sec Cllr Hicks with all in favour.

2012/337 It was noted that there had been no recent requests for community funding and following discussion it was agreed that no grants would be awarded at this time.

2012/338 **Correspondence** – It was agreed that permission be granted for use of the playingfield for the Community Council cricket match.

2012/339 It was agreed that membership of the newly formed Community Action Suffolk would not be taken out at this time.

- 2012/340 There were no comments to correspondence tabled
- 2012/341 **Road Sign** – It was resolved to purchase a new road sign for Mill Road at the quoted price of £43.92. Prop Cllr Jordan with all in favour. The sign would be erected by members on the grass verge between the junction and the letter box.
- 2012/342 **Annual Parish Meeting** - It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would commence at 7.00pm with usual village groups and organisations invited and be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which would include normal business on Monday 20th May 2013.
- 2012/343 **Village Hall** – Following discussion it was agreed that no action was necessary at his time.
- 2012/344 **Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – Great Finborough Garden Club have offered £100 to Buxhall from the seed-buying scheme. Cllr Hicks suggested that the funds be used to purchase bulbs to be planted at the entrance to Edmunds Road. It was noted that this land was not the responsibility of the parish council. Cllr Hicks agreed to contact the WI and MSDC to take this suggestion forward.

The next Parish Council meeting is at 7.30 on Monday 15th April 2013.