

MLO 10/11/2019

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PETTAUGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 29th NOVEMBER 2018 IN ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH AT 6.30 p.m.

Those present: Councillor Malcolm Owers (Chairman), Councillor Belinda Bulsing, Councillor Gordon Janson, Councillor Esther Thornton and Councillor Stephen Rowe. Mrs Margaret Marlow was Acting Clerk. Two parishioners were also present.

1. **Welcome by the Chairman.** Councillor Owers welcomed all to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence.** There were no apologies, all Councillors being present at the meeting.
3. **To receive any declarations of interest.** Councillors Bulsing declared an interest in item 8 (2).
4. **To approve the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting – 20th September 2018.** After discussion and clarification, Councillors voted to approve the Minutes following a minor amendment to the wording of item 6. The Minutes were then accepted and signed as a true record.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes.** There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

PUBLIC FORUM. A Parishioner asked if there had been any response from parishioners following the relocation of the post box. The Acting Clerk responded that she had received one negative comment and a parishioner stated that she knew of one negative comment.

6. **To receive a report by the Acting Clerk.** The Acting Clerk reported on the successful relocation of the post box on the 28th September 2018 following representations to the Chief Executive Officer, Royal Mail Post and Parcels. This produced a swift conclusion to the problem of relocation that had been ongoing for fifteen months. The Acting Clerk reported that approval had been received from MSDC to a minor amendment to Planning Application DC/18/01491, Midway Cottage. Councillors were presented with a Statement of Accounts up to the 29th November 2018. Following authorisation of this evening's cheque, to date the balance in the Current Account stands at £3,216.33, and the balance in the Business Premium account is £1,050.66. Councillors were asked to authorise payment of cheque no: 100397 for £15.00 to St Catherine PCC for the use of the Church for the meeting.

7. **The consider and discuss proposals for the budget and precept requirements for the year 2019/2020.** A budget review of the current year expenditure to date and the expected expenditure to year end had been prepared. At present spending was well within the budget for the year and, even following expected expenditure, it was unlikely to exceed the budget by any significant amount. The Parish Council had so far not considered any charitable donation for this year. No payment had been made to the Parochial Church Council to support the maintenance of the Churchyard, although there was a budget allowance of £350 available. Councillors were of the view that the Parish Council had a duty to support the Parochial Church Council in the maintenance of the Churchyard as it was the only public open space within the parish.

It was pointed out that the Parish Council's expenditure was likely to be greatly increased next year. 2019 is election year for District and Parish Councils and election expenses of up to £653.37 could be incurred. Expenditure will in any case be at least £100 for the election. The largest increase in expenditure will be necessary with the employment of a new Parish Clerk. This figure will be in excess of £2,000 per annum. Councillors discussed the implications of these increases on the precept.

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For some years the Parish Council has managed with a modest precept of £1,750. Cllr Thornton and Cllr Bulsing expressed caution of placing an increased precept demand on parishioners in the current economic climate and the uncertainties of Brexit, and would prefer an increase to be delayed for 2020/2021 and to rather use parish council reserves for the up-coming year. Cllr Janson and Cllr Owers considered it better to make an increase for the coming year. Councillors will consider the figures further and liaise with the Clerk who will prepare updated figures for the precept meeting in January 2019.

8. To discuss (1) Planning Application DC/18/04982 – Application for Planning Permission without Compliance of Conditions for Stonham Barns. Variation of Condition 19 (Specific Restriction Upon Use: Break Period For Lodges/Statics) of planning permission 3150/15 in order to enable 28 static caravans/lodges to be occupied for short term rental all year round. The Councillors all object to this variation of condition, feeling it is a manoeuvre to make the lodges into permanent residences. It was considered that the planning rules were not being adhered to and, in many instances, ignored. Whilst the Councillors recognised the positive aspects to the local area of the Stonham Barns complex, there was concern at the 'creep' of the complex into what is classified countryside, and the implications of this for Pettaugh. Cllr Thornton offered to help draft a letter to be sent by the Parish Council to the Planning Department at MSDC, expressing the Parish Council's strong objections to this application.

(2) To discuss: Proposed Diversion of Public Footpath No 20(part) Pettaugh - Highways Act 1980 Section 119. Councillor Bulsing left the room at this point. The proposed diversion had been requested by the owners of Pettaugh Hall. The purchase in 1973 of additional land for incorporation into the Pettaugh Hall garden without realignment of the footpath meant that the footpath at the rear of the house directly bisected the garden. The owners wish to have more privacy and to make the garden more secure. This item was first discussed at a Parish Council meeting on the 24th February 2015 – Minute 8. At that time Councillors felt that people walking dogs and rambling through the garden was intrusive. The present Parish Council agreed with this position and strongly supported this application in terms of privacy and safety. A Resolution was proposed: The Parish Council support the Proposed Diversion and Realignment of Footpath 20 according to the plan as presented. This was proposed by Cllr Owers, seconded by Cllr Janson and agreed. Councillor Bulsing rejoined the meeting.

9. To receive an update on the VAS sign and related safety matters. The VAS sign continues to work well. The position is changed on a four-weekly cycle by Cllr Janson and Cllr Bulsing. This timing coincides in most instances with the battery life. The Councillors expressed their gratitude to Cllr Janson and Cllr Bulsing for the continued supervision of the sign and the work involved. It is noted that the Speed Safety Officer has over the last few months spent time in the village with a speed camera. It is unknown what the results of these visits are. Recently a traffic recording device had been placed across Debenham Way for a week.

10. Any Other Business. Cllr Thornton informed the meeting that one of the footpaths on Abbots Hall land has not been reinstated following ploughing. The Clerk will ascertain the correct footpath and number from the footpath map and notify SCC Footpaths with a view to having the footpath reinstated.

11. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for the 10th January 2019 at 6.30 p.m. in the Church.

The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.