

Minutes of Poslingford Parish Council meeting on 4th March 2020.

Present: Parish Cllrs Martin England, Jim Rucklidge, Marc Allison, June Mansfield Derek Nicholls and Kathy Priestley

County Councillor Mary Evans

District Councillor Karen Richardson

Chris Turner-Clerk

The Chair Martin England welcomed those present and thanked them for attending.

1 Apologies for absence-

Apologies received from Parish Councillor Annie Jones and District Councillors Jim Meikle and Marion Rushbrook

County Councillor Mary Evans Report

Mary mentioned that Anglian Water were likely to start work on the drains now they were in a new funding period. This would mean road closures between Poslingford and Clare and a diversion would be set up. We have not yet received any notification but following a discussion on the inconvenience this would cause as well as time and extra costs it was accepted that when we next meet the contingent from Anglian Water we need to be forceful in our discussions. Recompense for extra costs for those having to make such a long detour, compulsory purchase of land so the work was of the highway were two of a number of points mentioned.

Countywide the County Council will be running a campaign to increase the number of foster carers as there is a shortfall. Additional drivers are needed for gritter lorries. A meeting was held with the police locally, Derek attended, we have a new Inspector, Kevin Horton, who has worked in the area. All streetlights will be changed to LED to reduce the electricity bills of the County. Permits for working on the highways will be stricter with fines for exceeding the agreed time period of road closures.

District Councillors Karen Richardson's Report

Karen mentioned that 18 new officers were in training, for the April start of the new car parking enforcement regime that will now be run by West Suffolk instead of the police. Fines etc will go to the Council and used for car parks etc. They are looking at a possible new car park in Clare. We are likely to see these officers in Clare soon after 1st April and they will be looking at illegal parking in restricted areas as well as parking on the pavements and causing an obstruction. You have been warned!

A positive piece of news is that homelessness in West Suffolk has been reduced by 77% to 8 people.

2. Minutes of our last meeting-. A meeting is taking place over the weekend with Martin and Mary Evans to look at the problems with the drains and ditches as discussed at our last meeting in December. Marc had brought with him the definitive map of footpaths and this

was reviewed. A copy will hopefully be available for the notice board. Derek has fixed one of the notice boards, mentioned in the last minutes. The Minutes were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman. All in favour.

3. Financial Report- The accounts for the period to 4th March had been sent by e mail. The clerk went through the details and after making the payments which were now due we would be left with £5915.52, but when the VAT claim is refunded we should have an end of year balance of £6266.92 which compared to the start of the year of £6520.44 means a small reduction. This is explained by the fact that we held £300 at 1st April 2019 from Peter Stevens budget that we spent in 2019/20. Overall our figures in line with our budget. A budget has been completed for 2020/21 showing how we are likely to spend the precept for the year of £4105. This was agreed and signed by the Chair. A note about our reserves was on the budget and again this was agreed. The accounts and cheque payments were also agreed and this was also signed by the Chair and cheques by 2 councillors. Details of cheques below.

5. Internal Audit - Confirmation that SALC are to be appointed as our Internal Auditors for 2019/20, all in favour. Also reaffirmed the continuing appointment for the clerk to be our RFO for 2020/21. The clerk had received from SALC a list of requirements needed for the Parish Council to have completed by the year end, 31st March. He had reviewed this list and a number of actions were needed/taken place. These were as follows:

a) The Asset Register had been updated to take account of purchases in 2019/20. However, a few additional items needed to be added, an extra dog bin has been placed on a footpath. This was an old one no cost incurred. We also included the War Memorial, which is the Parish Councils responsibility, a notional value shown of £1. These were added to the Register, by hand, before this was signed by the Chair. b) Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were accepted with no change from previous years, a query was however made as to whether we can make payments by Bacs rather than cheques, clerk to review. The Chair signed both documents. c) The Financial Risk Assessment was discussed, a few amendments had been made, this was signed by Chair and Clerk. d) the clerk had completed an Internal Control Statement for the year to 31st March and this again was signed by the Clerk e) We had agreed the Councils policies on the following subjects. Agreed no changes needed and we reaffirmed the following. Code of Conduct/Complaints procedure/Electronic Comm Policy/Equal Opportunity Policy/Freedom of Information and Access Request Policy.

6. Defibrillator- An e mail had been sent around about this and the possibility of siting this in the Phone Box. District Councillor Jim Meikle is willing to assist financially towards this but the problem remains currently of the lack of a mobile phone signal or a very weak signal. We are to put this on hold for a while.

8. Grass Cutting- We will continue to use our current contractor, TOP Garden Services.

9 Councillors Issues- There is a lady in the village willing to take over the Remembrance Day planning. Hopefully a wreath will be delivered from the British Legion in October this year. There does seem a problem with dog mess especially in the churchyard. Signs can be purchased, the clerk will let Cllr Priestley have contact details of "Glasdon" which will give costs etc.

Meeting finished at 8.15pm

Payments authorised by the Council on 4th March 2020

C Turner	£282.00
HMRC re PAYE to 31/3/20	£65.60
West Suffolk Council (reimbursement)	£150.00
DPO Sub	£ 40.00
Stansfield Village Hall Cttee	£37.50
TOTAL	£575.10

Next Meeting June 3rd 2020 C Turner-Clerk