



Poslingford Parish Council

Minutes of Poslingford Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting Annual Meeting

Date 15th May 2019

Meeting held at Stansfield Village Hall at 6.30pm

Present :Parish Councillors Martin England, Jim Rucklidge, Marc Allison, Annie Jones, Kathy Priestley and Derek Nichols

County Councillor Mary Evans, District Councillors Jim Meikle, Marion Rushbrook and Karen Richardson, and Chris Turner(Clerk to the Council)

Welcome address by Jim Rucklidge. Apologies for absence- June Mansfield.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

County Councillor Mary Evans report- Mary is the Deputy leader of Suffolk CC and the Highways portfolio holder. The good news from Suffolk CC is that the results from latest tests show the standard of education is improving. The Council do need extra places for children in special needs and with the County's rapid population growth, advances in medicine and increasing costs the County proposes to have three new special schools and 36 specialist units attached to mainstream schools, the cost being some £45.6m. The cabinet agreed to borrow £24.1m to create the first tranche of new special school places.

The County's budget is £520m pa with the main costs being for child and adult care. 80% is spent on that with the balance needed to cover all the other costs, including Highways. They are introducing new working practices to make better use of resources in Highways and should have better management of both potholes and road closures. Cllr Jones did mention that Anglian Water were contemplating closing the road between Long Acre and Wentford Farm, Mary will look into it.

A small amount of the budget has been put aside for "Community self-help", litter picking, cleaning of road signs etc.

The three recently elected District Councillors introduced themselves to the Parish Councillors and gave a brief resume of their history in local government.

Police Report- None available. Details can be found on www.police.uk

PARISH GENERAL MEETING

Jim Rucklidge proposed Martin England as Chairman for the forthcoming year, he was happy to accept, all in favour. He completed the "Declaration of Acceptance of Office". Jim Rucklidge to continue as Deputy Chairman.

We now have a new Councillor, Kathy Priestley. Clerk supplied her with a form for completion and return, Register of Interests, which need to be sent to the District Council Election Dept.

Comment was made about the lack of a Polling station in Poslingford and this needed to be sorted before too long- Clerk will remind the election office of the District Council.

Chairman Martin England then made his report on the last 12 months and hopes for the forthcoming year. The village hall project has stalled following Haveburys decision to not release the land at Hillside. He will be meeting Mary Evans at the site to discuss ways forward. The church had offered us some room but we were unable to meet their request for funds. We do hold in our account approx. £6000 which will be required if we are able to move ahead with a small building. The village BBQ was a success last year and we have now purchased more equipment with funds from Peter Stevens' locality budget. Pleased that we are buying the phone kiosk, yet to agree how to utilise this. Martin offered thanks to Derek Nicholls for his work on the steps to the village Memorial and to renovating the 2 notice boards.

There being no other business we moved on to the:

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

1. Minutes of our last meeting- These were accepted as being in order. All in favour. Copies were signed. No matters outstanding from the last meeting.
2. Financial Report-.The annual accounts had been circulated and were accepted as correct. This forms the basis of the AGAR(Annual Governance and Accountability Return) for 2018/19. As our income and outgoings are less than £25000, we complete the 2018/19 Part 2 Return exempting us from an external audit, although we need to have an internal audit, to be carried out by SALC. Income of £4264.36 was shown on page 3 of the return with outgoings of £3785.21. This page was signed by Cllr England and clerk as the RFO(Responsible Financial Officer). Section 1c page 5 was also completed with all statements answered to the affirmative. Again, this was signed by the clerk and chair. Details of income/outgoings was completed on page 6. And signed by clerk and chair. These can now be sent to SALC for their report.
A list of payments now due was provided and this was accepted. Cheques signed by Cllr. Rucklidge and Cllr Allison.
We need to inform our Insurance Company of the purchase of the gazebo and table.
3. Highways/Ditches etc- Details of potholes in Hillside were reported to Mary Evans, the County Council show that they were repaired which is not the case. Drains are blocked down The Street, to be reported/chased.
- 4 Phone kiosk. This can now be purchased and the contract with BT was signed by the Chairman. The cheque for £1 was signed. BT will now remove the equipment and Cllr. Nicholls will have a look and deal with renovating it. To be added to our list of assets and insurance.
5. AOB-Date arranged for BBQ Saturday 13th July. Cllr England to arrange advertising around the village. We now have a small gazebo and a fold-away table bought from funds from Peter Stevens locality budget. Cllr England updated us on the land at Hillside and possible meeting place, a meeting to take place with Mary Evans. There have been 7 complaints about the colour of a property in The Street, Saffron House, bright orange. This is not in a conservation area but close to and we are to ascertain from West Suffolk Council whether this is acceptable.

Dates of next meeting 4th September

C Turner-Clerk