

**Minutes of Poslingford Parish Council
meeting on 12th September 2017**

Present: Cllrs Martin England, Jim Rucklidge, Marc Allison, June Mansfield
CC Mary Evans, BC Peter Stevens, and Chris Turner -Clerk
One member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence- Cllr Samantha Fewell

2. The Council currently has vacancies for 2 Councillors. Mr Derek Nicholls who was present was willing to be co-opted to the Council. A vote was taken, all Councillors in favour, and Mr Nichols accepted. Clerk to send forms for signature to Mr. Nicholls who resides at 17 Hillside CO10 8RB. Phone 01787277275 e mail: archiesgrandad1941@gmail.com

3. Borough Councillor Peter Stevens report- The joint governance committee are discussing the merger to West Suffolk BC, with St Edmundsbury joining up with Forest Heath. They are hoping this will be achieved in 2019. Boundaries will change and there will be a reduction in Councillors from 72 to 64. The joining of the two councils should bring about better efficiency and cost effectiveness. The strategic priorities are, economic development, more commercialism and more affordable homes. The Bury St Edmunds Masterplan is also being reviewed. The change in waste development has been delayed slightly but should be moving forward, once outstanding Highway matters are sorted. Peter confirmed money is still available from his locality budget.

4. **County Council Mary Evans report-** Speeding in villages continues to be a problem. The mobile police speed camera team have been active in villages and will continue to operate. 300+ motorists have been prosecuted. Mary is hoping to chair a meeting locally with the police on 10th Oct, which she hopes people will attend. Countywide the latest school examination results were pleasing with A level passes above the national average. There is to be a consultation regarding free school transport as it appears the current arrangements are less than perfect. Suffolk Fire Service will continue as a separate entity in Suffolk and not amalgamate with the police service unlike some other councils. Finally, "Highways" have finally moved to new offices in Rougham. Anything that needs reporting should be via the web site for Suffolk CC using the programme/tool available.

5. Minutes of our last meeting- This required amendment at points 3 and 8. These were amended by the clerk, amendments agreed by all present, and then signed as in order by Cllr. England after initialling the amendments. Matters arising were the War Memorial steps, this is outstanding but will be done. Nothing further has been heard of the rats reported at the last meeting, to follow up with Cllr. Fewell. Question of the grass cutting at the sheep field. We are to ask our contractor, TOP, to have a look at adding to the schedule, to contact and ask him to meet with Cllr. England and discuss.

6. Financial Report- The accounts to 12th September were presented and agreed by all. Several payments are now due as per the accounts with an additional payment due to BDO for their audit fee, all agreed. The external audit has been received from BDO. The notice of completion was handed to Cllr England to put on the notice board, which has to be done by 30th Sept. The accountants have made 3 comments on the audit, the asset register was incomplete with more information to be shown, an amendment was needed to the Annual Return, and thirdly some standard information was missing from the papers lodged with the Return.
7. Land at Hillside- Havebury have currently not agreed to sell the land to us, they are reviewing their options. Grants can be obtained from the “leader fund” if we are successful.
8. AOB- The road at Hillside is breaking up, clerk to report to Highways at SCC. The 30mph sign opposite the entrance to Hillside has either been stolen or knocked down, report to Highways.

C Turner-Clerk