

Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council

Clerk: Mike Mortimer, Lime Tree Farmhouse, Common Road, Shelfanger, Norfolk IP22 2DR
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Summons to: All Parish Councillors

Copy: Cllr Weeks, SNDC, Cllr Spratt, NCC

Meeting of the Parish Council Monday 7th of January 2013 at 7.30 at the Village Hall AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Declaration of Interests
- 3 To agree the minutes of the meeting of the 5th of November 2012
- 4 Matters arising from the minutes
- 5 Report from County Councillor Spratt
- 6 Report from District Councillor Weeks
- 7 Highways
Report from Margaret Harris on Speedwatch
- 8 Correspondence
- 9 Planning
- 10 Finance – to finalise a precept
- 11 Allotments
Allotment Association liaison
- 12 Any Other Business
- 13 Date of next meeting

Mike Mortimer
Parish Clerk

Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council**Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th of January 2013**

The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Councillors - Vice Chairman, Mr I Cattermole, Mr R Hewitt, Mrs E Handy, Mrs J Delasalle and Mrs L Pearce. Also present were District Councillor Mr K Weeks, County Councillor Mr B Spratt, Mrs J Harvey, several members of the public and Mike Mortimer - the Clerk.

1 Apologies

Parish Councillor, Mr R Aves, (Mr Cattermole chaired the meeting) Mr B Claybrook, Ms J Porter and Ms P Dowling.

2 Declaration Of Interests

None.

3 To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th of November 2012

The Minutes were agreed.

4 Matters arising from the minutes

Mr Cattermole and the clerk agreed to pursue the matter of the plan, or lack of one, of the graves at Fersfield Church..

5 Report from County Councillor Spratt

Mr Spratt reported that the CEO of Norfolk County Council was leaving and the intention was to pay his replacement a considerably lower salary. Mr Spratt pointed out that with the growing number of over 75s it was important to get care homes up to standard. In answer to a question about the size of the budget for social services he provided a figure of 252 million pounds for adult social services. Concern was expressed from PCs and from the public about the relationship between NCC and Norse. Who were the shareholders? And more fundamentally was there an exposure to financial risk for Norfolk council tax payers. Mr Spratt said that NCC and Norse were working successfully in partnership but that regarding financial risk he would establish the situation and report back. Mr Spratt was asked by DC Weeks if members of the public could ask questions at County cabinet meetings. Mr Spratt replied that they could.

6 Report from District Councillor Weeks

With regard to retirement of NCC's CEO Mr Weeks suggested that a pay off being given to him might be being reduced as a result of the threat of legal action by South Norfolk councillors. Picking up on the subject of adult care Mr Weeks reported that the process for applying to SNC for grants for home adaptations had been streamlined to make applying quicker and easier. He expressed concern at the purchase of certain properties by SNC in its search for investments.

7 Highways

Mr Hewitt reported that he was in the process of reporting current problems to the Highways department including failed repairs to last year's potholes. There was a discussion about the problem of hedges overhanging highways and the responsibility for cutting them. It was made clear that responsibility was the land owner's but that it was not always easy to establish ownership. The ultimate sanction was for Highways to carry out the work and bill the land owner.

Mrs Harris gave a report on the activity of the Speedwatch team. The scheme had been running for six months and there were now nine volunteers, six from Fersfield and three from Bressingham. Sixty-eight letters had been sent to speeding vehicle users. There were more vehicles travelling at above the speed that would trigger a letter from the police but Mrs Harris explained that the Norfolk Constabulary was unable to send letters to registered owners outside Norfolk. Mr Cattermole thanked Mrs Harris for her efforts. A copy of the report and a letter from Chief Inspector Spinks is included with the minutes and the report will be on the website in due course.

8 Correspondence

Mrs Burroughes had sent a letter of thanks for the PC's contribution towards maintenance of the burial ground at Bressingham Church. There was a request for a donation from the Citizens Advice Bureau and it was agreed that £100 should be donated.

9 Planning

There was no information on planning applications or decisions since the last meeting. As this seemed surprising the clerk agreed to check that the flow of information from South Norfolk Council had not been interrupted.

10 Finance

A financial report was made available. To meet the PC's budget requirement in 2013/14 of £7300 the precept was set at £6731 taking into account the grant of £569 to make up for the reduction in taxbase attributable to forecast Council Tax Support awards.

11 Allotments

Karl Traynier, representing the Allotment Association, gave a report on the problems facing the allotments and on revised tenancy agreements and new constitution. He announced that there would shortly be a meeting when an action plan would be drawn up. Mr Cattermole agreed to pursue the search for somebody to deal with the weeds and Mr Lambert who was at the meeting offered to see if he could help. Mr Traynier explained that there was a considerable rat problem at the moment and that he had spent £39 pounds on poison. It was agreed that he would be reimbursed for the amount. Mr Weeks suggested contacting the Neighbourhood Officer with regard to the problem of part of the roadway at the site.

12 Any Other Business

Mr Traynier updated the council on the state of the footpaths and Mr Hewitt, Mrs Handy and Mr Traynier agreed to liaise about providing some needed signposts. Mr Hewitt complimented Mr Traynier on the suggested and described walks posted on the website. Mr Traynier was asked if he would be willing to report regularly to the PC, perhaps bi-monthly, and he agreed.

13 Date of next Meeting

4th March and 23rd April for the Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting ended at 9.30