

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 4th of March 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 7th of January 2013
- 4 Matters arising from the minutes
- 5 Report from County Councillor Spratt
- 6 Report from District Councillor Weeks
- 7 Highways
- 8 Correspondence
- 9 Planning
- 10 Finance – purchase of signs for footpaths
- 11 Allotments
Allotment Association liaison
- 12 Charities update
- 13 Any Other Business
- 14 Date of next meeting

Mike Mortimer
Parish Clerk

Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4th of March 2013

The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

Present

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

1 Apologies

Parish Councillors, Mr R Aves, (Mr Cattermole chaired the meeting) , Ms J Porter
Ms P Dowling and Mrs L Pearce.

2 Declaration Of Interests

None.

3 To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th of January 2013

The Minutes were agreed.

4 Matters arising from the minutes

Mr Cattermole reported that it had been established that an up to date plan of the graveyard at Fersfield Church did exist.

5 Report from County Councillor Spratt

Mr Spratt reported that the budget for the year ahead had been decided. He referred to the Hethel Engineering Centre and said that the government was putting money into it.

6 Report from District Councillor Weeks

Mr Weeks reported that one of the houses at Pipers Piece was becoming vacant and that priority would be given to people with a local connection. He explained that he had put up notices around the parish. It was agreed that the information be put on the website. He brought to the attention of Parish Councillors the time and place of a Neighbourhood meeting at Wortwell. He encouraged people to go saying it gave an opportunity to influence policy. Mr Weeks also reported an increase in funds available from the YOUR CHOICE community project funding body. It seemed that capital projects were eligible from now on. Mr Cattermole expressed concern that when money seemed in short supply, for roads for example, such schemes did have funds to distribute. Mr Weeks sympathised with that view.

7 Highways

Mr Hewitt provided an audit to PCs of problems he had identified with the roads of the parish – verge and bank damage, potholes and utility damage. It was agreed that the report should be sent to the Highways department. He expressed grave concern over the condition and safety of the roads and said something must be done, a view expressed by several PCs. In response Mr Spratt said there just wasn't enough money and that adult and child services were being favoured over the roads in the budget. He expressed his own concern but said that in wanting cash diverted to Highways he was in a small minority. Mr Spratt explained that a claimed response time for dealing with potholes would apply only when the backlog was dealt with – a target that would probably never be met.

He suggested a letter from the Parish Council expressing its concern be sent to Norfolk County Council and Mr Hewitt agreed to prepare one. In response to a question Mr Spratt said parishes were treated fairly throughout the county. A sub-committee on highways made up of Mr Hewitt and Mr Claybrook was established.

8 Correspondence

The CAB wrote with thanks for the donation.

9 Planning

The shortage of planning applications was noted and Mr Claybrook and the Clerk agreed to check with the South Norfolk planning system to make sure applications weren't being missed.

10 Finance

A financial report was made available. The purchase of numbers for footpath signs was agreed.

11 Allotments

The Clerk reported that somebody had been found to do the groundwork required at the allotments. The Chairman asked the Clerk to obtain a price before any work was done. It was agreed that the cost of weedkiller on the un-let plots be borne by the Parish Council.

12 Charities

The Clerk reported on progress regarding the registering of the Fuel Allotment land. Mrs Handy reported that in a meeting with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust its Chairman had expressed an interest in the land if public access could be established. He suggested a local approach to any relevant landowner who could provide it would be likely to be more successful than a formal approach from the Trust. Mr Cattermole suggested the existing access be walked to maintain the right of way.

13 Any other business

The bottle bank at the village hall came in for discussion and complaints about its immediate environment. Mr Hewitt suggested some sort of hard surface to surround it and he agreed to talk to Mr Orford about it. The head at the school and Mr Sayer of the Methodist church were added to the list of invitees to the Annual Parish Meeting.

13 Date of next Meeting

13th of May at Fersfield Church and 23rd April for the Annual Parish Meeting at the Village Hall

The meeting ended at 9.30