

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 2nd September 2013 at 7.30 at Fersfield Church AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Declaration of Interests
- 3 To agree the minutes of the meeting of the 1st of July
- 4 Matters arising from the minutes
- 5 Report from County Councillor Spratt
- 6 Report from District Councillor Weeks
- 7 Highways
- 8 Donations Policy
- 9 Correspondence
- 10 Planning
- 11 Finance Burial grounds
Allotment request
2014/15 Budget considerations
- 12 Date for next Charity Trustees meeting
- 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 2nd of September 2013

The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Councillors – Chair, Mrs J Delasalle, Councillors, Mrs E Handy, Mrs L Pearce, Mr B Claybrook, Ms P Dowling and Mrs L Holly. Also present were County Councillor, Mr B Spratt, District Councillor, Mr K Weeks, Mrs J Harvey, Mr D Jennings and the Clerk, Mike Mortimer.

1 Apologies

Mr I Cattermole, Mr R Hewitt, Mr C Scott and Ms C Meek

2 Declaration Of Interests

None

3 To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st of July 2013

The Minutes were agreed.

4 Matters arising from the minutes

As Ms Meek of the toddlers group had sent her apologies the clerk was asked to contact here and enquire about the situation regarding insurance and CRB checks.

- 4a** At this point an additional item was considered as Mr Jennings who rents some parish land wanted to make a statement. He informed the meeting of the existence of mares tail on the land and that it was causing his horses harm. He asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to help with cost of clearing it and reduce the rent for the next year as only half the land would be useable. It was agreed that the PC might consider some help and Mr Jennings was asked to establish some costs and contact the clerk.

5 Report from County Councillor Spratt

Mr Spratt announced that high speed broadband should be available to most people in Norfolk in 2015. He also reported on the need for cuts of £190 million over three years though an extra £5 million had been agreed for children's services. On roads he explained that a new contract for maintenance had been awarded to Lafarge Tarmac and that the Northern Distributor Road had been given the go-ahead.

6 Report from District Councillor Weeks

Mr Weeks said he had little to report as there were no meetings during the summer.

7 Highways

The problems facing residents of The Street in Fersfield were discussed. There was a predominant view that the people directly concerned should form an action group and establish a clear aim. Then the Parish Council would give it all the support it could. The clerk agreed to write to those concerned. Mr Weeks pointed out that Highways at NCC had a new head and that perhaps it would be useful to renew requests for road improvements and further speed control measures. Several councilors expressed the view that agricultural vehicle drivers were not always considerate towards the local population. It was suggested that all local farmers using the parish roads should be written to and the clerk was asked to contact Parish Councillor Scott to establish some names and addresses. Mr Claybrook suggested cycling be promoted and he agreed to write something for the website.

8 Donations Policy

Mr Claybrook called for a clear donations policy so that the PC could be sure its money was being properly used. There was agreement with the principle and Mr Claybrook was asked to prepare something. Mrs Delasalle asked if it could be kept simple without too much bureaucracy. The clerk pointed out that Mr Hewitt had produced a document some time ago and Mr Claybrook agreed to consult with Mr Hewitt.

9 Correspondence

There was none

10 Planning

A report was made available.

11 Finance

A report was made available.

It was agreed that each of the PCCs should be given £400 for burial ground maintenance.

With regard to various costs and maintenance of the allotments it was suggested that the Allotment Association might be given greater autonomy to fix rents and manage maintenance. Mrs Pearce and Mrs Delasalle agreed to arrange a meeting with representatives of the association to explore possibilities. All agreed that it was important that the PC should retain ultimate control.

The clerk asked if there were any specific requests regarding the 2014/15 budget. Councillors asked if they could consider the matter and contact the clerk with suggestions for final consideration at the next meeting.

12 Date of next Charity Trustees meeting

It was agreed that a date would be fixed in the future. Mrs Handy reported that the three charities had finally been merged and that the registering of the land was going ahead. Mrs Handy informed councillors that Fen Farm was being purchased by Mr Lambert who, in a letter to the trustees which she gave to the PC, offered to consider changing the terms of the right of way from Fen Street to the charity land.

Mrs Handy passed the Barclay's cheque book to Mrs Delasalle as one of the sub-committee dealing with the everyday running of the charity.

13 Any other business

None

14 Date of next Meeting

4th of November 2013 at 7.30 in the Village Hall