

Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council

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Summons to: All Parish Councillors

Copy: Cllr Weeks, SNDC, Cllr Spratt, NCC

Meeting of the Parish Council Monday 3rd of March 2014 at 7.30 in the Village Hall AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Declaration of Interests
- 3 To agree the minutes of the meeting of the 6th of January 2014
- 4 Matters arising from the minutes
- 5 Report from County Councillor Spratt
- 6 Report from District Councillor Weeks
- 7 Co-option new Parish Councillor
- 8 Highways
- 9 Correspondence
- 10 Planning
- 11 Finance
- 12 Allotments
- 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 3rd of March 2014

The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Councillors – Chair, Mr I Cattermole, Councillors, Mrs J Delasalle, Ms Pam Dowling, Mrs L Pearce, Mr B Claybrook, Mrs L Holly, Mr R Hewitt, Mr K Traynier, County Councillor, Mr B Spratt, District Councillor Mr K Weeks, Mrs J Harvey, Mike Mortimer, the clerk and several members of the public.

1 Apologies

None.

2 Declaration Of Interests

None.

3 To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th of January 2014

The Minutes were agreed.

4 Matters arising from the minutes

None.

5 Report from County Councillor Spratt

Mr Spratt reported that the budget had been settled and council tax would be frozen. Roads had not come out of the budget well and savings made in contract changes were not staying with Highways.

Mr Spratt explained that a committee system rather than a cabinet one was to be implemented at the end of May.

The future of the planned incinerator at Kings Lynn was still awaiting a decision from the Communities Secretary.

One of Norfolk's highest costs at 50 million pounds was for children in care, the county having the largest number of children in care of any county. Several councillors expressed concern or dismay and Mr Spratt agreed to furnish more details.

6 Report from District Councillor Weeks

Mr Weeks reported a number of new appointments. One was for boosting business in market towns such as Diss, another to improve purchasing efficiency and a third to deal with Freedom of Information requests.

He explained how the chamber at Swan Lane was being altered with the fixed furniture being removed thus enabling greater and more flexible use of its space.

7 Co-option of new Parish Councillors

After a unanimous vote Mrs Tanya Marshall was co-opted and was welcomed to the council by Mr Cattermole.

8 Highways

Mr Hewitt had provided councillors with an extensive list of defects in the parish's roads. A copy is in the minute book. He did concede that those in Suffolk seemed little better but that did not negate the appalling state of the roads in the parish. It was generally agreed their condition was a matter of grave concern. Mrs Holly referred to the problem of ditches not being looked after and agreed to write a piece for the website to raise concern in the hope of getting those responsible to maintain them. Damage to verges was identified as an issue as well as potholes. Mr Hewitt said he was going to ask Mr Overland from Highways to accompany him on an inspection of the areas concerned and asked others to email him with any additions.

9 Correspondence

Following prior correspondence Mrs Webb and other members of the Village Hall Association attended the meeting and provided the parish council with a second estimate for the staging it hopes to buy. It was considerably higher than the first (£5379 as opposed to around £4000). The condition of the structure of the hall was a concern to some councillors and a view was expressed that priority might be given to those repairs. Mrs Webb argued that the staging would mean more lettings resulting in higher income which would produce a healthier financial position allowing ongoing maintenance. She explained that the association could provide some money and that the parish charity had been approached as well. She was, she said, hoping for £2000 from the parish council.

Mr Weeks pointed out that there was a person at South Norfolk dedicated to funding advice and passed on the name to Mrs Webb. The parish council agreed to donate £2000 if the fund adviser was approached first and that the other funds were forthcoming. Mrs Webb agreed to report before the next meeting.

10 Planning

A report was made available. A copy is in the minute book. Considerable disappointment was expressed at South Norfolk's decision to approve the anaerobic digester at The Oaks.

11 Finance

A report was made available. A copy is in the minute book.

12 Allotments

Mrs Delasalle explained that work on the hedges and ditches which had to be postponed was due to start shortly. A meeting with the Allotment Association was scheduled for the 6th of March to make final adjustments to the agreement giving the AA greater autonomy. One area of disagreement was the length of the lease to the AA by the council. It was agreed that the lease could be changed to 15 years as the AA requested. Mr Cattermole suggested and it was agreed that a solicitor view the agreement to be sure it was legally acceptable.

Mr Jennings who leases the lower part of the land for grazing brought to the attention of councillors that half of it was unusable as a result of the Equisetum Arvense (Mare's tail) which was rampant. Mr Jennings was asked to report back with a proposal for and cost of making the land usable again.

12 Any other business

Mr Claybrook reported on the work he and Mrs Holly had been asked to do on the donations policy. They had concluded that the original was basically sound but that a few modifications could be made. Mr Cattermole asked Mr Claybrook to email the revised document to councillors.

Mrs Pearce reported that the parish charity land had at last been registered.

13 Date of next meeting

12th of May 2014 at Fersfield Church.