

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 9th of January 2012 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 November 2011
- 4 Matters arising from the minutes
- 5 Report from County Councillor Spratt
- 6 Report from District Councillor Weeks
- 7 Parish Plan
- 8 Highways
- 9 Correspondence
- 10 Planning
- 11 Finance - consider donation to NARS
- 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 9th of January 2012

The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

Present

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

1 Apologies

Ms P Dowling and Mr D Craggs

2 Declaration Of Interests

None.

3 To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th of November 2011

The Minutes were agreed.

4 Matters arising from the minutes

There were none.

5 Report from County Councillor Spratt

Mr Spratt said he was pleased that the recent meeting between a group of Parish Councillors and Bob West of Highways had been positive. Mr Spratt stated that the budget of thirty million pounds that Highways required for the year had been reduced to twenty-three million. He pointed out that the mild weather had helped with gritting costs.

The County Council had received eight point six million pounds from the government for holding council tax at the same level, he reported, and he expressed the hope and expectation that the tax would remain the same for next year.

Mr Spratt commented on positive progress regarding the proposed incinerator at Kings Lynn to which Mr Hewitt took exception pointing out that many people didn't want it built. Mr Spratt expressed the view that the time to consider all issues including health and safety was at the planning stage and that some solution to the waste problem was needed urgently.

6 Report from District Councillor Weeks

Mr Weeks announced that he had become an independent Councillor because as a member of a party he felt compromised about speaking out on certain issues particularly that of CILs. He expressed a fear that councils may have to borrow millions to finance the scheme at a possible interest rate of 66% if it were to be implemented in one of the ways being considered. On the subject of recycling he said that SNDC was constantly examining ways of widening the scheme. Several Parish Councillors commented on excessive packaging.

Mr Hewitt said he was pleased to see Mr Weeks back from illness and looking well.

7 Parish Plan

Mrs Craggs announced that she was taking up one of the concerns raised in the plan, namely recycling. She said a location, perhaps the village hall car park, where more materials could be deposited for recycling was required. Several Councillors made suggestions about what might be recycled and how to get the best return. Mrs Craggs asked if there might be financial help from the District or Parish Council. Mr Weeks replied that there might well be and Mr Aves said it could be considered. Mr Cattermole and Mr Hewitt disagreed over the state of the newspaper recycling facility at the airfield.

8 Highways

Mr Aves complimented Mr Hewitt on the work he had done in preparation for the meeting with Bob West of Highways. Mr Aves and Mr Hewitt expressed the view that the meeting had been positive and that Mr West had agreed that all of the sites listed needed attention. Some of the problems identified were already being dealt with though others, according to Mr West, would have to wait for more favourable weather conditions in the spring Mr Aves reported.

9 Correspondence

The Clerk read a letter from the CAB asking for a donation. Councillors agreed that the CAB did valuable work and voted to make a donation of £250

10 Planning

A report was provided.

11 Finance

A report was provided.

A donation of £150 to the Norfolk Accident and Rescue Service was agreed,

Mr Cattermole asked why the donation to Fersfield for maintenance of its burial ground was less than the one to Bressingham. It was agreed that a supplementary payment be made to Fersfield PCC to bring the sum into line with Bressingham's.

Possible uses of the capital built up in recent years were explored and a sub committee of Mrs Handy, Mr Hewitt, Mrs Delasalle and Ms Porter was set up. Mr Hewitt agreed to organise a meeting. Mr Weeks pointed out that quite large projects could be funded by the Parish Council and District Council in co-operation and he provided the contact at South Norfolk.

The Clerk was asked to research a possible replacement for the Parish laptop which was now more than ten years old.

12 Any Other Business

Mr Hewitt informed the meeting that the Fersfield PCC had asked if there might be any funds available for improving the access to the church. He pointed out that if the church was to be considered a community asset then it might be appropriate. Mr Cattermole suggested that a quote for the work be provided and discussed at the next meeting which the Council agreed. There was further agreement that an equivalent payment might be made to Bressingham. In response to a question from Mr Cattermole Mr Aves stated that each of the churches had received £600 from the Summer Event at Blooms. Mrs Craggs told the meeting that a group to organise a jubilee celebration was now in existence. Mrs Handy reported on her communication with BT on the disused phone box. It was agreed that the Parish Council should not adopt the box.

13 Date of next meeting

5th of March 2012 to be held at the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.25