

# **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 5<sup>th</sup> March 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 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012
- 4 Matters arising from the minutes
- 5 Report from County Councillor Spratt
- 6 Report from District Councillor Weeks
- 7 Townlands Charity
- 8 Highways
- 9 Correspondence
- 10 Planning - consider response to planning consultation
- 11 Finance – report from spending working group  
consider donation to SARS
- 12 Jubilee mugs
- 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 5th of March 2012**

The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

**Present**

Councillors - Chairman, Mr R Aves, Mrs E Handy, Mr R Hewitt, Ms P Dowling, 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 J Porter, Mrs J Delasalle, Mr D Craggs, Mrs S Craggs, Mr I Cattermole.

**2 Declaration Of Interests**

None.

**3 To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2012**

The Minutes were agreed.

**4 Matters arising from the minutes**

Mr Aves asked County Councillor Spratt for his view of the fear expressed by District Councillor Weeks that the CIL policy being pursued could result in huge debt burdens for the local authorities. Mr Spratt replied that the picture was very muddled but that he did feel that council officers might be overoptimistic about the income to be generated by CILs which could result in an over commitment on infrastructure spending on the expectation of CIL income.

Mr Aves asked Mr Hewitt for his assessment of the situation of the paper recycling store. Mr Hewitt reported it as sometimes messy but satisfactory.

**5 Report from County Councillor Spratt**

Mr Spratt announced that work on the Northen Distributor Road would be starting soon. He expressed concern at the rising burden on the County of the cost of concessionary bus fares. He was asked by Ms Dowling if there was an internet petition regarding broadband speed. He replied that there was and that the outcome was awaited. Ms Dowling urged everyone to say yes and Mrs Handy pointed out that there was a link to the SAY YES TO FASTER BROADBAND campaign on the Parish website.

With regard to the Parish's intention to spend some of its reserves Mr Spratt informed Councillors that the County might help financially with certain projects such as footpaths.

**6 Report from District Councillor Weeks**

Mr Weeks told the meeting that an announcement was imminent on the decision of the authority on its plans for development following the site specific policies consultation. He brought to Councillor's attention a fund from the Waveney Neighbourhood Board which will be available later in the year. Mr Weeks recommended that Councillors try to attend the next meeting of the board which was to be at The Pennoyer Centre in Pulham St Mary on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. On the matter of CILs he reiterated his fears that there could be a large financial shortfall.

**7 Town Lands Charity**

Mrs Handy informed Councillors that the trustees of the charity wished to change its remit to include Fersfield. Further she hoped it would be possible to combine the Parish's three small charities into one which could be more effective. It was agreed that both ideas were good ones though of course it was ultimately a matter for the charity's trustees to make an application to the Charities Commission. Mr Aves expressed the opinion that the best way forward for the fuel allotment charity was to sell its land and invest the capital as it would create a much greater return. He was in favour of combining the charities.

**8 Highways**

Ms Dowling circulated a letter from a parishioner complaining about the condition of Common Road. The Clerk was asked to forward the letter to the Highways department and ask for a response. On the general highways situation Mr Aves said he was expecting more work to be done in the spring and Mr Hewitt said he was planning another survey soon.

**9 Correspondence**

The Chairman read a letter from Mr Geoff Harvey resigning from his post as Footpath Warden. Councillors expressed their considerable gratitude to Mr Harvey for his work over 20 years. Mr Aves informed Councillors that he had approached Mr Bartrum about the role and the Clerk agreed to pursue the matter. It was agreed that an advertisement be put into the Cock Crow and the website.

**10 Planning**

A report was provided.

A sub committee was set up to formulate a response to the planning principles consultation and a meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March was agreed.

**11 Finance**

A report was provided.

The spending working group produced a document stating the terms by which grants would be made and a proposed application form. Copies were distributed to other Councillors. Mr Hewitt suggested applications be sought after the May meeting of the Parish Council and the availability of grants announced at the Parish Meeting in April.

A payment of £75 to SARS was agreed.

**12 Jubilee mugs**

Mrs Handy reported that the Jubilee Committee had decided that the donation of a mug to each household in the Parish would be appropriate. Funding was being sought, she said, and the Parish Council agreed to underwrite and if necessary fund the cost of around £2200 for 396 mugs. Mrs Handy suggested that they be distributed at the Jubilee events. It was agreed that the wording on the mugs should refer to "Bressingham and Fersfield" and "Parish Council".

**13 Any Other Business**

Ms Dowling reported on a meeting of the Parish Plan Committee. It was pleased to announce that many of the action points were already being addressed. The Treasurer had provided accounts showing a £200 balance which the Committee planned to divide between the two villages for their jubilee events.

Several Councillors were keen to see more meetings held at the church in Fersfield and it was agreed that the May, July and September meetings be held there.

**14 Date of next meeting**

14<sup>th</sup> of May to be held at Fersfield Church.

The meeting ended at 9.50