

Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council

Clerk: Mike Mortimer, Lime Tree Farmhouse, Common Road, Shelfanger, Norfolk IP22 2DR
Tel: 01379 642763 email:bressingham.pc@tiscali.co.uk

Summons to: All Parish Councillors

Meeting of the Parish Council Tuesday 14th of August 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 2nd of July 2012
- 4 Matters arising from the minutes
- 5 Matters relating to Fersfield Street
Traffic
Speedwatch
- 6 Date of next meeting

Mike Mortimer
Parish Clerk

Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th of August 2012

The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Councillors - Chairman, Mr R Aves, Mr R Hewitt, Ms P Dowling, Mrs E Handy, Mrs J Delasalle and District Councillor Mr K Weeks. Also present were, Mrs J Harvey, Mr G Day of Simpsons, many members of the public and Mike Mortimer - the Clerk.

1 Apologies

Parish Councillors Mr I Cattermole, and Ms J Porter and County Councillor Mr B Spratt

2 Declaration Of Interests

None.

3 To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd of July 2012

The Minutes were agreed.

4 Matters arising from the minutes

There were none.

5 The Street, Fersfield

A proposal to support the Speedwatch scheme was agreed by 7 votes to 0

The meeting was then opened for public discussion regarding traffic in The Street, Fersfield.

There were many complaints about the nature and behaviour of traffic in The Street. Sub-contractor's lorries going to the grain store were the most cited as a problem for speeding and rude and aggressive behaviour. There was general agreement that Simpsons' own lorry drivers normally travelled carefully through the village. Another category of vehicle criticised was farm vehicles which have bigger and bigger and some beet lorries. Much of the problem, it was agreed, was that the road simply wasn't adequate in quality of width for the type of traffic using it. It was pointed out that in 1986 the County Surveyor for Norfolk recommended that Breckland District Council be directed to reject the application for the grain store on the airfield on the grounds that the roads serving it were inadequate. Several speakers described the horror of experiencing large numbers of heavy lorries travelling close to their homes from very early in the morning and throughout the day. There were other accounts of dangerous situations, damage to private hedges and verges and aggressive behaviour from some drivers. The extent to which the problem was short term during harvest time was considered but there was limited agreement.

Mr Day said he was doing what he could to make the sub-contractors adhere to the same rules as his own drivers though his power was limited. He explained that his company was in the process of putting up signs at the entrance to the village with the intention of improving the way all vehicles travelled to the store.

There were many solutions suggested to solve or at least improve the problem. They included calls for the 30mph speed limit in The Street to be extended to the airfield, for that limit to be reduced to 20mph, for the speed limit to be in place all the way from the A1066, for the road to be properly upgraded with passing places and for an alternative route into the airfield. Laura Gosman volunteered to arrange a petition.

Mr Weeks pointed out that they could express their concerns to their District and County representatives and even their MP all of whom carried more weight than the Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed to pursue the matter of extending and reducing speed limits and to deal urgently with the matter of the markings at the junction of Airfield Road and The Street.

6 Date of next meeting

3rd of September at Fersfield Church

The meeting ended at 9.45