

**PRESENT:** Mr M Argent (Chairman), Mr G Plater (Vice Chairman), Mrs P Bell, Mrs J Breese, Mrs J Evans, Miss P Johnson, Mrs S Lewis, Mr M Manning, Miss V Pizzey, Mr J Ridd, Mr M Roseveare,

**Also present:** Mr M Bond (County Councillor)

1. **APOLOGIES** were received from Mr P Revett, Mr C Tucker and Mr B Hall

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mrs P Bell, Miss P Johnson and Mr A Biddle (Clerk) all declared a prejudicial interest in item 11.1 (allotment rents) as allotment tenants and left the meeting whilst this matter was discussed. Mrs J Evans declared a personal interest in Item 6 Car Parks.

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2009 were signed as a true record.

4. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Mr Bond reported that he had written to the Chief Executive of the National Health Service (NHS) in Suffolk on the relationship between the NHS and Take Care Now who provided out of hours doctors services. He felt that the service provided by TCN fell short of what was acceptable and he wanted the NHS to enforce the contract between the two organisations if there was one. The Chief Executives response was unclear and apparently Wickham Market was not guaranteed an out of hours service although part of the Resource Centre was built on this basis. Mr Hall was looking into the history of the Centre and TCN hours of attendance.

Mr Bond had reported all the facts to the Chairman of the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee and he asked that any resident with examples of being let down by the current out of hours service contact him.

He was also waiting for a response about why brown tourist signs could not be provided at Wickham market when they had been at Saxmundham.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

5.1 RESOLVED

That a sum of £140 be spent on repainting the railings around the war memorial.

- 5.2 Lehman House – Mrs Bell reported that accredited courses for carers up to NVQ level 2 would be provided at Lehmann House. With regard to the Social Amenity Outreach Fund the County Council had agreed to provide £2,500 per year over the next three years. The Parish Council would act only as fundholder whilst applications for grants from the fund would be considered by a panel whose membership would be chosen randomly from representatives of village organisations. This would be supported by an officer from the British Legion. The maximum grant was likely to be £250 and the scheme was likely to start from 1 October 2009.

She thanked John Hoe, Pat Roper and Don Berry for their help.

## 6. CAR PARKS

- 6.1 Italian Market – Mrs Evans reported that a small group had met to organise the coming of the market on 14 November 2009. The event would be advertised in the Community News, on radio and through posters and leaflets. The Hill car park would be closed from 6pm on Friday 13 November to 7pm on Saturday 14 November. Stalls would start setting up around 6am on Saturday and be packed up by 6pm on Saturday. Market hours were from 9am to 4pm on Saturday. She was actively seeking any alternative car parking areas and the Clerk was writing to all the shopkeepers on the Hill to advise them of the closure of the car park.

On the same day there was a table top sale at the village hall.

- 6.2 Christmas Tree lighting – agreed that the lights on the Christmas Tree on the Hill would be turned on at 6.30pm on 14 December 2009.

## 7. OPEN SESSION – no issues were raised by the general public.

## 8. POLICE MATTERS

- 8.1 Mr Hoe reported that there had been a large increase in reported crime in the village. A lot of criminal damage had been done over the summer months. He encouraged the public to report immediately any crime that they saw. He felt that it was now time for Wickham Market to do the same as Aldeburgh Town Council and make public their anger at what was being done in the village. He also thought that the Parish Council should request the Suffolk Police to increase the level of policing in the village to one which would deter those carrying out these acts. The situation in the village would be tasked by the Safer Neighbourhood Team in the immediate future.

The Council discussed the matter and felt that the nightly closure of the Percy Mason car park might help if it was feasible.

RESOLVED

1. That the Chairman of the Parish Council write to Suffolk Police requesting an increase in the level of policing in the village.
2. That the Clerk contact Suffolk Coastal District Council on the feasibility of closing the Percy Mason car park at night.

**9. SPORT AND LEISURE – no issues for discussion**

**10. PLANNING MATTERS**

- 10.1 Permission had been given for tree work to be carried out in a conservation area. This entailed a 30% canopy reduction at 1 Two House Close, Wickham Market IP13 0RA
- 10.2 Applications dealt with since your last meeting
  1. Greystone House, 87 High Street, Wickham Market, IP13 0JL – application for the demolition of outbuilding to facilitate erection of new dwelling and erection of dwelling (objections were submitted in respect of both applications)
  2. 14-18 High Street, Wickham Market IP13 0HE – application By East of England Co-operative Society for mixed use development comprising of retail store and 13 dwellings with associated car parking and landscaping (no objection was submitted but some observations were made)

**11. ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

- 11.1 Allotment rents - The revenue costs of providing the two allotment sites continued to increase, particularly the cost of providing water. Total allotment costs in 2008/09 were approximately £2,000 including some one off agreed costs of bringing the Glebe site into good order. The income for the year was £1,600.

Consequently it was now time to consider increasing allotment rents and as the Parish Council has to give one year's notice of an increase it:

RESOLVED

That from 1 October 2010 rents be increased to £25 for a full plot (currently £22) and £12.50 for a half plot (currently £11).

**12. CEMETERY MATTERS**

- 12.1 Some planting was being organised to delineate the edges of the original Garden of Rest as agreed by the Council in July 2009. Anne Westover was preparing a management plan for the cemetery over the next 3 to 4 years. This would be presented as soon as possible.

**13. HIGHWAY MATTERS – no issues for discussion.**

**14. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

- 14.1 Bi-monthly accounts July/August – these were noted and accepted

- 14.2 Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) over the next three years was likely to see a 20% reduction in its income, mainly as a result of reduced government grant.

Consequently SCDC had started to look for ways that it could reduce its costs over the same period. It was in the process of prioritising its services to try and get an idea where cuts, if necessary, would be acceptable and where they would not.

The Parish Council felt that identifying service reductions was extremely difficult at a parish level. However they stressed the need for there to be a level playing field when it came to the provision of local facilities. Wickham Market provided and paid for its own cemetery, play areas, playing fields etc. It was time that larger parishes (eg Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Leiston) took on the same level of ownership and responsibility. This might reduce SCDC spending a little.

- 14.3 Arising out of the Council's internal auditor's report for 2008/09 was the need for the Parish Council to confirm that it was not liable for any tax or NI contributions payable by the new clerk.

#### RESOLVED

That the above be confirmed.

- 14.4 The dates for next years' Parish Council meetings were as follows: 18 January, 15 March, 19 April (Annual Parish Meeting), 17 May, 19 July, 20 September and 15 November 2010.
- 14.5 Members Interests – members were provided with a brief reminder of their responsibilities under the Members Code of Conduct.
- 14.6 The Parish Council/Partnership were putting applications together to try and obtain business development grants from the Economic Development Support Fund run by Suffolk Coastal DC (SCDC). The investigation into tourist road signs into the village was continuing but in the meantime work had been carried out to prepare a new tourism leaflet for the village. Mr Keith Cunningham, who had been carrying out the preparatory work explained that they were now in a position to apply for grant by the end of September 2009.

The leaflet was aimed at tourists and possibly residents in the local area. He distributed a mock up of the leaflet which could be produced at a guesstimated cost of £3,800.

If successful the grant from (SCDC) would cover about 70% of the cost and if the scheme could attract a high level of local, independent funding, then that would improve its chances of being successful. The remaining 30% was about £1100 and in accordance with the application form he was seeking a letter of support and some grant aid from the Parish Council.

The Parish Council supported the leaflet which hopefully would attract visitors to the village and:

#### RESOLVED

1. That a letter of support be sent to Suffolk Coastal District Council
2. That a grant of £200 be made towards the cost of the leaflet

## 15. CORRESPONDENCE

- 15.1 A letter had been received from the Editor of the East Anglian Daily Times (EADT) that it wanted to improve coverage of community news and asking every parish/town council in Suffolk to email them their minutes of meetings etc so that they can be published in the EADT or a weekly newspaper or one of their websites.

The Parish Council agreed that the approved minutes could be sent to the EADT

- 15.3 The Wickham Market Village Hall Committee had met on 10 August 2009. Mrs Exton had resigned as Chairman and Mrs Margaret Holland had taken over the role for one year only. The Flower Show was a success with more entries from the school.

- 15.4 A letter had been received from two residents of Broad Road indicating concern that the new stretch of pavement at the top of Broad Road adjacent to Sweet Dreams, was not wide enough to allow a wheelchair to be pushed along it and sloped towards the road which caused concern to elderly pedestrians.

They would like to see the pavement widened to 90cms in width and the slope reduced. As the junction is busy they suggest a priority system be introduced whereby vehicles leaving the shopping area have priority over vehicles approaching up Broad Road.

The Parish Council agreed that to force cars coming up Broad Road and stopping at the junction further right, even by 10cms meant that the vehicular access to the road from the Hill became even more difficult. The introduction of a priority system was going to lead to operational difficulties.

They noted that the County Council had advised that to implement the changes required to the pavement and priority system would cost between £8,000 and £10,000 and they had greater priority call on that amount of money.

The Parish Council did not support the proposal.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm