

## **KIRTON & FALKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Recreation Ground Pavilion**

### **PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

**PRESENT** 10 Parish Councillors, Mrs P O'Brien (CC), Mrs S B Harvey (DC), Mr G A Harding (DC), 2 Parishioners.

#### 1. **Police Report**

The Police sent their apologies, but submitted a written report recording 2 burglaries in the Parish during the past month. Councillors were disturbed by this as there had been 2 similar incidents in the previous month Clerk to write and seek clarification on progress and statistics on whether the "low" incidence of crime is being maintained. Questions were raised about speeding, which highlighted that some 30mph signs were obscured. Agreed a survey should be done of the condition of signs throughout the Parish; Councillor Last to do Kirton and Councillor Shaw Falkenham. The Trimley/Back Roads junction was discussed and will be referred to the next police community meeting.

#### 2. **Parishioners Questions**

In response to a parishioner the Clerk confirmed that SCC had been reminded about the renewal of the road markings at the east end of Rectory Lane and the drain in the lay-by.

#### 3. **County Councillor's Report**

Mrs O'Brien (CC) apprised the Council of her duties following her re-election; currently she is involved with Public Protection and the Police & Crime scrutiny committee. She referred the Council and parishioners to the invitation to comment on proposed Transport Schemes, across Suffolk & Norfolk, benefiting from a £39m investment. Attention was drawn to Suffolk's Trading Standards Team posting product recalls on the web site. The Locality Budget for the Parish will this year be £1250. She advised that SCC would be discussing the Cambridge toll road upgrade of A14. Mrs O'Brien was questioned about the relationship between funding for the A14 improvements and upgrading the Orwell Bridge. The Risk Assessments of the fall-out from an extended closure of the bridge was questioned and Mrs O'Brien would raise this with SCC Highways.

#### 4. **District Councillors' Reports**

Mr Harding reported that in September resurfacing will take place of the section A14 between Docks Spur/Trimley interchanges, consideration would be given to the supermarket applications in the next month and Trimley St Mary allotments. Mrs Harvey reported on an initiative between Flagship/CAB/Food Bank to be held in the Church Hall starting in October. Both Councillors made reference to the adoption of the Core Strategy by SCDC. Mrs Harvey asked about progress on the Meadowlands plot and the owner will be asked to effect a clearance.

5. **PTLO Report**

Nothing reported.

**PARISH COUNCIL**

**PRESENT:** Messrs I Cade, A P Hutton, D Jacobs (Chair), F Last, M A Paul, G Walker, Ms EY Choi, Mesdames J L Matthews, J L Shaw, E A Colville, Mrs P M O'Brien (CC), Mrs S B Harvey (DC), Mr G A Harding (DC), and 2 parishioners.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Councillor Cooper, PCs Gledhill and Bown, Mr R A Kerry (DC).

2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2013 having been previously circulated were taken as read, approved and signed.

**ACTION**

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

i) **Scout Community Week** Chairman will discuss again with Mr Barker

**DJ**

ii) **SpeedWatch** Issues of speeding and warning signs will be discussed at next Police Community Meeting.

iii) **Safeguarding policy** Councillor Cade had discussed this with his wife who had some experience in this area (c130422) and Councillor Colville had spoken to SALC who advised that it is to be put to solicitors Prettys; a revised book is to be published and suggested Council wait for feedback from SALC.

**SALC**

iv) **Homestart/CAB AGM** Councillor Colville had attended these; in both cases funding is a concern, CAB is concerned about the effects of changes in welfare provision.

v) **Locality budget** The Recreation Ground had sent a request for assistance in the purchase of stacking chairs (c130519) as it wanted to replace the heavy armchairs. Council questioned the high price quoted for the chairs and felt a cheaper alternative could be found. No decision reached. Other suggestions included contributions to mobile speed cameras, a Ball Wll and Village Shop.

**COUNC**

vi) **Emergency Planning** Chairman had collected information from recent seminars (c130439) and progress was ongoing.

**DJ**

4. **MOBILE SKATEBOARD**

Nothing to report

5. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

i) **Community Action Suffolk** No action on lunch (c130410). Periodic newsletters (c130464/504) circulated.

ii) **Suffolk libraries** Article from SALC (c130427) sent to Review and to

be placed on website.

iii) Suffolk Foundation Grant update for June (c130438) circulated, new name noted (c130451).

iv) New Councillors Guide Update from SALC (c130453) circulated.

v) School parking and speeding issues Various views from residents (c130474/76/78/86), (c130479) Noted and responded to.

vi) Suffolk Community awards Circulated for action (c130462).

vii) SALC - Jayne Cole Agreed Clerk would send message on her leaving SALC (c130510/24). **CLERK**

viii) Docks LALC meeting Agreed Clerk, Councillors Cade and Hutton would attend meeting at Felixstowe on 12<sup>th</sup> September (c139518). **CLERK**

## 6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### a) **Planning** (attached)

i) Flagship Chairman had met with Flagship on 5 June (c130414) and reported on flagship intentions to demolish 1 Burnt House Lane; further action would depend on need. Positive reactions were given over a footpath to Weir Place.

ii) Core Strategy Councillor Cade had attended briefing meeting (c130523) with SCDC. Councillor Cade had circulated views on the Inspectors report to Councillors/District Councillors, (C130429/30) covering Employment Land and Housing. Feedback from SCDC (c130469) and exchanges between Tr St Martin PC and SCDC (c130055/6) noted.

iii) Off-Shore windfarm Rule 8 letter received from EAON (c130512) noted.

### b) **Finance**

i) Bank a/c Statements for Community and Business A/Cs, April - June received (c130416/7).

ii) VAT Refund of £899.69 received from HMRC (c130469); £474.05 refunded to Recreation Ground.

iii) External audit BDO had questioned the level of reserves held by the Council (c130522); Clerk had responded with explanations referring to tree survey and possible village shop contribution.

### c) **Environment & Transport**

i) Village Green Hedge Clerk to seek quote from D Cope. **CLERK**

ii) Oak Moth Information from SCDC on symptoms (c130425) noted

iii) Bus services Revisions from ESE (c130455) noted by PTLO.

iv) Local Transport Body Information from SALC on listing from Norfolk & Suffolk Transport Body for comment (c139457) circulated.

v) Air Quality Report from SCDC (c130485) circulated for information.

vi) Suffolk Coast Forum Conference on 10<sup>th</sup> October (c130496) circulated for information and action.

**d) Recreation Ground**

Nothing to report

**7. SALC REPORT**

i) Local Authority Info Service LAIS 1352 Voting Age, LAIS 1353 Precept data, LAIS 1354 Comm. infrast. levy guide (c130412/43), LAIS LUD (c130459) circulated for information.

ii) Area meeting Sizewell report (c130420), Quiet Lane report (c130441) for area meeting circulated for information.

iii) Pay Scales Current scales for Clerks (c130502) noted.

**8. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

Other correspondence as listed on agenda noted.

**9. MATTERS FOR INCLUSION IN FUTURE AGENDA**

Locality budget, Safeguarding, Speedwatch, Village shop,

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013 in RG pavilion at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PLANNING

		<u>PC</u>	<u>SCDC</u>
<u>Existing applications</u>			
C13/1196/7	Falkenham Hall, Falkenham Proposed conversion of out building to residential annexe and cart lodge extension.	Support Drainage?	Granted

#### New applications

C13//1250	The Cockles, Back Road, Kirton (B&M) Removal of existing bldgs on site, construction of new office and storage bldg.	No comments	Granted
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### FINANCE

Cheques written since last meeting:- C A Shaw £254.80 (clerk's salary), HMRC £36.20 (paye), SALC £60 (LC Admin book).

2013/2014 Budget Monitor	Budget	9 Sept '13
	£	£
Clerk's salary/PAYE	3500	1455
Subscriptions	600	528
Electricity	30	24
Insurances	1600	
Miscellaneous (audit, broadband etc)	700	291
Clerk/Councillor expenses	450	
Training	400	
Grants	1200	
Publicity	500	
Environmental Services	1615	
Reserves		
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Less VAT Refund	100	426
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GENERAL ACCOUNT PRECEPT	10495	1872
RG GRANT/VAT REFUNDS	4500	2724
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TOTAL PRECEPT/EXPENDITURE	14995	4596

### ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

PTLO We have made some progress in restoring the 173/4 Woodbridge-Kirton-Felixstowe service around the Back Road/Falkenham Road loop. Suffolk County Council have agreed to provide a **DAILY** service around the loop (ie on school days, non school days and Saturdays), from 2nd September. It will work like this:

The main change is to the current 09.35 from Woodbridge to Felixstowe which arrives in Kirton at about 10am. This has been brought forward to depart from Woodbridge at 09.05. I will then operate via the Kirton loop around 09.30 - 09.32 to allow residents to travel into Felixstowe. This will also give passengers an earlier arrival in the town centre, before 10.00, to allow for earlier

appointments when the new Medical Centre opens at the end of the year. The return journey from Felixstowe will depart at 12.20 opposite Great Eastern Square due at the Kirton loop 12.39 to 12.41. Apart from returning from Felixstowe this would also allow residents who live around the loop to travel to Woodbridge. The last Beestons 173 bus from Woodbridge at 17.10 will continue as now to go via the loop. With current levels of patronage I think that is the best we can hope for. It will give a door to door service for elderly residents living on Back Road and Falkenham Rd.

Paul Negus September '13

## **RECREATION GROUND**

**Pavilion :** The plumber is proving very elusive regarding the replacement of the 'dead' accumulator tank in the plant room. I have yet to get a definite date. As he is £300 cheaper than other quotes, I will continue to pursue for now. Two of the changing rooms and the 2 outside timber doors have been redecorated, and all the changing rooms have been cleaned professionally by STAINBUSTERS. The 12 very comfy, but somewhat cumbersome chairs in the 'lounge' will be going to charity unless anybody wants them for any other community facility – they have been replaced by 40 stacking 'canteen' seats from Westbourne Academy in Ipswich. They are not ideal for our requirements although much easier to handle for cleaning and moving around so we will give them a go for a few months. MAKRO have stacking chairs with soft backs and seats for £23 each. They may be a better possibility if we can find some money !!!

**Play-Area :** There is a problem with the top of the slide where a bolt has broken off – Steve Jacobs at the Forge is supposed to be fixing before our play area inspection. He is also intending to put new bearings at the top of the adult swings to stop the hideous noise they make – mind you, this has been on going for years !! Some areas were repainted before the school holidays and there may be a chance to do a bit more after they return. The next play area inspection is on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**New Equipment :** The very dry and hot summer has caused problems with the concrete fixings beneath the ground of the zip wire – the concrete was moving in the ground as the zip wire was used. The legs are set in concrete but the clay surroundings shrunk in the hot weather causing the movement. NGF, our supplier, has re-concreted 2 of the tall legs affected.

**Ground :** The ground is in pretty good condition considering the weather. Dog's mess continues to be a problem, but unless we can catch the culprits in action, it is difficult to know what to do next. Notices seem to have little effect and if it was not for people picking up other people's dog mess, I would not think the situation has improved at all. The hedges along Back Road (inside and out), the Alley footpath and the one backing on to the gardens in Falkenham Road are due to be trimmed in September. It is 3 years since the work was last carried out. J Beer Sept. '13

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

August, as everyone is aware, is the month when most people go on holiday and thus, SCC councillors, although not on holiday, have very few committees and engagements. This gives us all a time to re-charge our batteries and catch up with, in my case, jobs about the house and seeing family; as a result, not too much to report. However, as you will know SCC has been working very hard to drive up educational standards in Suffolk, we are, unfortunately, still trailing, but the schools that have changed from three tier to two tier, have seen improvements in their results and in the latest A level results, 1% of pupils in Suffolk, compared with the national average of 0.7%, gained places at Oxford and Cambridge. Further, the findings of a recent report, aimed at driving up educational standards, is out for consultation and a response will be forthcoming after debate at Full Council in September. ( Both A level and GCSE results showed a marked improvement in results). Trading Standards have had success in bringing a case against 5 people who conned 17,000 people out of £5.7m through a series of scams involving money laundering and fraud.

Locality funding is available.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL

SCDC has informed all parishes of the re-warding of the district. Parishes have received information and have been asked for their views. Consultation is a good idea but I think quite difficult for parishes to come up with a warding scheme for their parish. Consultation with neighbouring parishes would be sensible, if you have particular ideas, but then that leads to more discussion and could become quite lengthy. It might be a good notion to look at the former arrangement that I represented when first becoming a councillor, ie Kirton/Falkenham, Newbourne, Hemley, Waldringfield, Levington/Stratton Hall, Nacton. This totals 2225 electors which is within the 10% plus or minus range (2178-2662). I have sent all parishes a copy of the briefing note regarding the closure of the A14 Copdock to Seven Hills – late September early October. This is for maintenance and repair work. The section should be closed from 10pm until 6am.

## SYRIA

Dear Therese,

I have very serious concerns regarding the possibility of British intervention in the Syrian civil war and I welcome this opportunity to express them.

Firstly, whilst ‘taking out’, with surgical airstrikes chemical plants that produce biological weapons, can be viewed as a humane act is understandable, the consequences of such acts are unknown and strikes, no matter how laudable, could be perceived as an act of war. This is a murderous civil war with atrocities on both sides. To enter into such a conflict, albeit with the right intentions, is, I believe, risking being drawn deeper and deeper into a war that we **do not and cannot control**.

Intervention in Iraq, ten years ago, has not brought stability to the region and Afganistan is further proof against the Western misreading of the Middle East. I fear retaliation against Britain at some point, would be a likely consequence.

Secondly, if as a result of airstrikes the situation escalated, Britain is not in a 19c position whereupon it could dispatch its army to contain a ‘little local difficulty’. Our armed forces are being cut dramatically and we would not be able to commit to a lengthy, sustainable conflict. Finally, I believe the Russians are key. Russia is an arms supplying ally of Syria and President Putin must be urged to put pressure on Syria. I know that the recent meeting between Presidents Obama and Putin was suspended/abandoned/ unsuccessful because of an inability to come to agreement. – It was ever thus during the Cold War. I thought we had moved on!

Therese, I believe the situation is volatile and dangerous. To intervene is folly and I urge you to take seriously my concerns.

With regards, Patricia O’Brien, SCC Martlesham.