

WHAPLODE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 21st MAY 2014
AT SARACENS HEAD VILLAGE HALL

Present as per register, PC Scott McCaig, PCSO Ian Cripps and District Cllr N Pepper.

Apologies: Cllrs Clay, Stafford and Ford.

Appointment of Chairman:

Cllr Merchant proposed Cllr Roulstone be elected as Chairman this was seconded by Cllr Pullen. Cllr Roulstone accepted and this was agreed by members, the new Chairman signed the declaration of acceptance. Cllrs thanked Cllr Pullen for his chairmanship in the previous year.

Appointment of Vice Chairman:

Vice Chairman due to be appointed from Whaplode St Catherine ward but in the absence of ward members was agreed to be held over to the next meeting.

Declarations of interest:

None

The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Police matters:

PCSO Cripps introduced Scott McCaig as the new beat officer, also advised that enquiries were continuing about the shed and garden thefts. Members confirmed access to the Whaplode Drove noticeboard was via a key held at the village shop and members advised that there was now a noticeboard in Whaplode. Cllr Pullen advised that the Alec Welsh memorial had been damaged. Cllr Mackman reported speeding at Shepeau Stow remained a problem.

Finance Report:

The Clerk reported the following cheques for payment which members agreed,

101579 G Hawkes salary	£ 299.20
101580 HMRC	£ 74.80
101581 G Hawkes expenses	£ 244.84 as per attached
101582 LALC	£ 475.25 vat £76.46
101583 G Parkes audit	£ 210.00
101584 Millgate	£ 456.00 vat £76.00

101585 SHVCS	£ 945.54
101586 M Grummitt	£ 125.00 vat £25.00
101587 Anglian Water	£ 122.03
101588 Crown Estate	£ 5,375.00
101589 South Holland I D B	£ 1,708.61
101590 North Level I D B	£ 450.41
101591 Broker Network Ltd	£ 662.75

1. Balances:

High interest a/c	£ 69,057
Business Prem	£ 23,327
Current a/c	£ 30,379
Less cheques	£ 11,174
Balances	£111,607

2. The Clerk reported that the internal audit had been completed and members resolved that the Chairman signed the annual return
3. The Clerk advised members that the insurance be renewed with Came & Co as per the three year agreement which members agreed.
4. The Clerk reported that he had reviewed the changes to financial regulations and procedures but there were no changes necessary to our existing standing orders.
5. Cllr Mackman asked for an update regarding the grant request from Mr Stapenhill Hunt, the Clerk advised he had chased but had not received a reply.
6. Cllr Barlow reported that he had chased up contractors for a quote to do the tree work in the cemetery and Atkins had quoted the lowest figure at £2,160 which members agreed was reasonable. Cllrs Merchant and Pullen proposed that the work be done in August which members agreed. The Clerk confirmed there was a budget of £5,000 available.

7.

Date of next meeting:

The Clerk advised the next finance meeting was 18th June and next full council meeting was 20th August at Whaplode. Cllr Pullen confirmed he would arrange the venue.

Planning applications,

The Clerk reported that applications had been dealt with as per annexed.

Cllr Mackman expressed concern at the design and size of the SHDC houses being built in Whaplode Drove and damage to the boundary fence and roadway.

Allotments;

1. The Clerk reported that the deeds relating to the allotment roadway were still missing and he would visit Holbeach Parish Council to search their archive.
2. The Clerk reported that the finance committee had reviewed the rent increase from the Crown Estate and recommended that the allotment rents increase by 20% to all allotment holders. The Clerk advised that this would maintain the surplus received by the council. Cllr Merchant proposed and Cllr Pullen seconded the proposal which was carried 6 votes to one against. Cllr Mackman voted against the proposal.
3. The Clerk reported that Cllr Stafford had contacted the drainage board for maps so that the Council can complete a review of culverts and bridges on the Crown land.

Highway matters;

Whaplode village,

The Clerk reported that Cllr Stafford was sorting out the damage to the A151 bus shelter opposite Mill Lane.

Cllr Pullen advised that the keep left bollard at the petrol station was damaged and Cllr Pepper agreed to report the problem.

Whaplode St Catherines,

In the absence of ward members there was no report.

Whaplode Drove,

Members reported overgrown trees at the junction of Hulls Drove and Dowsdale bank which Cllr Pepper will follow up. Cllr Dilley reported speeding in the village and Cllr Pepper agreed to chase up LRSP regarding the location of the enforcement vehicle.

Saracens Head,

Nothing to report.

Parish Council website;

The Clerk reported that he no longer receives activity statistics and he will chase these up with SHDC.

Whaplode playing field;

Cllr Merchant reported that the committee had been the recipients of a bequest which had enabled them to buy some additional play equipment. The new fence had been erected.

Whaplode St Catherines playing field;

The Clerk reported that he had contacted SHDC to see who was responsible for the field and awaited a reply.

General correspondence & general business;

1. The Clerk reported copy correspondence received between Mr Oldring, SHDC and the Right Hon John Hayes MP.
2. The Clerk reported an email from Lauren Williams of the Transported arts group who want to put up some artwork in the councils two bus shelters in Whaplode. The artwork will be exhibited in noticeboards which will be left for council use in the future. Members agreed to this proposal.
3. Cllr Pullen advised that he and Cllr Barlow received an invitation to attend the ordination of the new priest he sent a letter on behalf of the council and sent a small gift.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.50pm.

Chairman