

Letheringham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 8th October 2019 at the Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

In Attendance

Terry Carlin (TC) (Chairman & Financial Officer)
Jean Barker (JB)
Maurice Finch (MF)
Matthew Bickerton (MB)

David Allan (DA) (Clerk)

Public Attendance:

David Holborrow (DH), Malcolm Ross (MR) and Pauline Bickerton (PB)

Public Forum commenced at 7.52pm

Apologies received from Jan McNeill.

PB confirmed that she had made additional ceramic poppies for the Remembrance Sunday ceremony.

There was a discussion about the installation of BT Fibre Broadband, which was not ready yet according to the Engineers spoken to but was expected to commence in the near future, possibly once connections with the exchange in Saxmundham had been finalised.

The Public Forum closed at 8.00pm but was subsequently re-opened upon the arrival of Councillor Maurice Cook, who referred to matters in his monthly written report and provided updates regarding the following issues:

(i) Sizewell

The County and East Suffolk Councils put in a joint response to the Stage 4 consultation and remained dissatisfied with the level of detail provided by EDF and the amount of mitigation offered. While the financial benefit for the district was undeniable and substantial, more needed to be done to show a commensurate return in terms of mitigation and legacy. Mitigation included road and rail improvements due to the shelving of the marine option, due to environmental damage caused by the proposed construction of a pier. The plan to obtain aggregate from the seabed was judged to result in too much damage. The single-track Network rail line, which would therefore be used to bring in materials, would result in overnight train movements that would adversely impact nearby properties, and there was a query that the current proposals would bring sufficient improvements. EDF had therefore referred to a road and rail plan, but the District Council took the view that, if the rail plan was unsatisfactory, then the road plan alone should be implemented with proper infrastructure improvements including a four-village bypass rather than the two-village bypass being proposed at present. Overall, the Council felt that EDF were not being sufficiently transparent or providing enough detail regarding proposals and would continue to make representations and press for further information.

TC raised concerns regarding the proposed Park and Ride scheme based near Wickham Market, and MC confirmed that this was being addressed by Carol Poulter, highlighting the concerns of residents and clarifying issues of proposed mitigation. MC confirmed that concerns regarding the rejection of Marine and Rail options would be pursued once the response to the current consultation had been received.

(ii) Community Partnerships

These were proposed for Framlingham and Wickham Market wards, chaired by Carol Poulter, and involving Parish Councils, the Police and other bodies with the purpose of ensuring that services were delivered on a local basis. This involved obtaining and acting on data regarding issues such as loneliness, obesity, demographics, the elderly and mental health issues in order to examine problems in local areas. A budget of £25,000 over four years, in addition to the enabling budget of £7,500 had been allocated, with further funds of £250,000 being available.

TC referred to the Potsford Care Farm in Letheringham as an organisation already used by the NHS for those with learning and mental health issues which could benefit from additional funding. MC agreed to circulate an email regarding this scheme in due course, which could then be forwarded to Potsford and other relevant organisations.

(iii) Climate Emergency

This had been declared by East Suffolk Council, with a cross-party Environmental Task Force created to look at issues such as solar-panel placement and grass verges, forming part of a commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

2019.54 Apologies

Apologies received from Richard Gooding.

2019.55 Declaration of Interests

None.

2019.56 Approval of Minutes & Matters Arising

Minutes of LPC meeting on 29th July 2019 were approved unanimously and signed by TC

2019.57 Matters of Report

MF reported a recent break-in at Hoo Hall resulting in the theft of tools.

The Sizewell consultation email had been circulated to residents.

The issue of the sandbox and payment for damage by DE Keeble was raised, with photographs requested. It was confirmed that the replacement had been reinforced with steel angle-brackets and levelled with paving slabs beneath. DA to chase this and secure payment as previously agreed.

TC referred to matters relating to the Parochial Church Council, and the recent Pianofield event, which attracted 60 people and raised approximately £1,000. A video was made, and thanks expressed to MB and Francis, as well as to MF for his Sanctuary Cocktail.

TC referred to the forthcoming Monday Night Mardle at the Village Hall, featuring architect Roger Pullman on 'Wattle and daub' regarding local architecture and construction methods.

This was the first of a planned series of talks, which would include subject about the restoration of aircraft and, in January 2020, Keith Wallace on the Letheringham Fair and Charter.

2019.58 Planning Applications & Issues

The application for a single storey extension at Letheringham Mill was considered and unanimously approved, with DA authorised to respond accordingly emphasising the need for approval at the earliest opportunity.

2019.59 Insurance Renewal

It was unanimously agreed to renew on the basis of the policy provided by Aspire, at a total cost of £218, which included a £50 administration fee. A cheque was completed and signed, and DA tasked with submitting this to Came & Co.

2019.60 Financial Reports

2019.60.01 Invoices for Payment & Cheques Received

The payment to Came & Co for the Insurance renewal was unanimously approved, as was payment of £24 for the hire of the Village Hall for the current meeting. Payment of £92 was also unanimously approved to Peter Carlow for the cost of materials in completing the replacement sandbox. Cheques for these items were drafted and counter signed.

A cheque for £20 had been received from Norse arising from the Village Litter-pick. In previous years this had been made out for a nominated charity, but this year was made out to the Parish Council. After discussion of options, it was unanimously agreed that this should be retained and used for the cost of replacement pads and other items relating to the defibrillator.

2019.60.02 Financial Report

TC presented the financial reports, with an opening balance of £5,730.34 and receipt of 13p interest and the precept payment of £600. With the expenditure approved previously, this resulted in a closing balance of £5995.96.

Money was owed by Butley Priory for the hire of the Darcy Booms, and DA was tasked with completing an invoice and chasing this, once details had been provided by MB, MR and/or DH.

TC confirmed that the Asset register had now been amended to show the Sandbox having a £150 replacement value, reflecting the labour costs in addition to the price of materials used.

The Parish Accounts and Financial report were approved unanimously.

2019.60.03 Budget

TC to complete an update for the next meeting

2019.60.04 Audit Update

Confirmation was provided that the Audit had been completed satisfactorily and without any issues arising.

2019.61 Deben River Issues

DH confirmed that the River had been given a good rinse by the recent rainfall, resulting in a change in colour and causing the duckweed to pass down the River, making it up to a foot deeper in places. The Darcy Booms had proved effective for clearing duckweed but there was heavy growth of other material that prevented access. Some of the longer weeds had been cut manually using a long-handled scythe.

A meeting with the Environment Agency had been held on the 13th September 2019 at which issues had been discussed. The EA had described the river as a linear pond, with concerns raised about de-oxygenation at a critical level. The cutting of weed in October was raised, but the EA had advised against this, suggesting that it could result in the stirring-up of silt and leading to further de-oxygenation and fish-kill, rendering the Riparian Owners liable for the cost of re-stocking.

EA had suggested that weed-cutting should take place in early 2020 after better water-flow resulted in improved oxygenation. Since the weed growth would be reduced over winter, it was anticipated that this could take place in April 2020, and ten of the eleven Riparian owners had agreed with this, with one dissenting. A further meeting was proposed on the 14th November 2019.

The main tree that had been blocking the River had now sunk, with little of it remaining above the water-level, but one section of the River by Boatman's remained heavily congested with weed following the removal of the booms.

There was a discussion regarding the meeting of Riparian Owners on the 14th November 2019, including ecologists and others from the EA. Reference was made to the EA re-oxygenating by purchasing water from the borehole in Earl Soham, but at a cost of £450 per day. Tc commented that, since farmers along the river had extraction licences, this amounted to payment for putting water into the River system while others were drawing it out!

DH referred to the EA describing the duckweed as a pondweed. With the water-level being less than the height of the sluice-gate at the Mill, the water was not flowing, and the duckweed could only be effectively removed by mechanical methods or through the impact of further rain. The drought last winter and summer had contributed significantly to the issues being faced, and any further drought this winter could lead to major problems.

2019.62 Road Signs

The parlous state of some of the road signs was raised, with comments that these gave a very poor impression and were not fit for purpose. TC had contacted Sue Piggott of Easton parish Council regarding their three new signs, which cost £2,980, with the Highways Agency charging £1798 for a licence to install.

It was agreed that this matter should be raised with Robin Vickery, as any replacement would require the permission of the Highways Department, and funding issues needed to be considered, with the possibility of diverting funds allocated previously to the SID Signs on the B1078.

~~MB has canvassed various suppliers and identified a very promising company and product, albeit with units that are not available until the Autumn. MB will progress this and provide an update at the next meeting.~~

2019.63 B1078

MB was chasing further information regarding SID signs and would provide an update at a later meeting.

2019.64 Remembrance Sunday

Confirmed as the 10th November 2019 with a ceremony to be conducted at the Village Sign, where the poppies had been re-positioned, from 10.30am.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed..........

Date.....25/11/2019.....

Next Meeting: Scheduled for the 25th November 2019 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall

Appendices follow:

- A Parish Accounts to 8th October 2019
- B: Financial Report to 8th October 2019

Letheringham Parish Accounts

Statement of account as at 07/10/2019

COMMUNITY ACCOUNT #50571423		(2019-2020)				
	date	Cheque no	debit	credit	total	vat
C/F from 2018 2019	07/04/2019				£5,582.66	
SCDC precept	30/04/2019			£600.00	£6,182.66	
SALC membership fees	13/05/2019	100277	£35.09		£6,147.57	
village hall may	13/05/2019	100276	£24.00		£6,123.57	
Darcy booms	24/06/2019	100278	£661.16		£5,462.41	£110.19
Insurance (came & co)	07/10/2019	100279	£218.00		£5,244.41	
village Hall invoice	07/10/2019	100280	£24.00		£5,220.41	
SCDC precept	27/09/2019			£600.00	£5,820.41	
Salt box repair	07/10/2019	100281	£92.51		£5,727.90	

BUSINESS SAVER ACCOUNT #50571431		Payments		Receipts/	Balance	Bank	statement
	date		interest	payments		statement	date
C/F	06/04/2019				£267.80	£267.80	
	12/05/2020				£267.80	£267.80	12/05/2019
	12/06/2019		£0.13		£267.93	£267.93	12/06/2019
	02/09/2019		£0.13		£268.06	£268.06	13/09/2019

Total account balances			
date	Community Account	business premium account	Total funds available
29/03/2019	£5,582.66	£267.80	£5,850.46
13/05/2019	£6,182.66	£267.80	£6,450.46
29/07/2019	£5,462.41	£267.93	£5,730.34
07/09/2019	£5,727.90	£268.06	£5,995.96

LPC

ASSET REGISTER

Capital asset	Value (£)	Comment
Village sign	£1,469.00	Sign insured for public liability and replacement cost £4000
Phone box	£1.00	Replacement value £1000
Salt Box	£150.00	Replacement value £150
Millennium seat	£485.00	Replacement value £500
defibrillator	£2,130.00	replacement value£2130
Darcy Booms	£550.00	replacement value £550
village notice board	£500.00	replacement value £500
Total	£5,285.00	total replacement £8780

Approved Minute Reference: 2019.60.02

Letheringham Parish Council

ANNEX B

Financial Report as 07/10/2019

Cheques presented for payment at this meeting

Cheque	Date	Chq #	Amt
Insurance (Came & co)	07/10/2019	100279	£218.00
village Hall invoice	07/10/2019	100280	£24.00
Salt box repair (Peter Carlo)	07/10/2019	100281	£92.51

Income received

SCDC precept	27/09/2019	£600.00
Business Saver account	02/09/2019	0.13

Current position before cheques are paid

Community Account	£5,462.41
Business Premium Account	£267.93
TOTAL	£5,730.34

Current position after cheques are paid

Community Account	£5,727.90
Business Premium Account	£268.06
TOTAL	£5,995.96

expenditure approved minute 2019.60.02. refers
Date 07/10/2019