

Letheringham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
on Monday 28th January 2019 at 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:

Mike Lloyds

Public Forum commenced at 7.46pm

ML updated the Meeting regarding his complaint regarding Suffolk Coastal and their handling of proceedings relating to Sandy lane Kennels, and the failure to take action on matters raised with them subsequently. This had been progressed to the Ombudsman before Christmas, where it was acknowledged that the matter had sufficient merit to warrant further investigation.

The Public Forum closed and the Meeting opened at 7.55pm

2019.01 Apologies

Apologies received from PC Green, who had been hoping to attend in response to recent burglaries.
No response received from Robin Vickery, or Carol Poulter.

2019.02 Declaration of Interests

None.

2019.03 Approval of Minutes & Matters Arising

Minutes of LPC meeting on 26th November 2018 were approved unanimously and signed by TC

2019.04 Matters of Report

No reported incidents or further response had been received from the Police.

A letter had been received from the Revd. Stephen Brian (attached at Annex A) in response to a letter seeking clarification regarding St. Mary's Church and the use, upkeep and maintenance of the building and churchyard.

TC advised that he had offered to take on the role of PCC Treasurer, and was in the process of collating audit and financial documents and arranging meetings, as well as canvassing assistance from others willing to help. TC commented that there was a proposal for four services to be held at the Church throughout the year.

An issue had arisen with the availability of the Village Hall for the May Meetings and it was agreed that this should be re-scheduled for Monday the 13th May 2019. An amended Notice of Meetings is to be displayed on the Notice board (copy attached at Annex B)

2019.05 Planning & Licensing Applications and Issues

TO raised the issue of the latest Sizewell Consultation and the proposed Park & Ride Scheme at Wickham market, which was a bad idea due to the increased traffic on the B1078 that would be an inevitable consequence.

Despite previous objections supported by Carol Poulter, the current proposal was for a Northern Park & Ride site at Darsham, and a Southern Park & Ride Site at Hacheston / Wickham Market. With regard to the latter, two possible options involved, firstly, the restriction of parking on the B1078 in Wickham market, which was likely to create considerable complaints from residents and, secondly, for a route bypassing Wickham but on roads that appeared to be wholly unsuited for the nature and level of traffic.

ML commented on a suggestion in the press that a car-park would be created in Mill Lane to accommodate cars unable to park on the through-route in Wickham market.

TC observed that either option will create concerns for villages located on the B1078, many of whom had already raised concerns regarding speed restrictions for existing traffic flows. TC referred to alternative proposals for the Southern Park & Ride site to be located at an expanded site in Martlesham, where existing P&R facilities were present, particularly given the spare land available at that location.

MF stated that, having lived in Letheringham at the time of the construction of Sizewell B, there was little if any impact on traffic, and it was possible that the affect of the current proposal was being exaggerated.

TC queried whether the adoption of the P&R site at Wickham Market could be tied to an undertaking for the road through Charlsfield and Letheringham to be restricted to 30mph.

MB offered to contact others likely to be affected by this issue and to co-ordinate actions and responses.

Reference was also made of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan, details of which had been circulated, and which now omitted any reference to Letheringham following the representations and objections submitted previously.

2019.06 Phone Box and Defibrillator

The outstanding cheque to CHT had now been cashed. DA to contact them to hold fire on the implementation of the VETs scheme pending further decisions.

2019.07 B1078

MB referred to the identification of a new supplier, who offered a suitable and more flexible device at a better price. TC referred to previous concerns re need for such a device, but with potential increased traffic due to Sizewell, this could be more important than ever. It was unanimously resolved that further enquiries and progress should be made on this issue.

MB agreed to speak with Bawdsey PC who had installed this device for feedback.

2019.08 Audit and Budget

TC confirmed that the Precept Request had been lodged and maintained at £1200. There were no real changes from the Budget paper considered last September. This included £150 election costs, and showing expenditure of £1000, and included £2800 plus VAT for the SID Signs.

RG considered that a broader view should be taken of projects that could be undertaken, and it was agreed that a strategic review should be scheduled for the May Annual Meeting.

2019.09 Financial Report

Interest of 13p received on deposit account. Invoice for £24 for Hall Hire Fee for tonight's meeting. Payment unanimously approved and cheque 273 completed and signed. The CHT Cheque for £54b had been cashed on the 7th December 2018.

Balance of £5914.66 on 26th November 2018 in the Community Account. Checked and agreed by MF, and MB and MF indorse statement to confirm reconciliation. Balance of £267.67 on 12th December 2018 on the Premium Account., including 13p interest received on 3rd December 2018. Checked and agreed by MF, and MB and MF indorse statement to confirm reconciliation.

2019.10 Village Litter Pick

Agree date of Sunday the 14th April 2019 and discuss equipment required.

The meeting closed at 9.14pm

Signed 

Date 28/03/2019

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

Appendices follow:

- A Letter from Red. Stephen Brian
- B Financial report as at 28th January 2019
- B: Letheringham Parish Accounts as at 28th January 2019

*The Revd Dr Stephen Brian
Rector of the Mid Loes Benefice
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*The Rectory
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Earl Soham
Woodbridge
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IP13 7SD*

Mr David Allan
Clerk to the Parish Council
Letheringham Parish Council
The Old Vicarage
Blyth Hill
Letheringham
IP13 7RA

8th January 2019

Dear Mr Allan

St Mary's Church Letheringham

Thank you for your letter regarding St Mary's Church. I am very happy to clarify the situation.

First, I should make it clear that St Mary's Parochial Church Council has not been disbanded. The present problem has arisen because no-one stood for the PCC at the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting, i.e. the PCC has no members. Because there is no PCC, and therefore no responsible body, the Public Liability Insurance is not valid and we have had to close the church building. Likewise, the PCC is responsible for the upkeep of the churchyard, but because no-one has stood for election to the PCC, there is no-one to fulfil this responsibility.

The former honorary treasurer, Tim Sansom, held on to the accounts in the hope that someone else might come forward, but Tim sadly died last November. Those accounts are currently being held by a treasurer for one of the other parishes in the benefice, but she is not in a position to act as the Letheringham PCC treasurer, and cannot as yet, in any case, access the accounts.

The diocesan authorities, in the form of the archdeacon and diocesan bishop are well aware of the situation and have recently advised me to contact the diocesan registrar to clarify the legal position, possibly with a view to formal closure. However, since receiving that advice, it has been suggested to me that a particular Letheringham resident may be willing to take on the treasurer's role (probably the most important role on the PCC) and I have been in touch with him to arrange a meeting. Because of this glimmer of light, I have not yet contacted the registrar. If he is willing to take on the task, we may be able to draw together the beginnings of a new PCC sufficient to validate the insurance and get things up and running again.

In the meantime, thank you for your offer of help, and any assistance the Parish Council can give in at least maintaining the churchyard would be greatly appreciated.

I hope this clarifies the situation, and I am happy to supply any more more information as required.

Yours sincerely

Letheringham Parish Council**Financial Report as 28th January 2019****Cheques presented for payment at this meeting**

chq	Date	Chq #	Amt
Village hall	28/01/2019	100273	£24.00

Income received

Date	Amt
03/12/2018	£0.13

Current position before cheques are paid

Community Account	£5,830.66
Business Premium Account	£267.54
TOTAL	£6,098.20

Current position after cheques are paid

Community Account	£5,806.66
Business Premium Account	£267.67
TOTAL	£6,074.33

expenditure approved minute 2019.09 refers
Date 28th January 2019

ANNEX C

Letheringham Parish Accounts

Statement of account as at 28th January 2019

COMMUNITY ACCOUNT #50571423

(2018-2019)

	date	Cheque no	(2018-2019)		total	vat	account statement	statement date
			debit	credit				
C/F from 2017-2018	05/04/2018				£5,067.89			
SCDC precept	27/04/2018			£600.00	£5,667.89		£5,667.89	21/05/2018
village hall (march)	21/05/2018	100264	£24.00		£5,643.89			
village hall	21/05/2018	100265	£24.00		£5,619.89			
community heart beat trust	21/05/2018	100266	£54.00		£5,565.89		£5,619.89	23/07/2018
SALC membership fees	23/07/2018	100267	£35.23		£5,530.66		£5,584.66	24/09/2018
Insurance (came & co)	24/09/2018	100269	£168.00		£5,362.66			
village Hall invoice	24/09/2018	100270	£24.00		£5,338.66			
SCDC precept	30/09/2018			£600.00	£5,938.66			
village hall	26/11/2018	100271	£24.00		£5,914.66			
Community action Suffolk (web site)	26/11/2018	100272	£60.00		£5,854.66	£10.00		
Village hall	23/07/2018	100268	£24.00		£5,830.66			
Village hall	28/01/2019	100273	£24.00		£5,806.66			
churtyard fund								

BUSINESS SAVER ACCOUNT #50571431

transaction	date	Payments	Receipts/ interest payments	Balance	Bank statement	statement date
c/f	01/04/2018			£267.28	£267.28	21/05/2018
	04/06/2018		£0.13	£267.41	£267.41	23/07/2018
	24/09/2018		£0.00	£267.41	£267.41	24/08/2018
	26/11/2018		£0.13	£267.54	£267.54	26/11/2018
	03/12/2018		£0.13	£267.67	£267.67	24/12/2018

Total account balances

date	Community Account	business premium account	Total funds available
C/F from 2017-2018 final accounts	£5,067.89	£267.28	£5,335.17
21/05/2018	£5,619.89	£267.28	£5,887.17
23/07/2018	£5,530.66	£267.41	£5,798.07
24/09/2018	£5,338.66	£267.41	£5,606.07
26/11/2018	£5,830.66	£267.54	£6,098.20
28/01/2019	£5,806.66	£267.67	£6,074.33

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	£67.00	Replacement value £100
Millennium seat	£485.00	Replacement value £500
defibrillator	£2,130.00	replacement value £2130
village notice board	£500.00	replacement value £500
Total	£4,652.00	total replacement £8230

Approved Minute Reference 2019.09