

**HAWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 29th MARCH 2012.**

Present: Cllrs John West (Chairman), Christabel Carr (arrived 7.41 p.m.),
Clive Robinson, Michael Harrison, Jayne Robertson & Marilyn Bottomley (Clerk)
County Cllr Terry Clements, Borough Cllr Angela Rushen
5 members of the public were present.

Apologies: Cllrs Henry Brewis & Ros Alexander; Police.

Public Forum

Reported water leak – AWA to be contacted by Cllr Harrison
Increase in precept questioned
Macmillan Charity donation query
Update on horse chestnut trees experimental treatment

Declarations of interest

Cllr Robertson

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 15th December 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th December were approved as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly. Proposed by Cllr Robertson and seconded by Cllr Carr. All in favour.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 26th January 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th January were approved as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly having noted the following amendment. Page 78, Environment, The footpaths: delete last sentence and replace with "Cllr Carr will assess this section of fencing." Proposed by Cllr Robertson and seconded by Cllr Carr. All in favour.

Reports

County Cllr Clements - Cllr Clements referred to the school review and Suffolk was receiving the largest amount of funding. He acknowledged it would be a difficult move forward. Good report from Offsted. Academy query – not certain it will go ahead. 21st July looking at primaries.
According to figures for the last three months of 2011, the budget savings for 2011/12 – amounting to £42.5million - are well on track to be achieved. It has also been reported that, on top of those savings, an extra £5million is expected to be saved by the end of the financial year.
The majority of these additional savings have come from the ACS budget, with some being achieved by not filling vacant posts while re-structuring is being carried out, which in turn places a greater onus on the remaining staff. In total, the number of staff within Ault Community Service will be reduced from 3,557 to 895 – a reduction of 2,662. This is not because of cuts to services or a reduction in front-line provision but almost entirely because staff are moving to newly-created or other existing organisations which will continue to provide services for the council, such as library staff (nearly 500 staff) and learning disability services staff (again, nearly 500). The new office building that will be shared by the county council and the police - Landmark House – is due to have staff moving in this July. The project is part of the move to cut down on office accommodation across Suffolk and part of management restructure.

There was a brief discussion on the disappointing lack of notification and signage in respect of road closures and also the Suffolk County Council's decision regarding the bend at Larkfield. The Chairman thanked County Councillor Clements for his support in these matters. County Councillor Clements gave his apologies and left the meeting at 7.57 p.m.

Borough Cllr Rushen - See Cllr Rushen's report attached.

The new charges in operation from 2nd April for Nowton Park were discussed and councillors agreed a letter should be written to SEBC expressing concern over the need to implement these since it was felt the charges would deter visitors. The new double yellow lines were also felt to be an eyesore on this stretch of road. Clerk to write suitable letter.

Police - Report attached.

Signature.....

Communications – In the absence of Cllr Brewis, Cllr West reported that the web site was still being developed and constantly improving. The bi-monthly coffee mornings had proved very successful and would continue. These were a useful method of listening to the community. Cllr Brewis was encouraging people to edit the journal. Guest editors were in place for the next couple of months.

Environment -

The footpaths - Cllr Carr reported that the footpaths were clear and had been walked. She had also walked round the village to ensure that no tree work needed to be undertaken. Some of the branches of trees around the village hall hung low and the contractor had difficulty cutting the grass. He had done some of the work by hand. Ragwort to be removed in June.

The village green – Rabbit and mole control had been quite successful. Mowing sorted for this year. The specification and quote was then circulated to members. It was pointed out that the quote allowed for fuel increases.

Item 1	an increase of £10 to £1,300
Item 2	grass topped June and September increase of £5 to £90
Item 3	increased by £5 to £75
Item 4	increase of £10 to £210

There had been no quote received from an alternative contractor.

In addition Cllr Carr referred to undertaking scrub clearance by the bus stop going towards the public house as the ground was uneven. The contractor had asked if he could roll the area at a charge of £25. Cllr West proposed acceptance of the quotation, seconded by Cllr Robinson – all in favour. Clerk to confirm acceptance to the contractor.

Highways & Safety - Cllr Harrison had reported to Highways that there were 3 x 30 mph signs missing or required replacing and this was now in hand. High visibility jackets for grit-spreaders to be purchased by the Clerk through ARCO.

Achieving excellence - An item was being placed in the Journal to get people interested in forming a group to move the Parish Plan forward. A meeting facilitated by Suffolk ACRE would be arranged.

Planning & Legal matters - Nothing to report but members discussed a letter received from Mr & Mrs Brown, Broadwater House regarding verge encroachment issues at their property. Unfortunately the parish council was limited to what they could do since the land in question belonged to Highways. Cllr Harrison did however point out that the central white line on the road had been measured and found it was not central. If it were re-centred there would be more room for traffic. Councillors agreed Mr & Mrs Brown's letter should be acknowledged and SCC should be contacted supporting their comments and pointing out the findings in respect of the white central line. It was felt that the encroachment was a safety issue. Clerk to action.

To approve

Philip Metcalfe Almshouses Trust – appointment of Trustee - The parish council had been informed that two trustees needed to be appointed by them. Malcolm Cornwell had been nominated at the January meeting and another trustee's term of office ended in May. Details had been provided and Cllr Carr proposed Angela Rushen should be re-elected for a further four year period. Seconded by Cllr Robinson – all in favour.

To consider

Renovating the bus shelter – a contractor had quoted £120 to provide seating and it was questioned whether or not to proceed with the work. Since there had been no response to an article which had been placed in the Journal querying how often the shelter was used, councillors agreed not to continue with this matter. Remove from agenda.

Removal of goal posts on village green – football has not been played on the green for many years and on closer inspection it was found the goal posts were no longer suitable and were a safety issue. Cllr Harrison proposed they should be removed due to lack of demand. Seconded by Cllr Robinson – all in favour.

Triangle of land Whepstead Road - Cllr West's priority was to ensure the well was safe and then obtain the necessary licence before a seat was installed. Although the ownership of the land by SCC Highways is not in question, it is understood that a resident close to the site had written to SCC and strongly objected to the placement of a seat and litter/dog bin. Chairman and Cllr Robinson will make further enquiries. Defer to next meeting.

Signature.....

Future usage of Millennium Field – the meeting felt it was essential to make the site more accessible for villagers. Installing a waterless toilet was put forward as an idea but rejected. Councillors agreed to look into purchasing a picnic table and to providing a suitable welcoming notice explaining the history of the field. Costings to be provided for approval at next meeting. Proposed by Cllr Carr, seconded by Cllr Robertson – all in favour.

Working party report in respect of village green registration – nothing to report. Defer to May meeting.

Bylaws review – defer to May meeting.

Parking in Whepstead Road and Bull Lane - despite extensive enquiries the parish council has been unable to progress this project any further due to the current financial restraints. Councillors agreed that for the time being this item to be removed from the Agenda.

Jubilee celebrations - Cllr Harrison provided details of the cost to purchase commemorative mugs but after some consideration councillors were not in favour but agreed for a contribution to the overall village celebrations. Awaiting grant application from Community Council.

30 mph speed limit signs – Cllr Harrison had written as a parishioner to SCC asking them to look at the dangerous bend at Larkfield corner but there had been a negative response to his request. Councillors discussed whether the parish council should write to SCC as well to express concern that there was likely to be a serious accident. Drawing up a petition was suggested and it was agreed to put an item in the Journal inviting comments from villagers on the matter. The meeting also agreed that the County Councillor should be asked about flashing signs.

Finance

072 **Cheques for approval** - The following cheques to be issued were proposed by Cllr Carr, seconded by Cllr Harrison – all in favour.

<u>Chq No.</u>		
37	Ricoh (printer)	£199.10
38	Suffolk ACRE (subscription)	£ 25.00
39	Suffolk Wildlife Trust (subscription)	£ 38.00
40	Clerk (expenses)	£ 31.95
41	J West (Xmas decorations/bouquet)	£ 45.00
S/0	Personnel (February / March)	£466.12

Chairman's summary

The chairman was appreciative of all the work that had taken place behind the scenes in particular by the Borough and County Councillors. He thanked Mr C Riggall for collecting rubbish in the village. He would be attending the Parish Conference in a few weeks and would report back. The street light was now working outside Old Forge Cottage. A dog bin at the entrance to the hall car park has been removed and more discreetly relocated by the bottle bank. Some new bike racks for the hall have been installed. Mr & Mrs Hatton were likely to proceed with the easement once costs were known. The Clerk was welcomed back following her recent incapacity.

Correspondence & circulars

SCC – revised bus timetables. Noted

SEBC – Rural Vision 2031. Tabled.

Date of next meeting

Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting on 17th May 2012

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 p.m.

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the Chairman requested that, because of the likelihood that confidential information could be disclosed the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of Item 12 – Employment matter. All councillors in favour

Signature.....