



Weybread Parish Council Meeting of the Parish Council Held at the Village Hall Minutes 19th July 2022

Present: Mr G Gibbs – Chairman, Mrs S Hardy – Vice Chairman (Acting as Clerk), Mrs J Blair, Mr C Jordan, Mrs S Middleton and Mrs A Pickess

Also present: 1 member of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Mr G Tibbenham and District Councillor Hadingham. (Note: Apologies had also been sent by County Councillor Gould but not received in time for the meeting)
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Mr Gibbs declared a personal, pecuniary interest in Minute 9 as one of the cheques in the Payment Schedule for approval was to himself in respect of expenditure on the Platinum Jubilee event.

3. **Approval of the Minutes:**

The Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 17 May 2022 were approved subject to an amendment to Minute 32: the date of the next meeting was 19 not 12 July 2022. The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting on 12 July 2022 were also approved and both sets of minutes were duly signed.

4. **County Councillor's Report:**

The report from County Councillor Peter Gould had previously circulated. There were no questions to be forwarded to him in his absence.

5. **District Councillor's Report**

Mrs Hadingham's Report had been previously circulated. Although she was unable to attend the meeting she had asked that any questions on it be forwarded to her and she would respond. There were no questions and the Council thanked Mrs Hadingham for her report.

6. **Chairman's Report**

Councillor vacancies – a number of people had been approached to fill the two vacancies. There were some who might be interested and a further name was mentioned. The Chairman undertook to contact them.

Platinum Jubilee Party – the Hog Roast and Jubilee celebration had been very successful with around 200 people attending. There had been a very good atmosphere and six thank you cards had been received saying what a fantastic event it had been for the village. The Council asked that their thanks be extended to the Village Hall Management Committee who had provided free drinks for the event and helped to set things up along with Mr Watling who had also personally undertaken a lot of the preparation work. The Chairman read out a letter from the East of England Air

Ambulance Service thanking the parish for its donation of £1000 collected on the day. Mrs Middleton undertook to put a copy of the letter on the website.

7. Interim Clerk's Report

Mrs Hardy advised that the closing date for application for the position of Parish Clerk had been 30th June and an interview was due to take place later this week. In addition to the Chairman and herself, Mrs Pickess had agreed to sit on the Interview Panel. The outcome of the interview would be advised to the Council as soon as possible.

At 8.10 the Parish Council Meeting was suspended at this point to allow for Public Speaking. There being no questions or comments from the public, the Parish Council meeting then resumed.

8. Finance Report:

At present only the chequebook had been received back from the former Clerk so a full Finance report could not be made at this time. The former Clerk was waiting to do a formal handover to the new Clerk when appointed.

9. Payment Schedule Approval:

The following payments were approved for signature:

Mid Suffolk – Litter and Dog bin emptying 1/4/-31/3/22 - £96.74
Village Hall – Hall Hire 3/11/21-5/5/22 - £84.00
J S Hollington – Platinum Jubilee Plaque - £200.00
GR & JL Gibbs – Parish Jubilee Party £435.45
PM Hunter – Hog Roast - £730.00

10. Issue Regarding Bank Accounts:

At the last meeting the former Clerk had advised of a letter received from HSBC requiring the Council to confirm certain details for safeguarding reasons or the Council's bank account would be closed on 15th September. It appeared to be a standard letter as part of financial procedures and the Chairman undertook to contact the bank to advise that this could not be done until we had a new Clerk in place.

There was an alternative bank account which was still live with Barclays bank which appeared not to have been closed when business was transferred to HSBC. They had written advising that it would close on 5th September unless the Council advised that they wished it to remain open. As we no longer had a chequebook for the account and there was no money in the account the Council agreed that no action be taken to keep the account open and that it be allowed to close on that date.

11. Policing Issues Report

Mrs Hardy had circulated a report on policing issues. She had not been able to ascertain any further information regarding the crimes listed for Weybread on the Crime Map but would contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team for more information. Information had also been provided on a cold calling incident in the village reported to the Police by a resident in June, advice from the police regarding diesel thefts from plant and agricultural machinery and about the Anti-Social Behaviour week.

12. Tree Warden's Report

Mrs Mittuch's Report had been previously circulated. Mr Jordan said that the oak tree to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee had been planted at the correct time but it was not yet certain that it had died. If it had then he would speak to Mr Nott who had ordered it and they would contact the supplier to find out if they would replace it free of charge before the Council took up Mrs Mittuch's offer of a replacement. If they did he would plant it in November.

Mrs Mittuch intended to conduct a tree seed gathering day on 24th September. She asked if there were any other parish events that day and whether she could use the Hall free of charge. The Chairman undertook to advise her that there no events had been organised by the Parish Council but that she should contact the Village Hall Management Committee to ascertain if they had and also that it was to them she should request use of the Hall.

13. Planning issues.

There were no planning applications for consideration at this meeting. An extraordinary meeting had been called the previous week to consider one where the closing date for comments was before the date of this scheduled meeting. Mrs Pickess had noted that it appeared from the consultation letters that we might be able to request an extension to the consultation deadline to enable future applications at a scheduled meeting rather than holding a separate meeting. It was agreed that this be taken forward with the new Clerk.

14. Village Sign

When the Plaque for the Jubilee tree had been fitted to the sign it had been found that the post was rotten and needed replacement. Mr Jordan had obtained one quotation for the work and was awaiting another. The sign itself also required refurbishment. It had been erected for the Silver Jubilee and it was considered fitting that the sign and post be refurbished for the Platinum Jubilee. Approval was given in principal for a budget of up to £500 for the works.

15. Rural Services Review

Community Action Suffolk was conducting a survey of rural parishes about local services and facilities. Mrs Pickess had undertaken to complete the survey and sought assistance from the Council on some of the answers to the 51 questions asked.

16. Next Meeting: Tuesday 21st September 2022 commencing 7.30pm

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was declared closed at 8.34pm

Signed.....Date.....