

A meeting of the council was held in the village hall on Monday 18th January 2016 7:30pm. A draft summary of the minutes follows.

PRESENT: Chairman: R Housley, S Fuller, P List, A Dew, Cllr M Hicks and three parishioners.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited the parishioners to air any concerns they may have.

1. Public Participation. The footpaths are very wet and muddy. Please take care. SCC contractors have visited Church Croft Hall where the pipe is blocked under the road, but no further action has been taken. Cllr M Hicks will liaise with Highways.

The Parish Council meeting commenced.

2. Apologies. D Ferguson

3 Declarations of interest. None

4 Minutes. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record. They were then signed and dated.

5 Matters arising. The village website is being developed containing Parish Council and village information. Visit www.bedingfield.onesuffolk.net

6 Highways. The 'Bedingfield' sign and 30mph signs have all been reinstated. The C540 Hall Road from Church Corner to Hunters Lodge will be closed for BT work on 1st and 2nd February. The councillors have visited 'The Street' to access the speeding. VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) has to be approved by SCC highways who visit and assess the area. SCC has a sign that rotates around the villages but there is a long waiting list. To buy a VAS would cost between £2500 and £3500. It is advised that the VAS be moved every few weeks to have the greatest effect. Posts to hold the VAS are installed by SCC and can be financed through Cllr M Hicks. Volunteers would need to be trained in safety for moving the VAS and batteries need changing frequently. R Housley will contact SCC Highways for an assessment.

7 Correspondence. A consultation on Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan finishes on 22 February. No changes are being made locally. Suffolk Age UK have organised a Will month in February where participating solicitors will produce a basic single or mirror will for a suggested donation to Age UK Suffolk. Letters asking for donations were received from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (www.sars999.org.uk), and Suffolk Age UK (www.ageuksuffolk.org).

8 Planning. MSDC has granted permission for a mesh fence at 2 Munters Cottage, The Street. Councillors had no objection to: a change of use from residential annexe to holiday let at Low Farm and minor material amendment to the Barn at Oak Cottage, Hall Road.

9 Internal Auditor and Risk Assessment. These had been circulated with the agenda. They were studied and adopted by all the councillors.

10.Finance. The budget was circulated with the agenda. This is the last year of a discretionary grant which has been reduced again. Following much discussion on the budget it was agreed to leave the precept at last year's figure.

All the councillors agreed to pay:

Mr V Martin for winding the church clock.

Hire of Bedingfield Village Hall for the year.

The councillors thanked the clerk and were appreciative of the work she does.

With extra work on the website councillors discussed and approved an increase to the clerk's salary.

11 MSDC Report: District Councillor M Hicks. The Village Hall has applied for a grant from Cllr Hicks Locality budget and the results should soon be known.

12 SCC Report: County Councillor M Hicks. The 4G mast will not be installed at Worlingworth as planned. SCC has launched a competition to find the county's most active community in 2015. Parents in Suffolk are being encouraged to get 'Sugar Smart' and take control of their children's sugar intake as part of a new campaign. Currently 20.9% of four to five year olds in Suffolk are overweight or obese.

The map showing when and where faster broadband is planned has not been released. If you are getting less than 2mbps a subsidised satellite service may be available. If you are eligible for the subsidy there is a choice of satellite providers for the installation but the on going costs per month are higher than normal broadband.

13 The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations. Suggestions were made for a celebration in the village. The residents are invited to form a committee to cater and organise an event.

14. AOB The chairman circulated copies of a parish councillor's job description.

Cllrs S Fuller and P List were thanked for painting the village pump and repairing the notice board.

No crimes reported locally. The police are targeting heating oil thefts and remind us to be aware of spam emails.

15 Next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 7th March 2016 7:30pm

Everyone was thanked for attending.