

23
SPORLE WITH PALGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held 7.30 p.m. Thursday 12th March 2015
at Sporle Community Centre

Present:

Mr G Burrows
Miss H Dye
Mr K McLeod

Mrs S Clark
Mr L Flack

County Councillor Paul Smyth

Judith Flack (Clerk) in attendance

1 member of the public S

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m. In the absence of Mr Lambert, Mr Burrows took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. One minute of silence was held in memory of the late Councillor, Mr Trevor Martin

1. **Apologies:** Received and accepted at the meeting from Mr Lambert
2. **Minutes of the last meeting (12th Feb 2015)** It was proposed by Mr McLeod that the minutes be adopted and signed as a true record, seconded by Mr Flack and agreed by all.
3. **Declarations of interest: - None declared**
4. **Meeting adjourned to allow members of the public to speak:** Ms Howard advised the members of the Council that since a recent burglary in Sydney Dye Court, concerns have been raised by elderly and vulnerable residents asking if a Neighbourhood Watch scheme is in place. It was understood that there may have been a group in the past, but at present there is not an active scheme. Mr Burrows suggested that this might be something to follow up, considering the number of calls he has received from worried residents. Ms Howard suggested that there are local residents who would be willing to help. Appropriately, at this point, 2 officers arrived from Norfolk Constabulary who assisted in follow up discussions. PCSO Tampin offered to take it forward and arrange a local meeting at the Community Centre. PCSO Tampin advised that January's crime statistics were 1 burglary and 2 "other" crimes. With no further matters for their discussion the Police officers left the meeting.
5. **Updates from County / District Councillors:**
 - County Councillor Smyth provided an update on County matters. Consideration of the Partnership matters due for discussion, Friday 13th March
 - County Council working with troubled families – 18% of 1,700 families have been turned around with improvements in school attendance, reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour
 - Promotion of Free health checks due to only 50% take-up with a target of around 66%.
 - Review of foster care and associated problems. Encouragement for those involved to contact County to raise any concerns
 - Highways engineer had been contacted regarding the "SLOW" markings at the bridge area. Negative response, but will be revisited later if concerns are still there.
 - Meeting held regarding the proposed closure of the Swaffham police office. There has been poor handling of this issue and it has raised the issue of the need to be more engaged with the community in future dealings.
 - Councillor Smyth then left the meeting due to a further commitment.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes:-**
 - No response had yet been received from the tree surgeon, so clerk to pursue
 - The grit bin to be moved to the Community Centre where it might be stored and be useful .
 - Dog fouling still a big issue. Mr Burrows to follow up at the next SNAP meeting in Swaffham. Mr McLeod to obtain 3 notices to be placed at the playing field entrances.
 - Pot-holes – some have been repaired but a hole in Newton Road is deteriorating.

7. Planning matters:

New Applications:- 3PL/2015/0193F Chapel Cottage, 54 The Street, Sporle

Removal of conditions 4 & 5 from original application 3PL/2013/1201F.

Objections of the PC still stand on the same grounds

3PL/2014 /1318F Plot 9 Hill Farm development, The Street, Sporle

This application had been referred to the full Planning Committee. No comment / objection.

3PL/2014/F Old Rectory, site of former swimming pool, The Street, Sporle - Withdrawn

8. Payments for approval:

The following invoices were presented; proposed by Mr McLeod, seconded by Miss Dye and approved for payment.

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| • Mr R Tyrrell – bus shelter cleaning, Feb | £12.00 |
| • Sporle Community Centre - hall hire Feb | £12.00 |
| • E-on – Streetlamp electricity, Feb | £137.89 |
| • E-on – Pavilion electricity, | £8.79 |

The Clerk requested that approval be given for salary payment, not yet calculated, for January – March and office expenses be paid before the end of March. Once the payslips had been calculated and all details collated, the information would be emailed to all Councillors for approval and the cheques (for Clerk and HMRC) would be written out for signatures. As the Chairman was away for the whole of March there was now only 1 signatory available, so the Chairman would be asked to sign off all payments on his return. Therefore the payments would not be cashed until the new financial year. This was agreed.

9. Correspondence:

All electronic correspondence had been received and circulated by e-mail.

- E-on – advice that the deemed contract rates for streetlighting would increase by approximately 33%. Further investigations would be made to attempt to find a better price, but initial enquiries were not looking good.
- Trust deed regarding the playing field had been requested from the Charity Commission as nothing was filed. Clerk was asked to check Minutes for details of exchange.

10. Further items for discussion:

- Mr McLeod – further to the email from Breckland Council advising a pot of funding for local environmental improvements, suggested that perhaps the development of flower beds with planted up areas near the school (and possibly involving the school) might be one means of preventing parking on the grass.
- Mr Burrows suggested looking further into developing a parking area at the lower end of the playing field, as suggested by the football club in their draft plans.
- Mrs Clark advised that since the lack of progress at the building plot, 4 Sydney Dye Court, the land was becoming a source of vermin invading neighbouring properties. Clerk to contact environmental health regarding the rat infestation and Planning regarding the hold-up.
- Miss Dye reported that water is still running down Bunkers Hill due to the blocked drains under the road. The clerk had asked the Highway Rangers to clear these drains during their next scheduled visit to Sporle.
- Mr Burrows highlighted an entry in the Clerks & Councils Direct magazine on the plight of a Council playing field / football pitch and quantities of dog mess which had to be removed. The clerk suggested that perhaps the use of fluorescent but biodegradable spray paint (sprayed on the offending piles) might act as a deterrent in future – it has been reported that this does help to minimise this risk. Members of the Council agreed that 2 cans of this paint might be purchased to see if it would help.

11. Date of next meeting – Thursday 16th April 2015 – 7.30 p.m.

12. With no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.57 p.m