

Minutes of Winston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 24th January 2018
At Winston School Room

Present: Phil Tempest – Chair, Roger Guthrie – Finance,
Will Haag, Lucy McKenzie

Lizzie Taurozevicius – Clerk

Also attending Kathie Guthrie – District Councillor
Members of Winston Parish

1. Apologies from Clinton Summer and Matthew Hicks, Suffolk County Councillor.
2. The Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th October 2017 were agreed.
3. Phil said it should be noted that there had not been any VAT added to the cost of felling the trees on the green, so the final figure was £300. The issue regarding the growth of shoots from the tree stumps was discussed later (item 13). The Debenham Draft Local Plan will be discussed as a separate item during the meeting.
4. Matthew Hicks was unable to attend so Phil highlighted items of interest for Winston that have been in Matthew's recent reports – Flood Prevention, Funding of School Transport and the special funding providing financial assistance for properties without central heating.
5. Kathie Guthrie gave her report (on file). Of particular interest was the proposed housing development in Debenham and the merging of Mid Suffolk and Babergh Councils. She was also able to report that her Locality Budget would be able to pay for the survey of remedial work needed at The School Room as well as the actual repairs. This was appreciated by the meeting.
6. Ben Gummer spoke to the meeting about the Planning Application relating to Winston Grange. Whilst Ben Gummer left the room, the Parish Council agreed that they had no objection nor further comment to make on this Application and this would be noted to MSDC.
7. Kathie Guthrie spoke to the meeting about the public meeting held the evening previous in Debenham about the options that were being proposed for a substantial housing development by Taylor Wimpey. Debenham Parish Council had also emailed us about their concerns. It was agreed that, as a Council, we would respond to their planning application highlighting our concerns over the impact for Winston Parishioners over Sewerage, Transport, Roads, Parking, the School and the Doctors. Phil to draft a response from the Parish Council. We would also add our support for the Draft Debenham Local Plan.
8. Roger Guthrie presented the accounts for the period to 31st December 2017. Phil reported that SCC (Matthew Hicks) would be paying 50% (£150) towards the tree felling from their locality budget. The Meeting noted that this was appreciated.

9. Roger presented the draft budget for 2018/19 (as attached to the minutes) and explained that we would meet our aim to have 9 months income in reserve at all times and that this is our reserve target. Following suggestions that areas on The Green need some attention it was agreed to put aside £150 for this purpose and other similar eventualities within the Parish. Roger agreed to present a revised budget at the next meeting taking account of members comments.
10. The Precept for 2018/19 was agreed to be requested at a sum of £600. Roger then read out our Financial, and Other Risk Assessment and as a Council it was agreed that we could show we have 'An Adequate Response and Adequate Cover'.
11. As a Parish Council we have been asked to comment on the proposed merger between Mid Suffolk District Council and Babergh District. Following discussion about this matter it was agreed that a response would be sent stating that we support the merger, conditional on adequate democratic representation and public services being maintained, if not improved, and at lower cost to the taxpayer.
12. It was agreed that there should be a Litter Pick, in early Spring, before too much growth of roadside plants. Mid-Suffolk are keen to support local groups to 'Spring Clean Suffolk' and have said they can supply litter pick kits. The date was set for Saturday 17th March, meeting at The School Room at 2pm and finishing around 4pm. It was hoped that there would be a good response from residents, friends and family to support this.
13. The suckers growing from the felled trees on The Green would be treated by the tree surgeon provided his quote was reasonable and within the Budget.
14. There was a discussion about what content, other than official matters, should, or should not be included on the Parish Council website. It was agreed that local events could be included, for the information of Parishioners. Webmaster Paul said he would create a specific email address so that items could be sent directly to him.
15. There was a suggestion that we might think about obtaining a replacement notice board with the title of the Parish Council above it. Kathie knew of companies who specialise in this area and agreed to pass on their details for consideration.
16. The date for the next Meeting, which is the Annual Meeting, will be on **Wednesday 9th May 2018 at 7.30 pm in The School Room.**

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