

BLYFORD AND SOTHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 5TH MARCH 2018

MINUTES [approved by councillors on 14th May 2018].

1. The chairman, Gerard Walker, welcomed councillors Sally Macdonald, Barry Martin, Rosemary Parry and John Beckett. Apologies were received from Myles Jackson and Gaina Dunsire. Waveney District councillor Alison Cackett was in attendance. Suffolk County councillor, Tony Goldson did not attend. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance.
2. Declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed - none
3. Public Forum – Concerns were expressed by a member of the public re speeding on the A145; it was felt to be especially dangerous by Sotherton cross roads. Councillors were asked to support initiatives to get a speed limit in these areas, and to support Wangford and Henham parish council in approaching Suffolk Highways. Support of Sotherton Corner residents is needed and publicity in The Messenger would be useful. WD councillor, Alison Cackett, asked to be kept up to date and it was suggested that speeding could be discussed at the Halesworth Parishes meeting.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting [08-01-18] were approved and signed as a true record.
5. Matters arising not on the agenda – the future of the phone box at Blyford was discussed and the clerk asked to approach BT with a view to purchase.
6. Finances –
 - balances at HSBC –
 - Community acct [12-11-17] - 10,799.35, less cheques – 3,132.94 [Nov and Jan meetings]
Total – 7,666.41.
 - Business Money Manager [12-10-17] – 4,400.27 + transfer from community acct. – 2,508.00. **Total – 6,908.27**
 - Cheques approved - 441 – HTC for 200 [car park]; 442 – C. Cardwell for 369.20 [net sal jan, feb, mar]; 443 – HMRC for 92.20 [tax to Apr 5]; 444 – Wissett Parish Council for 15.60 [VAS insurance share]; 445 – Business Services CAS for 159.55; [Insurance to Feb 19] - **Total cheques - £636.55.**
 - The internal auditor for last year was agreed to be satisfactory
 - The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was confirmed as RFO
 - A financial risk assessment was carried out and councillors were satisfied that procedures and practices were fit for purpose.
7. Asset register – this was reviewed and the clerk asked to add 2 waste bins to the PC insurance. The notice board at Sotherton Corner needed repair or replacement.
8. Blyford news – nothing to report
9. GDPR – councillors agreed to express interest with SALC.
10. Blyford Village Sign, proposed – various designs discussed.
11. Sotherton road signs – these are planned for Kings Lane and Green Lane; clerk asked to follow up with Waveney Norse
12. Speeding issues – following on comments in the Public Forum, councillors agreed to support Wangford and Henham PC approaches to Suffolk Highways; clerk to write to Wangford and Henham clerk, copy to Suffolk County councillor, Tony Goldson and WD councillor, Alison Cackett

13. Annual Villages Meetings – it was agreed to hold these in Blyford Church on 14th May at 7pm, with refreshments. These meetings will be followed by the AGM of the parish council.

14. Correspondence – received and discussed

15. Any other business for next meeting –

the meeting was closed for Alison Cackett [WD councillor] to give a report on the forthcoming merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District councils. She urged councillors to respond to the boundary changes consultation, there would be fewer councillors with elections in May 2019. The District share of the council tax had been raised by 4.86%.

The meeting opened to allow the council to consider items for the next meeting – new notice board at Sotherton Corner, the level of PC reserves, pot holes in Kings Lane and flooding. Clerk asked to write to Holton PC re Holton pit.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm