

Spein
HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2010
at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion at 1930 hours

Present:

Cllrs Philip Flagg (Chairman), John Brawn, Vivienne Bradford, Michael Knights, Ted O'Connor, Chris Johnson, Kate Leith, Stuart Jarrold, Rod Searle

Also Present:

Sarah Foote (Clerk) and one member of the public (Mr C Baxter)

1. Apologies

Cllr Victoria Williams, MSDC Cllr Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, Cllr Michael Procner

2. Order of Business

Councillors were content with the order of business as set out in the agenda.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. PARISH PLAN

Discussions took place around the newly published Parish Plan. Cllrs expressed concern that the Parish Council had been given responsibility for all 'action points' listed within the Plan. It was felt some actions points the Parish Council is already achieving and some would not be in the statutory remit of the Parish Council to address. Concern was also expressed at the interpretation of some of the survey results.

It was proposed that two groups were formed and the action points from the Plan divided between the groups and then individually considered. The Parish Council will hold a special meeting in January to discuss further and a public meeting will then be held in February (Saturday afternoon Village Hall) to explain to the public what powers the Parish Council has to follow through the actions points and which action points need devolving to the wider community. All in favour. *Action: Cllr Flagg and Cllr O'Connor to form the two groups and divide the action points. Cllr Brawn to check village hall availability.*

Cllrs questioned was there a final version of the Youth Questionnaire? *Action: Clerk to enquire*

20.15 Meeting adjourned for public forum

Reference to Question 31 within the Parish Plan - in light of the action point about creating activities for teenagers and young adults could more use not be made of existing buildings in the village i.e. the Playingfield Pavilion? was asked by the member of public present.

20. 20 Meeting reconvened

5. BUDGET

A summary of the recent ward meeting (which had been attended by some Councillors) was given by the Chairman. At that meeting both the County Councillor and District Councillor Officer had spoken on budget restrictions for the next financial year and how Parish Councils could be asked to provide and/or administer services locally (known as 'divestment'). Cllr McGregor had firmly stated that "if the service could no longer be provided by the County Council and the Parish Council, or another organisation, did not want to provide the service locally, then service would simply not be provided". Cllr McGregor had said "first year money would be available".

The District Council had suggested grouping of Parish Councils in the Ward to provide services and following through some of the concepts of the One Suffolk Plan.

It was noted in the past the Parish Council had employed someone to clear the pavements etc. To reintroduce this would obviously add both administration and manpower costs to the budget.

SPECIAL

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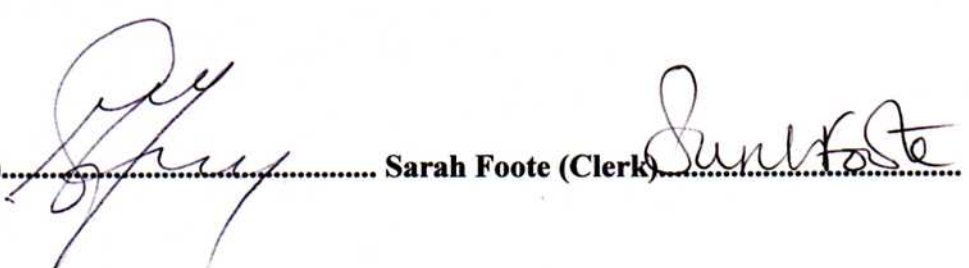
It was agreed that full information on current specifications and costs was essential for any decisions to be made. The Clerk had asked Cllr McGregor for some figures and was waiting to hear back.

Clerk's salary to be revised to £4000 per annum in anticipation of extra administrative work relating to the above. *Action: Chairman to contact Cllr McGregor and Stradbroke Parish Council for information.*

6. Urgent matters and matters for information

Chairman will draft an article for the February edition of the Village Voice to inform parishioners of the above.

The meeting was closed at 21.00 hours.

Handwritten signatures of Philip Flagg and Sarah Foote. Philip Flagg's signature is on the left, and Sarah Foote's signature is on the right, both written in black ink over the dotted lines of the signature lines.