

Present: Cllrs: C Hammond, E Sier, J Crittall, R Baxter, S Lusher B. Cllr Bull & C. Cllr J Spicer.

1. Apologies for absence. Cllrs: W Martineau & M Dolan

2. Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

3. Minutes - Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 7th December 2016 signed and approved as a correct record.

Meeting Adjourned

4. Meeting open to the public

Pigeon Investment Management came to the meeting to discuss arrangements for a public meeting. They were advised to check availability of the hall prior to the meeting, they failed to do this. The Parish Council is happy to provide ideas on how to get information out. Pigeon said they would get back to the Clerk within the next two weeks with a date for their meeting. The Parish Council made it clear to Pigeon that they would not be in position to either object or support an application from them until they had completed their own Neighbourhood plan.

5. Report of County Councillor: J Spicer

See under item 10.

6. Report from B. Councillor: C Bull

The Westerly Bridge in Newmarket Road, Bury St Edmunds is to be closed from 13 February to 7 April for major repair work. There will be diversions in place and temporary no waiting restrictions in that area. This is likely to have an impact on traffic in the town as a whole and you need to bear this in mind when travelling into Bury St Edmunds.

Ward councillors throughout Bury St Edmunds now have the opportunity to recognise those who make an outstanding contribution to their communities by awarding a scroll of honour. Cllr Bull will be able to make two awards within the next two years in her Ward. She has put an advert in the Parish News to ask for nominations for this year by the end of September. Nominations can be made by individuals or the Parish council or other local organisations. So, if you feel there is some unsung hero out there who deserves recognition for what they do to help the community please let Cllr Bull know. Planning training for parish councillors is still in hand and hopefully will be available soon. Please note that although Planning is on the agenda for the Town & Parish Forum on 31 January it is a general overview of how the planning department works rather specific planning issues.

7. Police Report

The latest newsletter was not available prior to the meeting but will be circulated once it becomes available.

Meeting reconvened

8.1. Chairman

The Chairman had no report to make.

8.2.1 Bench, outside shop, update.

The Clerk has been having problems finding someone who could install the new bench. Cllr Lusher knows of a local builder who may be willing to take this small job on. The Clerk will pass on the bench details to see if he is able to do it.

Action Cllr Lusher/Clerk

8.2.2 Highway matters. To include date to meet to discuss positioning of VAS
The Chairman, Cllr Sier and the Clerk are meeting with Officers from SCC on Thursday 12th January to discuss the positioning of the VAS posts in the village.

8.2.3 Bus timetable changes.

It was noted that there have been further changes to the bus times.

8.2.4 New streetlight, update.

At the time of the meeting it was still unknown when the new light would be installed. It was reported that the house, adjacent to where the new light is to be installed, has been burgled.

9 Finance.

9.1 To consider payments. The Following payments were approved and signed by two signatories.

9.1.1 S Wilson, wages for December	101618	£234.18
9.1.2 V Gay. Wages for December	101619	£864.04
9.1.3 HMRC tax & NI for December	101620	£168.72
9.1.4 V Gay, Expenses	101621	£37.75
9.1.5 Vertas, Cricket meadow/Cemetery	101622	£607.03
9.1.6 Speedar, replacement battery	101623	£71.10
9.1.7 Donation, Hopton – Home	101624	£50.00
9.1.8 Donation, Vitalise	101625	£50.00
9.1.9 Donation, Magpas	101626	£50.00
9.1.10 E Sier, Nuts	101627	£13.00

9.2 2017/18 Budget To consider budget for 2017/18.

It was agreed, following discussion, to precept for £24,050.00. All in agreement.

10. GP Surgery at Hopton.

Cllr Spicer met with the new partner at Hopton Surgery. A further meeting is scheduled for next week.

11. Cricket Meadow. Safety update

HAGS have issued a safety update regarding the Freerider. It has been taken out of commission until the replacement part required is received.

12. Review of Emergency plan

There is still a small amount of work to be done.

13. Neighbourhood Plan

Some of the Councillors met with Ian Poole, a private consultant, to discuss the neighbourhood plan. The Clerk is arranging a meeting with another consultant, Jason Parker. The Chairman will attend this meeting. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk could make a decision, about which consultant to appoint, as we really need to act quickly. The next step will be to submit an application to designate a 'Neighbourhood area' The Clerk will work on this and submit it as soon as she is able. We will then need to arrange a public meeting. Available dates will be sought from the village hall's booking secretary and a date confirmed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Action Clerk

14. Update on Community Speed watch and Aggies Piece:

Cllr Sier has ordered a new battery for the speed gun. The team hasn't been out much over the Christmas and New Year period but they have still managed to catch someone speeding through the village.

There is a hornet's nest at Aggie's Piece. It was agreed that its removal should be undertaken by a qualified individual. To this end, Cllr Sier will engage the services of a local pest control contractor.

Action Clerk

15. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

The Councillors discussed the idea of a defibrillator. This was agreed to be a good idea but due to the current workload of the Parish Council would be something to consider for the future.

16. Caretakers report

I have now completed the first year of the new work arrangement; I managed to balance my hours exactly for the year thereby justifying my estimate of what work was necessary. The leaf season is largely finished and I managed to prevent the mulch build-up in the layby opposite the pub.

As usual, January will begin with the edging of the Sandy Lane footpath. I have actually booked a holiday for September so it is possible that I will have my first day off this year.

17. Cemetery

No report.

18. Planning Matters

18.1 DC/16/2845/HH | Householder Planning Application - Single Storey Rear extension, Windy Ridge Bardwell Road Barningham Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 1DF. **No objection**

19. Correspondence for information

19.1 SALC, Local Councillor. Circulated.

19.2 Town & Parish Forum, 31st January, Barrow 5:30pm. Circulated.

20. Date of next meeting: 1st February 2017