

Present: Cllrs: C Hammond, A Steer, R Baxter S Lusher, A Woodward, N Greenwood, W Martineau & B. Cllr Bull.

1. **Apologies for absence** C. Cllr J Spicer

2 **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

2.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None.

2.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests. None.

2.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act. None.

3. **Minutes** - The minutes of the Wednesday 5th December 2018 meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. **Meeting open to the public**

Members of the public came to discuss their concerns over some fireworks used by a resident on New Years Eve. Although they had no objections to people setting off fireworks they were concerned that the fireworks used were of a more commercial nature than is safe to use in a domestic setting. 10 separate complaints had been received. Cllr Bull will take the casing, which seem to have a concrete base, into Trading Standards so that they can ascertain if they are commercial or domestic and to see if any further action needs to be taken.

The B1111 shop crossroads was discussed and it was reported that there has been a number of near misses with people crossing the road and speeding traffic. It was asked if some sort of crossing could be installed on the B1111. The Clerk will ask Cllr Spicer her opinion on this.

Action Clerk

5. **Report from County Councillor: J Spicer**

Cllr Spicer was unable to attend the meeting and made no report

6. **Report from B. Councillor: C Bull**

Cllr Bull reported that there is a nil % increase in SEBC's council tax element this year. The caravan at Thelnetham has now gone and the land cleared of all the rubbish that had accumulated there. There is a new initiative to help support children who have been in care once they have left care. The program offers support, through a 'Grand Mentor', up until the age of 25. Volunteers are being sought to act as grand mentors. Cllr Bull will provide the Clerk will further information about the scheme.

7. **Report from Police**

No report. There is a proposal to raise the policing element of the precept by £2 a month. A survey asking for comments has been sent out.

8. **Progress reports. For information, from:**

8.1. Chairman

The Chairman provided the Councillors with a report from the recent County Lines information event that she attended with the Clerk.

County lines is when criminals from major cities such as Liverpool, Manchester, London and Birmingham expand their drug networks to other areas of the country. This activity brings violence, exploitation and abuse to rural communities.

The crime is called county lines because a single telephone number is used to order drugs, operated from outside the area.

County line networks are having a massive impact on rural counties. Vulnerable children and adults are being recruited to transport cash and drugs all over the country. This keeps the true criminals behind it detached from the act and less likely to be detected or caught.

There are several signs to look out for when someone has been lured into this activity, these include:

- Change in behaviour
- Signs of assault and/or malnutrition
- Access to numerous phones
- Use of unusual terms e.g. going country
- Associating with gangs
- Unexplained bus or train tickets
- School truancy or going missing
- Unexplained gifts (clothes, trainers) and cash

Something else associated with County Lines is 'Cuckooing' This is a form of crime in which drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for drug dealing.

NO TOWN OR VILLAGE IS IMMUNE. OUR COMMUNITIES NEED TO KNOW

Facts

- There is a rise in violence which is mostly between offenders.
- The majority coming here are between 18 and 20 years old/ be broadminded regarding age

It is a priority in Suffolk and the West, so what is being done?

- Monthly meetings
- 19 County Lines are known (tip of the iceberg) – medium risk
- Each line is prioritised based on threat type
- Every quarter there is liaison over the weeks of action
- Multi-agency response > details to each section > tactical actions
- Hotspots change daily/ weekly

IT IS A PRO-ACTIVE RESOURCE IN THE WEST

- The Police are not solving this problem
- The aims are to disgrace and disrupt - WHY?
- So we are no longer a soft target
- Liaison takes place with the Metropolitan Police, London – (the Police Gangs Unit)

Action example

1. Information by phone of 250g of drugs
2. Investigate / this could take a month
3. Teams liaise (the groups and networks) >>tactical actions
4. Find the vulnerable person / the community/ depends on the drug dealer
5. Mapping to monitor the picture
6. Workshops are needed to bring different agencies together

In the last 6 months there has been ZERO high risk and some medium risk issues. Some local youths going to London to collect drugs and return.

SUFFOLK IS BECOMING VERY HOSTILE TO THE County Lines process. This is the main aim. There are fewer young people turning to drugs than 10 years ago. The risk is going down.

If you have any information on county lines drugs networks, you can contact us anonymously on 0800 555 111

8.2 Clerk:

8.2.1 Highway matters.

The pothole, reported at the last meeting, at the top of Droughts Lane into Bardwell Road has been filled. The road painting outside school was discussed, we are still waiting for a reply from Cllr Spicer regarding the renewal of the lines in Church Road. **Action Cllr Spicer**

8.2.2 Payphone/Defibrillator

The payphone has been removed.

The clerk is still waiting to hear from Spa's head office about conditions regarding the installation of the defibrillator and the Heartbeat Trust about our grant application.

8.2.3 New streetlight for Bishops Croft

The Chairman and Clerk met with Richard Webster, SCC, to discuss the option of having an additional street light in Bishops Croft. Mr Webster agreed another light would be beneficial and he would look at the best place for its placement. A provisional quote for £2821.38 +vat has been received. The Clerk will ask that the details for supply and position are confirmed and residents close by are consulted before a final decision is made about the installation of the new light. **Action Clerk**

8.2.4 Overgrown bushes/trees Sandy Lane footpath.

The Clerk is meeting with Peter Kerry about cutting back the overhanging branches at the Sandy Lane footpath.

8.2.5 DBS payment

The Clerk has been sent an invoice for a DBS check. She doesn't know what this is for as she has made no request for one. She has already contacted the school and they were unable to help. She will contact the PCC Secretary to see if this is something the Church has requested. **Action Clerk**

9. Finance.

9.1 The following accounts were approved and signed by 2 signatories

Admin	£1613.17
Suffolk Preservation Society, Subs	£30.00
Vertas, grass cutting	£170.69

9.2 Signing arrangements, Barclays Bank

This matter is still in hand.

10. Grass contract 2019/20

The Clerk is sending out some invitations to tender. She has requested that they are returned by the March meeting so that the contractor can start in April. **Action Clerk**

11. Village Hall No report this month.

12. Speed watch and SID

The speed watch sign has been ordered and should be sent out next week

13. Fireworks

To discuss concerns raised over safety and usage.

As discussed during the public forum there has been a problem with some inconsiderate firework use over the holidays. A piece will be put in both the Parish Council news letter and the Parish Magazine asking people to be considerate to others when setting off fireworks. It should be noted that Cat 2 Fireworks are suitable to use in smaller gardens and carry a minimum safety distance of 5 meters. Cat 3 Fireworks are generally larger and you need a minimum 25 meter safety distance to use these, however, it is suggested that even more room should be available for larger Cat 3 items, not just on safety grounds, but if you stand too close to larger fireworks you can't appreciate them as much.

14. Neighbourhood Plan

Update on progress and information regarding SEBC Call for Sites 2018 - Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). The Clerk has been speaking to AECOM who are carrying out the site assessments for us. They did not feel it was necessary for us to contact those who had submitted sites again regarding the SEBC call for sites. The Clerk provided them with all the information she held regarding the sites put forward and they have started work on assessing them. It was suggested that once they have assessed the sites that we should seek further advice and support about what any possible sites might be suitable for. Due to the number of questions in the village questionnaire it has been difficult to be able to give any feed back. In a bid to address this problem it was agreed that the Councillors would all mark questions (on the blank questionnaires) that they feel the public would like to see the results from. The Chairman will bring some to the next meeting so this can be discussed further. Once collated these results can then be shared with the village. **Action All**

15. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

Cllr Baxter will be putting the newsletter together shortly.

The hedge at Pound Corner, adjacent to Portland, is growing out in to the road and needs to be cut back. The Clerk will contact John Wallace about this. **Action Clerk**

16. Aggies Piece

Cllr Woodward is holding the spare equipment for Aggies, he provided the clerk will an inventory, a copy of which has been passed to Cllr Greenwood. Cllr Steer provided Cllr Greenwood with an aerial photograph to help with planning the maintenance work. Cllr Greenwood will liaise with Peter Kerry about getting the work started.

Action Cllr Greenwood.

17. Caretakers report Circulated

The autumn leaves are over with for another year although I will still need to do some mulch scraping in the layby opposite the pub. I have tried to erect hazard tape in front of the trip hazard in the Play Area but the children keep moving it and using it as a high jump. I ran short of hours late in December so only emptied the litter bins in the last two weeks of the year.

18. Play area reports

The Clerk met with a contractor about repairing the surface at the Play Area. He provided a quote of £1,932.30 + vat. They will need 2 days of +8 conditions to complete these works free of Rain/Snow so therefore will need to wait until the better weather. It was agreed to go ahead with these repairs once the weather allows. In the meantime Steve Wilson has put tape up to keep people away from the area in question.

19. Churchyard/Cemetery

No report this month.

20. Planning Matters

None received this month.

21. Correspondence for information

21.1 A Letter of thanks' was received from Maureen Norris regarding the There but not there project.

21.2 Knettishall Heath project 2019, Suffolk Wildlife Trust. SWLT are introducing some Bagot Goats on to the Heath.

22. Date of next meeting: 6th February 2019 7:30

23. To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:

23.1 Personnel Issues. Steve Wilson's pay rise. NALC have produced new pay scale tables Following discussion it was proposed that the caretaker should be paid in line with these scales and as such he should start on point 1, this is equivalent to point 6 on the old scale. This would mean a slightly bigger pay rise than being proposed by Ixworth Parish Council, on which we normally base our decision. Due to the complexity of the new scales there was some confusion about where the Clerk currently sits and what scale would be her cut off. The Chairman and Clerk will seek further advice on this matter.

23.2 Legal Issues. None.