

**MINUTES**  
**Blundeston & Flixton Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

1. **Present:-** Mr S Rees (Vice-chairman), Mr J Nichols, Mrs G Soanes, Mrs T Townend, Mr P Button, Mr B Shelton, Mr M Arnold, Mr R Leach, Mr M Straw, Miss M Wright, Cllr P Ashdown, & Cllr B Poole & 8 parishioners were present.
2. **Apologies:** Mr G Wade, Cllr L Jacklin, PCSO Sue Kershaw
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2013 were approved and signed.
4. **Declaration of interests:** No interests were declared
5. **15 Minutes for Parishioners input:**

Parishioner reported that a 30mph sign on Lound Road had been knocked over.

**ACTION ITEM:** Clerk to report to Highways

Prospective parishioner enquired about whether or not there had been any problems with the sewage pumping station on Lound Road and enquired about a new building that was being built. He was informed that there had been no issues with the pumping station and the new building was a chalet bungalow with basement.

Parishioner asked if the Parish Council were prepared to write a letter of support for the proposed purchase of Lothingland School site by the Lowestoft and Yarmouth Rugby Club.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Parish Council would write to confirm they felt it could potentially be a good use for the site but this view was subject to reviewing detailed proposed plans. Simon Lewis to provide details of who to send the letter to.

A representative from the North East Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau informed those present that following receipt of a small amount of lottery funding they were looking to provide a service to rural areas and were looking for venues where confidential interviews could be provided to local residents. Initially this would be on a trial basis of a few hours once a month.

**6. Other Parish Business (Parish Councillors)**

**Mick Straw** stated that parking on the Pickwick Drive/Market Lane junction had again reached dangerous levels.

**ACTION ITEM:** Clerk to inform PCSO Sue Kershaw

**Melanie Wright** asked what action the Parish Council were going to take regarding the closure of Blundeston Prison. **IT WAS AGREED** to accept Peter Aldous invitation to meet and discuss the issue.

**ACTION ITEM:** Paul Ashdown to contact Peter Aldous and get his availability and find out when a meeting could be held.

**Rod Leech** – Asked if slow signs could be painted on Market Lane leading towards the A12.

**ACTION ITEM:** Clerk to contact Highways

**John Nichols** reported that he had been approached by the BBC for assistance in locating the Naval Convalescent Home at which entertainer Michael Flanders was treated and convalesced for Polio during

1944/45. John reported that following investigation this was in fact located on the site of the Prison.

**John Nichols** also read out a letter from the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding the funding of local councils and precepts, the contents of which were not clear.

**ACTION ITEM:** Clerk to invite Mike Barnard and Alan McFarlane to next meeting for explanation.

**Brian Shelton** discussed the repair of the roundabout on the Play Park, and following discussion it was decided to obtain prices to get it renovated. Paul Button offered to transport the roundabout if required.

**Martin Arnold** reported that the drains on Lound Road had still not been cleared.

**ACTION ITEM:** Cllr Paul Ashdown to discuss with Highways

## **7. Police Report** (Following report was read in the absence of PCSO Sue Kershaw)

There were no recorded crimes in Flixton and one in Blundeston. This was a person driving with excess alcohol. At last month's meeting Miss Wright reported flying tipping on Peto Corner, details have been passed on to WDC. Sue Kershaw commented that she understood Blundeston Prison is to close on 31/12/13 and that this had been part of the parish and her role for a number of years. The loss to the Community will be felt and the buildings will remain empty until such time as a further use is found for them.

## **8. District Councillors Report:**

Cllr Ashdown expressed his shock at the news of the Prison Closure, and had a report regarding the Flooding on Market Lane which was held over to the Agenda Item below.

## **9. County Councillors Report:**

Cllr Bert Poole confirmed that following the report on speeding along Copperfield Terrace, speed roundels were to be painted on the road. He reported on a meeting he had attended at the James Paget Hospital where it was reported that there had been no cases of MRSA in the last year and only 13 cases of C.Diff. He also reported that they were recruiting 25 new staff from Portugal.

## **10. Flooding, Ditch Clearance etc. Market Lane**

For the benefit of the parishioners present, John Nichols provided an update on progress since the last meeting. This included the completion of the deepening of the ditch along the edge of the field and discussions regarding whether to pipe across the playing field or dig out the ditches. More officials started to get involved and it was brought to our attention that Suffolk County Council have a Flood and Water Management Team whom several of the people we have been consulting should have been aware of but failed to inform us. Jason Skilton from the Flood and Water Management Team visited the site on 10<sup>th</sup> September and the report on this meeting was given by Cllr Ashdown.

The visit commenced at the village pond and the drainage from the pond to opposite the Plough. Despite previous assurances from Anglian Water that these drains had been cleared, it would appear that there are still blockages and Jason Skilton was informed that Anglian Water had agreed responsibility for the system and knew it had blockages that needed to be cleared and a new liner fitted. They commented on the excellent work that Simon Lewis had already done and agreed that a pipe across the football field to the same depth as the new

ditch would give a good flow of water and help prevent flooding further back in the system.

They were very concerned about who should be footing the bill since any work legally should be paid for by the landowner and it is the landowner's duty to ensure proper maintenance.

Discussions were held and it was agreed that a pipe across the field was the best way forward. Regarding the costs it was going to be difficult to charge the landowner for the ditch along the arable field after the event, and it was also unclear who was responsible for work needing to be done on the playing field as the field is leased. Section 106 monies could be used if no other alternatives available.

**IT WAS AGREED** the J Nichols would discuss the situation with the landowner.

## 11. Planning

No planning applications received this month.

Planning approvals received:-

Mr M Warnes – 5 The Street, Blundeston, Construction of a two storey rear extension

## 12. Finances: The following finances were approved

Mrs S Jermy – Clerks Salary £146.09, Expenses £12.00 (Stamps), £30 (Telephone Jul/Aug/Sept)

Mr J Nichols – Broadband Allowance £25.00

Receipt of £32.00 towards plaque for Millennium Green from R Leech

## 13. Correspondence

E-mail SALC – Suffolk Advertising

Barbara Shaw – Dog Bins

Suffolk Healthwatch

Rural Services Network – Spotlight on Young People

SALC – Waveney Area Meeting

Cruse Bereavement Care – Awareness in Bereavement Care Course

Post SALC – Councillor Newsletter

Greater Norwich Development Partnership – Town & Country Planning Regulations

ISCRE – Tackling Discrimination in the East

SCC – Proposed Parking Restrictions – Church Road Blundeston

Brian Shelton confirmed that the new dog bins were now being emptied by the council.

**ACTION ITEM:** Clerk to reply to Barbara Shaw who reported the problem

S Rees discussed the proposed parking restrictions on Church Road and **IT WAS AGREED** that we should support the proposal.

**ACTION ITEM:** Clerk to confirm our support

Congratulations were given to everyone involved in Blundeston in Bloom on the Silver Gilt award and cup for best large village.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm