

MINUTES
Blundeston & Flixton Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 18th April 2016

1. **Present:-** Mr G Wade (Chairman), Mr S Rees (Vice-Chairman), Mr J Nichols, Mr B Shelton, Mrs J Hetherington, Mr P Button, M Straw, Miss M Wright, Mr K Blowers, Mrs G Soanes, R Leech, Cllr P Ashdown and 7 Parishioners were present.
2. **Apologies:** Cllr B Poole, PCSO S Kershaw
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the previous meetings held on 21st March 2016 were approved and signed.
4. **Declaration of interests:** Paul Button declared an interest in the Change of Use application for the former Officer's Club.
5. **Clerk's Report**
The Clerk stated that next month's meeting would be preceded by the Annual Meeting and said that the format could be the same as last year whereby the Clubs and Societies could send in their reports but did not need to attend and read them, or we could invite them all to attend, make the reports available and offer them tea and biscuits. The reports would subsequently be placed on the website. It was agreed to invite all the Clubs and Societies for tea and biscuits.
6. **15 Minutes for Parishioners input:**
A parishioner noted that no work has been carried on the Pond by Anglian Water since the last meeting.
ACTION ITEM: Cllr P Ashdown agreed to chase Anglian Water.
7. **Other Parish Business (Parish Councillors)**
M Straw reported that a garden fence alongside the footpath near The Street was broken at the bottom and hazardous to users of the footpath.
ACTION ITEM: S Rees will either talk to the resident or provide contact details to the Clerk who will write to the owner.
M Straw reported that bags containing dog waste were being deposited in a pile on the footpath near his property.
ACTION ITEM: Cllr P Ashdown agreed to arrange for it to be cleared.
M Straw also reported the number of dogs are exercised on the Millennium Green off lead. **IT WAS AGREED** that whilst signage around the Green requested that dogs be kept on leads this would not be policed and left to owner's discretion.

R Leech asked if it would be possible to have white fences, similar to those at the entrance to Somerleyton, as they seem a good way of reducing speed of traffic entering the village. This has been raised before and we had been told that the verges on the entrances to Blundeston were not wide enough to accommodate them, however the Clerk would email Cllr B Poole and L Jacklin to see what was possible.

R Leech also asked Cllr P Ashdown to request that the hedge at Peto corner be cut when he next meets with Lord Somerleyton.

S Rees said that he had reported the pot holes in the Village on Suffolk County Council website, but had received a response that they were "not necessary for repair as yet". It was felt that these pot holes were dangerous and could cause serious harm to cyclists.
ACTION ITEM: Cllr P Ashdown to contact SCC and ask them if they are prepared to pay for any

damage to vehicles caused by the pot holes.

J Hetherington requested signs to stop vehicles parking on the verges outside the Village Hall. K Blowers confirmed that he would provide signs.

B Shelton confirmed that the beacon would be lit on Thursday 21st at 7.30 to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. R Leech offered to lend Brian his ladder in order to clean the gas nozzles. It was agreed to purchase a Union Jack flag to fly on the Flag Pole outside the Village Hall to mark the occasion.

B Shelton stated that a list of new equipment for the play park had been made and that some of the current items would be retained for the short term. After further discussion it was decided to review this list at the next sub-committee meeting to replace all of the equipment with the exception of the roundabout to ensure that we did not suffer from further maintenance issues in a couple of years' time. In addition to the actual equipment there are going to be costs for the safe areas around the equipment and to repair some of the fencing. It was also decided to close the style entrance to the play park.

P Button reported that some of the drain covers were rotting away on the Southbound A12 carriageway. **ACTION ITEM:** P Ashdown will contact P Aldous MP and Highways.

J Nichols reported (again) the unusable state of the Slip Road onto the A12. **ACTION ITEM:** P Ashdown to contact P Aldous MP

J Nichols reported the flooding on the Millennium Green footpath which could be solved by putting some kerbing in to divert the water. This has been reported and Highways are aware of the issue and will repair "when funds are available".

J Nichols requested an update on the speed survey carried out on Park Hill. P Ashdown reported that it was not deemed to be an issue by Highways, however he will raise the matter again.

Graham informed those present of the Coffee morning that was to be held on Saturday 23rd in aid of Brain Tumour Research between 10.00 – 12.30 unfortunately it had been misreported in the press.

8. Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

It was agreed that the celebrations being organised in June to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday would be done in the name of the Parish Council with the assistance of Blundeston in Bloom so that they were covered by the Parish Council's insurance.

9. Police Report (PCSO S Kershaw read in her absence)

There was one crime in Blundeston which was theft from other building - outer sheds, several high value tools were taken. There were no crimes for Flixton but police have received complaints of off – road motor bikes on footpath/highways, the investigation is ongoing. Fly tipping for both parishes has been reported. As from 4th April Lowestoft's front desk opening hours will be 9 – 5 Monday to Friday 10 - 6 Saturday and closed on Sundays, also PCSO's will not be working late shifts.

And finally – PCSO Sue Kershaw has made the following statement.

It is with some sadness that this is the last police report I send shall send for your Parishes. I am taking redundancy / early retirement, after nearly ten years my contract with Suffolk Constabulary is terminated at the end APRIL 2016. I reflect on the patrols, the time, the kind and lovely people I have helped, chatted too, advised, listened to and the trust that was bestowed upon me. The time has flown by, from when I first was introduced to you all by P.C. Dave Boggis, my have things changed since then, the goal posts in my role as a Police Community Support Officer have been moved many times. I have

experienced many police and not many crime issues in your lovely village. Crime has gone down, but it's a different type of crime now, mainly due to the wonderful world of computers and google!! The most serious crime was the male who exposed himself to lady dog walkers and finally the hairdressers in the street, your village was very nervous and worried but with good old police work the culprit was arrested and found guilty. The other serious crime was the severe criminal damage that occurred last year, again local knowledge came into effect to identify the culprits. There have been other crimes, the parking in Church Road has always been raised with concern by parents for the safety of their children, and the school is so much larger than ten years ago. The dog fouling, parking issues, raves and the odd neighbour dispute, I remember them all but not their names!! So it is time for me to go.....The skate park, Neighbourhood Watch, playing tennis with the children and the community speed watch, were all great successes in my service, to your parish. The closure of the Red Lion and finally the prison, with a great loss of employment but maybe and only maybe, new beginnings for that site that will enhance Lakeside Rise.

I thank you all for the support, the farmers who have helped Suffolk police in small ways, the cow s**t on my boots and for showing me the rural life of Blundeston and Flixton, your tea I have drunk, the biscuits I have eaten, the shelter from the cold and rain, for allowing the use of your loo and leaving my bike in safety, either from a flat tyre or if I was needed to be elsewhere in a hurry. Finally, the children who are the future for your community, I now see them as young men and women, from when I first met them nearly ten years ago, so warmly they say hi, police lady Sue!! It's not good bye, as some of you, I now consider friends. I wish your councillors, parish and county councillors, the whole of your community, good health and may you all continue to look out for each other, you do an excellent job. It was an honour to serve you.

10. District Councillors Report: (Cllr P Ashdown)

Cllr P Ashdown reported that parking issues were now going to be policed by Parking Officers who are employed by Waveney Norse and they have the authority to issue parking tickets. He also confirmed that the Planning application for Wilmar, Market Lane will go before the planning committee and he would advise the date as soon as available. It is important that support from the Parish is provided at the meeting.

11. County Councillors Report

None available

12. Planning:

The following plans were reviewed:-

Badger Building – Former Officers Club, Lakeside Rise – Change of use to Nursery School, recommended for approval

Tredwell Developments Ltd – 16 The Street, Change of use from retail to residential, recommended for approval

Plans reviewed prior to meeting:

Mr & Mrs Francis, Wilmar, Market Lane – Proposal: Construction of replacement house.
Refused - Not in keeping with the character of the village.

13. Finances:

Expenditure: W J Jermy & Sons Ltd - £300.00 – Playing Field Rent

14. Correspondence

E-mail Suffolk Police – Letter from Chief Constable and Suffolk PCC
East Suffolk – Newsletter
WDC – Lowestoft Community Governance Review
SALC – LAIS updates

Police – Countdown to new policing model
HRH Prince of Wales – The Queen’s 90th Birthday
Stephen George – HMP – The Stradbroke Lodge
Anglian Water – Help us reduce pollution in your Parish
SALC – Response to Planning Consultation
WDC – Waveney Local Plan
Police – Appeal for Witnesses/Information

15. Any other Business

The next meeting which will include the Annual Meeting and AGM is scheduled for 16th May 2016 at 7.00pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.