

MONK SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 19th February 2019

The meeting commenced at 1900 at the Bedfield Sports Pavilion

02/19 - 01 Present

- David Entwisle (DE - Chairman), Julian Sayer (JS), Gay Clarke (GC), Graham Wigley (GW) and Caroline Berkley CB).
- Geoff Robinson (GR), as Parish Clerk.
- Matthew Hicks (MH - MSDC and SCC Ward Councillor).
- Two members of the public, Tim and Lorna Denton-Cardew (see also item 02/19 – 11).

02/19 - 02 Apologies

- Julie Giles (approved)

02/19 - 03 Declaration of Members Interests & May 2019 Election.

- GR reminded the councillors of the need to keep their declarations up to date.

02/19 - 04 Public Open Session

- DE welcomed Tim and Lorna Denton-Cardew as the applicants of planning submission DC/19/00674 in respect of the creation of a subterranean rifle range with parking area at Rose Hill Farm, Kenton. He explained that although it was situated outside of Monk Soham, its proximity warranted discussion.
- The salient points of a very interesting and informative discussion which followed included:
 - It was as a result of his interest in rifle shooting after his time in the Royal Marines and that it was to combine Tim's interest with providing such a facility in Suffolk for other interested parties. There were no similar facilities in Suffolk and elsewhere they were generally declining in numbers or dated.
 - It would be purpose built, 150 meters in length, with three lanes and located almost entirely underground, with only about 1.5 meters showing, which will be covered in soil and grassed. Grazing of their animals will continue alongside it.
 - All noise will be fully contained within the structure, which will be mainly consist of re-enforced concrete.
 - Although his hobby, it will be run as a small commercial operation and open both weekends and during the week. There will be only six parking spaces.
 - Both applicants emphasized that they are well aware of their need to protect the environment and that their current small-holding would continue to be located adjacent to the site.
 - They had visited a similar site in The Peak District of Derbyshire and looked to incorporate best practice from there. The also had noticed areas where improvements could be made in their own project. Daily management had yet to be assessed.
- DE thanked them for their very helpful contribution and explained that the councillors would discuss it further at item 11 on the agenda.

02/19 - 05 Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting (20th November 2018)

- These were agreed and signed by DE as an accurate record.

02/19 - 06 Action Points from the Minutes

- GR explained that after advertising its availability on the parish notice boards and the website, the Hungers Green wood had been sold to the only bidder for £50 and removed.
- Due to changes in personnel within Monk Soham Church PCC, no decision had been made by them regarding the displaying of the WWI Remembrance Book. GC offered to liaise with the PCC.

02/19 - 07 Minutes of an Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 5th December 2018

- These were agreed and signed by DE as accurate record.
- There were no action points outstanding.

02/19 - 08 Police Report

- GR stated that the Suffolk Police crime website showed only one reported crime in Monk Soham during the period October to December 2018. This was anti-social behavior on Kenton Low Road, and no further action was pending. It was mentioned that councillors were aware of other crime in the village more recently.

02/19 -09 Report of District & County Councillor

MH informed the meeting that:

- The SCC budget was under huge pressure, with the cost of social care for vulnerable children and the number of pensioners increasing. He stated that it is anticipated that the incidence of over 65s will increase to 1 in 3 of the population in the foreseeable future.
- Money has been allocated to improve the availability of places in schools for vulnerable children with special education needs. This will be achieved by borrowing money and include new builds as well as increasing existing facilities.
- £9.6m has been obtained from Central Government for road repairs, which will include potholes and drainage, etc. It must be spent before the 31st March 2019 and will include the use of a machine that can excavate, fill and repair potholes in one operation, thus saving time and road closures.
- SCC are looking for volunteers to participate in the Great Eastern Run and the Great Eastern Swim, the latter including non-swimmers learning to swim in a lake.
- From the May election, the MSDC ward will lose the parishes of Kenton and Ashfield-cum-Thorpe and gain Hoxon.

02/19 - 10 Financial Update

- The Parish Precept for 2019/20 had been acknowledged by MSDC.
- GR explained that income since the last meeting consisted of the £50 from the sale of wood whilst expenditure was limited to payment of £100 to Robert Girling for Hungers Green grass cutting.
- Remaining expenditure for 2018/19 consisted of the Clerk's second half year salary/PAYE and expenses (£375 and £75.22 respectively). Both were approved for payment.
- The use of Don Hughes again as local auditor for the 2018/19 accounts was approved.

02/19 - 11 Planning Applications

- DC/18/04743 (single story house at Monksfield) was still under consideration by MSDC.
- DC/18/04763 (extensions at Ivydene) had been approved by MSDC.
- DC/18/05088 (The Long House – change of garage use). This had been withdrawn due to issues with highway access and the nearby listed building. It is likely to be amended and resubmitted to MSDC.
- DC/18/00805 (Build of five houses opposite Oakfield) – refused by MSDC.
- MSDC had responded to our requests for clarification of the use of land off School Road as Suffolk Run Free dog walking site. They had visited the site and stated that no planning contraventions existed.
- DC/19/00674 (Proposed rifle shooting range at Kenton). After considering the discussion during the open session (see item 02/19 – 04 above), the councilors unanimously offered no objection to the proposal. This was subject to MSDC safeguarding issues such as noise levels and adequate further specifications such as its day to day management and any environmental issues that may occur. GR to advise MSDC accordingly.

02/19 - 12 Countryside Group

- GR stated that over the summer he had contacted three local farmers about re-instating footpaths after complaints from villagers. It appears that SCC advice is that provided they are marked out, burning off crops can wait until later in the growing season. GR to monitor the situation and if necessary, contact them again in circa a month's time.
- GC stated that further coppicing work on Hungers Green in accordance with the management plan had been completed.

02/19 - 13 Other Correspondence and Any Other Business

- GR reminded councillors that they must complete their nomination papers if they wished to be considered for the election on the 2nd May 2019. He outlined the procedure and the significant dates, requesting that completed papers are returned to him as soon as possible.
- He also advised councillors that the process to renew the council pension "scheme" under the current registration with the Pensions Regulator was in hand.

02/19 - 14 Date of Next Meetings

- The date of the next meeting (the AGM) was fixed for 1900 on Tuesday 14th May 2019, followed by the Annual Village Meeting (AVM) at circa 2000.

The meeting closed at 1955.

Chairman.....