

# MONK SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## **(Draft) Minutes at the Meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

The meeting commenced at 1900 at the Bedfield Sports Pavilion

### ***09/18 - 01 Present***

David Entwisle (DE - Chairman), Julian Sayer (JS), Cliff Arndt-Snelling (CAS), Graham Wigley (GW), Julie Giles (JG), Gay Clarke (GC) and Caroline Berkley (CB – co-opted, see below).  
Geoff Robinson (GR), as Parish Clerk.  
Matthew Hicks (MH) for part of the meeting.  
No members of the public were present.

### ***09/18 - 02 Apologies***

- None.

### ***09/18 - 03 Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman***

- Debbie Rawlinson had resigned since the last meeting and GR had written to her with our thanks.
- Following a request to villagers for expressions of interest in being a councillor, CB had previously submitted her CV, which had been circulated. CB was the only applicant and was unanimously co-opted to Monk Soham Parish Council and signed the Acceptance Of Office forms, subsequently joining the meeting. Her Register of Members Interest form was also accepted by GR.
- GW was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman and accepted the post.

### ***09/18 - 04 Declarations of Members Interests***

- GR reminded councillors of the need to keep their declarations up to date. No changes were reported by the Councillors.

### ***09/18 - 05 Public Open Session***

- None.

### ***09/18 - 06 Minutes of the AGM (1<sup>st</sup> May 2018)***

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

### ***09/18 - 07 Action Points from the Minutes***

- GW had completed his illustrated book on the Monk Soham war heroes, which had been subsequently published. DE echoed the thanks of everyone for the completion of a superb project.

### ***09/18 - 08 Minutes of the 2018 Annual Village Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> May 2018)***

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

### ***09/18 - 09 Minutes of the 2018 Annual Village Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> May 2018)***

- It had subsequently been decided that GW would not prepare a presentation for the Bedfield Fete.

### ***05/18 - 10 Police Report***

- GR stated that Suffolk Police website checks had showed no recorded crimes in the village or the surrounding area during the period April to July 2018.

#### **05/18 -11 Report of District & County Councillor**

- MH summarised the contents of his next monthly report, which was imminent. This included the fact the GCSE and Advanced level results were above the national average, with Debenham school heading the Suffolk county table. Tourism was also booming in Suffolk adding a significant amount in terms of income and employment. Finally, he reported that Superfast Broadband was behind time with Openreach missing their agreed targets, which had been renegotiated.
- However, all but 2% of premises would have it by the end of 2020 and he invited individuals to send him details of their phone numbers & addresses and he will obtain details of the expected connection dates for Monk Soham Green. In, addition a list would be available in autumn of those who will still have the misfortune to be in the remaining 2%, whilst a solution was sourced.

#### **09/18 - 12 Financial Update**

- GR stated that he had checked with the national auditors, who had confirmed that the 2017/18 exemption certificate had been approved. The accounts were therefore complete.
- He also explained expenditure since the last meeting had been payment of £40 to the local auditor (Don Hughes), £135.17 for the SALC membership renewal and £74.20 for expenses associated with the war heroes book (GW).
- Payment of the Clerk's first half salary, PAYE and expenses (£321.00, £54.00 & £79.83 respectively), was approved, as well as £100 to Bedfield & Monk Soham Sports Club in connection with their proposed carpark improvements.
- There had been no income in the same period.
- GR produced and circulated a estimate of spending for the rest of the financial year.
- The 2018/19 Financial Risk Assessment had been circulated and was approved during the meeting.

#### **09//18 - 13 Planning Applications**

- 0999/17 (Woodcroft Hall - rebuild Chimney) – had been granted by MSDC
- DC/18/00805 (Land opposite Oaklands – eight/ ten dwellings). This had been opposed by the Parish Council and refused by MSDC.
- 4675/16 (Honeysuckle Farm). GR stated that he had been approached by some villagers concerned about the fact that ice creams were for public sale contrary to the original planning statement, together with other items yet to be completed. After a brief discussion, it was overwhelmingly agreed that Matthew Reed had done an excellent job with the site. As it was very much "work in progress", it was unanimously agreed that no further action was required at this stage.

#### **09/18 - 14 Countryside Group (by JG)**

- The meadow on Hungers Green had been cut in various stages and required the thistles to be done by Robert Girling. These were becoming a problem. JG to liaise with Robert.
- Part of the hedge at the Bedfield end of Hungers Green (next to the gate) would need to flailed as there was no longer enough volunteers to cut it manually.
- The Blackthorn bushes were doing well, although one had been snapped off.
- The owl box on Hungers Green had residents consisting of either large wasps or hornets.
- Satisfaction was expressed regarding the recent co-operation of local farmers following the identification of recent footpath problems, mainly involving obstruction by crops. Villagers had continued to report problems, which are then taken up by GR with the landowners and/or SCC. The councillors expressed thanks for these updates and vigilance . GR to chase up the promised new footpath finger-signs, which still had to materialize.

#### **09/18 - 15 Correspondence and Any Other Business**

- CAS stated that a new Community bus would be in place by December 2018, costing about £50,000. Although the VAT would be recovered in due course, they may have to request donations to cover this in the short-term. There had been no reduction in the routes covered.

- GR stated that MSDC had removed fly-tipping in the small wood off Spring Hill and that he continued to report potholes when they were noticed.
- SCC Highways has forwarded a paper stated that they no longer intended to replenish grit-heaps but would fill bins if we purchased them. After a brief discussion it was decided that the cost of providing these at up to the current four locations would be prohibitive, with little proof that they would ever be used. In addition, it was suspected as a prelude for charging for the grit in due course. The matter was therefore deferred.
- A letter had been received from the Debenham Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) inviting participation in a ceremony in Monk Soham churchyard at the grave of Garson Chapman, who had died from his wounds sustained in WWI and was subsequently buried there in 1921. This is part of a county-wide initiative and would involve participation of the Parish Council, the children at Bedfield School and Monk Soham Parish Church in a short graveside service commencing 1100 on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018. GR had sent details to the Church and School. It was agreed in principle to participate, with DE taking the lead and the PC would also fund a wreath and "poppy cross", via the RBL. GR will liaise with Eddy Alcock regarding future arrangements. Monk Soham Church had already agreed, and CB will follow up with Bedfield School.
- Concern had been expressed by some villagers regarding the recently opened "Dogs Run Free" commercial field area off School Road and in particular, the potential increase in traffic. GR to clarify with MSDC Planning.
- Thanks were expressed to everyone involved in the highly successful "Monk Soham Meander" day, which had been held in glorious sunshine on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2018 and raised £1100 for charity. GC, DE, Sue Entwisle and Geoff Clarke had been especially active. Feedback had been excellent.

#### ***09/18 - 16 Date of Next Meetings***

The date of the next meeting was fixed for 1900 on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Bedfield Sports Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 2020.

**Chairman.....**