

DITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The 2012 January meeting was held on the 16th at 7.30p.m. with Cllr. Green in the Chair and the following present-Cllrs. M.C. & M.P. Ankrett, Chadd, Kirkpatrick, Mulley, Pegg & Weston together with clerk John Smith. Also present were county councillor Tomkinson, district councillor Allen, Sarita Presland (Nfk.ALC parish liaison officer), Chris Tyacke (Chair Hedenham parish meeting) attending as a member of the public, WPC P.Farrow and two members of the public.

The public session opened with Sarita Presland, attending by invitation to talk on the need for transparency of decision making ,with a focus in this session in planning matters.

With regard to planning; after some discussion it was agreed that this Council's dealings had in the view of the NALC representative been legitimate, albeit with some challenge from Cllr. Allen particularly with regard to future likely procedural changes proposed by SNC. There was general agreement amongst councillors that the procedures recently implemented meant that future changes required by SNC to demonstrate transparency would be overed and all councillors were happy that normal applications be handled by the committee unless major or contentious.

Sarita Presland concluded the presentation on the merits or otherwise of Standing Orders, citing examples of councils that had suspended Standing Orders, to those that had adopted the full NALC model orders, and variations between Standing Order booklets together with a good Councillors Guide were made available and at 7.55p.m. this most useful session closed with thanks to Sarita Presland. Standing Order booklets together with a good Councillors Guide were made available and at 7.55p.m. this most useful session closed with thanks to Sarita Presland.

The meeting proper commenced at 8p.m. in accordance with the Summons.

1. Apologies An apology for absence was received & accepted from Frank James. Cllr. Pegg reported that Cllr. Bent remained in hospital and that his health was far from good. No apology had been received from Cllr. Cossey.
2. There were no Members Interests to record.
3. Minutes of the 15th November meeting, together with those of the Precept meeting were confirmed and signed.
4. Any matters arising were covered in the agenda.
5. With county cllr Tomkinson due at another meeting he took the floor and was happy to report that blind & disabled persons now had their 24/7 bus concession reinstated by NCC & faster Broadband was being heavily supported financially. He would investigate the non gritting of Holllow Hill Road as he expected that being on a bus route it would be in the programme. He was thanked for having attended and left at 8.18p.m

WPC Farrow then took the floor & reported that a new policing structure was being implemented which would affect this village. She presented, and commented on two recent periods of local crime figures. The date of 31st January was agreed for a problem solving evening to include councillors, police and reps from SNC. Cllr. M.P. Ankrett expressed appreciation on behalf of councillors.

Dis.Cllr. Allen then reported on the progress of the Good Neighbour scheme, and although active interest was limited, the scheme remained feasible with an active committee to drive events forward. Regarding the Community Led Plan she was able to say that enough interest had been shown by returned forms that it could be progressed and agreed with the Chair that it should be as in the name but with council support. Affordable Housing was progressing well, as was the Maltings development with planning permission sought from the Broads Authority with a 13 week period for consultation and publicising.

6. Finances

There were no queries with regard to the clerk's information on the 3rd quarter audit and budgetary position as was also the case with the chair's report on the precept meeting (not surprising as most councillors were present at it). Cheques agreed were as per the annexe A, plus J.A.Smith sal.p.c.£788.74/HM Revenue & Customs, clerk's income tax £331.

7. Planning Applications were as reported in the Annexe plus that relating to ext. additions to Falcon Arches in Falcon Lane. Approval from committee against application BA/O411 had been given at an early meeting this evening.

Advisory Committees

The planning committee needed reorganising as Cllr. James did not wish to chair it (there was some confusion also as to whether or not he wished to be on it) and furthermore Cllr. Cossey had resigned from it. Cllr. Weston agreed to replace the latter and the clerk would ascertain the former's position. It was agreed that the reformed committee would elect its chair. Village sign renovation on next agenda.

8. Local Development Committee chair, Cllr. Chadd, was dealing with the Twinning invitation and had to say that there had been little interest shown. She agreed to investigate what was involved with the setting up of a council web site and had unanimous council approval to do so.

Maintenance & Environment Committee chair, Cllr. Kirkpatrick, felt that provision of further facilities on the play area should be investigated and it was agreed that this be a March meeting agenda item.

9. Issues not decided by committee No issues to report

10. Following the introduction to Standing Orders by Sarita Presland earlier in the evening where the full NALC draft model orders and an abridged version of the mandatory items had been distributed, the Chair's proposal to adopt the full model orders (as amended for this Council's specific variations and tabled for review at the November 2011 meeting) together with abridged version as an informative guideline to the former received unanimous approval.

11. Correspondence to the Chair from a Mr. Fairhead relating to war time writing on a wall at the Maltings would be replied to.

SNC becoming responsible for on-street parking enforcement information had been circulated to all councillors but brought no comment.

12. There was no Other Urgent Business.

13. Councillors were in possession of a schedule of dates for all future 2012 meetings of both Full Council and Planning Committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.