

**GLEMSFORD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON
8TH DECEMBER 2009**

Present	Lucy Knox Len Young Tracey Sansum Lucy Knox	John Suttle Rex Thake Newman Ford Colin Parmenter
In attendance	Sara Turner Richard Kemp	
Apologies	Lynne Bloomfield (ill) Neil Gurr (work)	

Cllr. Searle was absent but no apologies were received.

067 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2009, having previously been circulated, were adopted and signed.

PROPOSED: Cllr Sansum

SECONDED: Cllr. Suttle

068 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Glen Sorrell asked if there was any further progress on the amalgamation of the Village Hall with the Social Club. As there was no concrete progress the Clerk would look into providing Portakabins for changing rooms for the football teams.

069 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr. Thake reported that they were still going through the budget process and there will be many cuts to grants.

070 SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The County Council last week released its figures for the pre-budget; the budget papers include a summary of the County council spending, including specific government grants, as well as updates on what budget pressures will occur over the next financial year in each service department.

The Government also released figures stating that the grant for the Council has increased by 4.4% from last year.

Below is a summary of service reductions, and budgetary pressures that the Council will be suffering from over the next financial year. The main areas of reduction in funding come from that of Adult and Community Services, and Children and Young Persons. This is due to the changing demographic of the county, with more elderly residents, and a heightened requirement for looked after children.

- Pilot schemes to be invested in to look at ways to keep care for the elderly in their own home.
- Reducing the reliance on care homes.
- Services provided for those with mental health and physical disabilities will be adjusted as the Supporting People Grant from the Government has been significantly reduced (£1.5M).
- Capital Investment will include improving the Bury Library and the record office. As well as ongoing work on the business case of three new care homes that will be funded by PFI.
- Increases in the number of looked after children are causing pressure on the budget.
- Investment into frontline staff with a £3.8m into social workers.
- Significant financial pressures on the home to school transport.
- Reduction in staff in CYP through management of vacancies and not filling posts will save £0.77m – risk of just providing statutory work, not just early intervention and prevention work.
- Focus for capital investment on improving ICT, and the SOR with risk that capital investment in other schools will be minimalised.
- Funding issues for rural public transport, with consultation needed before redesigning can take place. Most probably towards a more demand responsive service.
- Reduction in highways maintenance apart from the most important roads in Suffolk, and those which need essential work.
- Both the Fire service and trading standards are at the lowest level of funding possible, making further cost reductions hard.

More information about the budget and to find a set of the papers which outline the Councils budget for next year can be found here - http://apps2.suffolk.gov.uk/cgi-bin/committee_xml.cgi?p=detail&id=1_13532

The Boundary Committee has been awarded the right to announce its recommendations to the Secretary of State on the future of Local government in Suffolk, Norfolk and Devon.

The case which was originally heard on the 6th and 7th October, has taken nearly two months to be concluded. The original case was based on the belief of the three district councils (Forest Heath, St Edmundsbury, and Suffolk Coastal), that the Boundary Committee had not consulted fairly in drawing up its conclusions.

This now means that the Boundary Committee are now free to make the recommendations they wished to, to the Secretary of State. There is no set date as yet for this announcement to be made.

Primary School results in Suffolk are behind the standards for 11 year olds in the three main subjects.

- In English the national standard is 80% reaching level 4, whereas in Suffolk it's 76%
- In Maths the national standard is 79% reaching level 4, whereas in Suffolk it is 73%
- In Science the national standard is 88% reaching level 4, whereas in Suffolk it is 75%

This is the second consecutive year in which standards have slipped in Suffolk for English and Maths. This result highlights the need for investment into the primary school system.

071 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported an email from a resident complaining about various overhanging bushes in the village. The resident had asked if it was possible to write to all householders asking them to keep their boundaries clear. After careful consideration council decided that this was not a viable option as it would waste too much money, but urged residents to contact the Clerk with addresses of properties that were causing a problem, and she could write to them. An article to this effect had been placed in the newsletter which was available to read on the website or in the local shops.

The bollards had been sited at both entrances to the Rec, and also the gate latch had been repaired on the play area. The Clerk had been informed that the quotations for the work to be done on the play area and skateboard park would be emailed to her by Monday 14th December, the barrier would be sited by the week after Christmas, and the signage at the cemetery together with the work on the Village Hall gates would both be done this weekend.

072 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Account Status

Income	815.00
Expenditure	6393.00
Cash in hand	24063.93
High Interest	35384.18
Sports Club	2144.99

Payments made out of Council

Cosmic Graphics	40.00
Cash (petty cash)	200.00
Bunzl	38.63
Cosmic Graphics	134.75
J.I. Turner	224.50
Inland Revenue	273.60

073 PLANNING MATTERS**New Applications****B/09/01163/FHA 16 Fair Green**

Installation of white PVCU windows and doors (removing existing wooden windows and doors).

Agreed to recommend this application for refusal as the windows should match the existing due to the site being in a conservation area.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Parmenter

SECONDED: Cllr. Suttle

B/09/01304/RES Land East of Silverlea, Flax Lane

Submission of details under O.P.P. B/09/00576/OUT – the approval of appearance, layout and scale of the buildings and the landscaping of the site of the erection of 2. no two-storey detached dwellings (with garage to Plot 2 & Plot 1) and alteration of existing vehicular access.

Agreed to recommend this application for approval.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Ford

SECONDED: Cllr. Parmenter

B/09/01367/FHA 11 Patticraft

Conversion of garage into additional living accommodation.

Agreed to recommend this application for approval.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Sansum

SECONDED: Cllr. Suttle

B/09/01325/FHA 16 Angel Lane

Erection of bay window to front elevation.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Parmenter

SECONDED: Cllr. Ford

Applications Refused**B/09/01011/ADV/SMC Land North of Cannon Aven**

Application for Advertisement Consent – Erection of 1.2 x 1.45m digitally printed graphic and direction signs on Aluminium panels mounted on plastic coated steel posts, bottom of sign 1.5m above ground level.

074 CORRESPONDENCE

A letter had been received from Wayman and Long about the amalgamation of the Social Club and the Village Hall. Councillors agreed not to ask them to represent them as due to them acting for The Briars, this could possibly create a conflict of interests. The Clerk would make enquiries to other solicitors and also contact the Charities Commission.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Parmenter

SECONDED: Cllr. Ford

075 ANY OTHER MATTERS

Stoney Path was covered in leaves. The Clerk would contact Rachel and ask her to clean it.

The Chairman reminded all councillors that a pre-Christmas drink would be held at Hartest Crown on 15th December.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Next meeting 12th January 2010

Approved

Date