

Semer Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Semer Village Hall on Wednesday 10th July 2019 at 7.00pm.

In attendance:

Richard Keens (Chairman), Robert Thorogood, Trevor Mitchell, James Pitcher, Hannah Clarke-Keens (Clerk) and Leigh Jamieson (South East Cosford Councillor).

Apologies were received from Jackie Barraclough.

The minutes of the meeting of 10th July 2019 were read and approved.

The council welcomed Leigh to the meeting and congratulated him on his election.

1. Gate at the Church Meadow – A letter was sent to the PCC regarding the village gate (see minutes of meeting 16.04.19). Parishioners were welcomed to attend the July council meeting to discuss any concerns regarding the gate. None attended the meeting however Richard confirmed that he had spoken to people personally to help alleviate any concerns over access to the church via the meadow and gate. The gate will not be locked. The Parish Council would however like to remind anyone using the gate to please make sure it is shut behind you.
2. Summer Event – Due to lack of organisation the proposal for having a summer event on the meadow to include bands/live music means the event will not go ahead. For future reference the Parish Council liability insurance covers up to 750 people.
3. District Councillor's Report by Leigh Jamieson – Leigh attended the meeting to share with the council his report (see attached document). Key points discussed were;
 - I. CIL123 bidding opens in October and is open to all parishes to submit bids. Leigh advised that this is worth considering if there are any improvements that need to be made to community spaces/buildings etc. Leigh has said he will support the Parish Council in any bids they wish to put forward.
 - II. Ipswich northern route consultation. There will be an additional need for 15000 homes to be built. The consultation is available to view on the Parish noticeboard.
 - III. Crossroads between Kersey & Lindsey where some serious accidents are happening. Leigh advised that pressure is being put on Highways to take some action and will keep us updated. Mr Arthey has volunteered to ensure the banks of the road are cut well back at the end of the season to improve visibility.
 - IV. Cut to Bus service 112. The service runs twice per week and the decision will be finalised by the end of July. Semer is not affected by this cut, however neighbouring parishes will feel the loss. Hadleigh Community Transport are contacting parishes to raise funds, Semer has offered its support to the Monks Eleigh Community Group who are looking at alternative options.
4. Highways Self Help Scheme – The new scheme is designed for parishes to get grants to help cover the costs of necessary equipment/gear to keep roadsides and road signs clean and tidy themselves. The council discussed and felt the roadsides in the parish are too dangerous for locals to carry out this work even with high visibility safety wear.
5. Babergh Mid Suffolk joint local plan – The plan will be released on 22nd July and will be out for consultation for 10 weeks. Semer is not mentioned directly in the plan which is available to view on the Babergh Mid Suffolk website.

6. Bin collection day – Bin change over days will commence from 15th July. Please see the village noticeboard for further information or check your bins for an information flyer as the day may vary depending on your locality.
7. Fly tipping at the village hall – The recent fly tipping event highlights the benefits of having the front entrance gated and the importance of having a gate at the church meadow. The rubbish was cleared away. It's worth noting that recent fly tipping incidents in Aldham resulted in the perpetrator receiving a fine following evidence that was collected.
8. Thank you to James Buckle for another successful tractor ride this year that was much enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Any other Business

- Tree down on the church meadow blocking the track. Richard to clear the tree away tomorrow morning (11.07.19)
- James Pitcher will be co-opted on the Parish Council as an additional council member.
- Register of members interest forms to be completed for James and Trevor.
- The Semer road sign has been reported to Highways that it's down.
- Free swimming for children in Suffolk this summer, a poster is on the notice board with more information.
- Additional post to be fitted to the church meadow gate by Richard.
- Murder Mystery event was a very enjoyable evening however it was a shame that the attendance was low.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th October at 7pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....