

Semer Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Semer Village Hall on Wednesday 10th April 2019 at 7.00 pm (including Annual Parish Meeting - Richard Keens agreed to carry on as Chairman for a further 12 months)

In attendance:

Richard Keens (Chairman), Robert Thorogood, Trevor Mitchell, James Pitcher.

Hannah Clarke-Keens (Clerk).

Apologies were received from Jackie Barraclough.

The minutes of the meeting of 16th January 2019 were read and approved.

The council welcomed James to the meeting and the councillors introduced themselves to him. James has recently moved to Semer but is involved with the Hadleigh Scout Group and has strong ties to the area.

1. New Semer Village Noticeboard - The new village noticeboard has been erected near the entrance to the Church Meadow. Good feedback has been received from residents.
2. Gate at the Church Meadow – The headlines in the Daily Express of 25th February stated that the Church of England's General Synod had passed a motion that gypsies and travellers should be allowed to set up camp on land owned by the Church. In view of this naive decision the Parish Council agreed that the remaining funds in the Church Meadow bank account would be used to immediately install a gate at the entrance to the meadow. It has been the PC's wish to install this gate for a number of years since the Dale Farm Gypsy evictions by Basildon Council in 2011. At that time Babergh District Council and Suffolk County Council advised all councils to fence any land in their ownership and our County Councillor offered us a grant to assist with this. It was thought that up to 12 families would move from Dale Farm to Suffolk. In response to SCC's advice a locked chain was placed across the meadow entrance pending the installation of a gate. The chain was removed in 2012 but the Parochial Church Council objected to a gate which they said would restrict access to the church. It was therefore never installed. The new gate should offer some protection from travellers and fly tipping.
3. Notice of Election – For Semer this is an uncontested election and the names of councillors proposing to stand have been posted on the village notice board.
4. Payments for approval – ICO £40.00 annual registration for membership renewal 2nd April 2019. £135.01 SALC annual membership.

Any Other Business:

Summer Event – A possible music event is being planned by the Village Hall Committee and the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Organisation is in the early stages, Trevor has agreed to find out more about the proposed event and what level of organisation is required, will staging etc be required. James Pitcher shared with the council that Hadleigh scout group has staging and electrical equipment for hire and can also provide refreshments/food at no additional cost (the scouts would keep all takings donated from food/refreshments).

Accounts – Trevor is completing the year end accounts for the parish council. Hannah to provide any invoices for the year.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th July at 7pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....