

Semer Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Tudor House, Cookes Hill on Wednesday 2nd September 2020 at 7.00pm.

In attendance:

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

1. Chairman Welcome.
2. Minutes of the meeting of 15th February 2020 were read and approved.
3. Planning –
 - Hollow Trees Farm – Prior Approval sought for the erection of a steel framed agricultural building. (Babergh DC state that Prior Approval is not required for this development - 24.7.20)
 - The Old Post Office, Cookes Hill – Replace and raise pitch of garage roof – awaiting decision. (Babergh DC advised that Semer PC have no objections to this application)
 - Publication of Babergh / Mid-Suffolk DC draft housing land supply - Distributed to all Councillors.
4. Update on request to Suffolk Highways for a Speed Limit of 40mph on Union Hill – Eight Residents living on Union Hill met with Richard Keens and Trevor Mitchell at the Village Hall on Wednesday 26th August to discuss a way forward as Suffolk Highways did not seem prepared to meet Residents or visit the site to talk about the problems of speeding and the numerous accidents. The Clerk has been writing to Highways for almost 12 months without receiving any meaningful response. The Residents agreed to employ consultants (WSP Global Inc) to look at the problems and produce a report which will then be submitted to Suffolk Highways. The Parish Council agreed that they would pay for the road signage if necessary.
5. Maintenance of Village Signs - It would appear that SCC are not prepared to clean or maintain village signs. Other than speed signs at the entrance to a Village. It would seem that the Parish Council will now have to maintain most road signage. Of particular importance the 'Unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles' Signs on Overgang Road and Watsons Hill.
6. The Church Meadow Gate has dropped making it difficult to open. A new post is also required for the hook to keep the gate open. (Richard and Trevor will correct this at the coming weekend)
7. Repair of the Village Sign which is starting to look shabby. (The sign has now been taken down and Richard will make a new oak surround and Sally will repaint the metalwork)
8. Purchase of a bench seat for the Church Meadow to be sited near the Church Gate – It was agreed to order a seat made from recycled material from Glasdon Limited at a cost of £768.

9. The Church Meadow Account – It was agreed that we should leave the Bank Account open with a balance of £1 as there is no income or expenditure. - The bank account balance after the purchase of the new seat will be transferred to the Parish Council Bank Account.

10. Cutting of Hedges and the Grass at the Church Meadow – Dairy Farms have again agreed to cut the hedges and grass at no cost to the Parish. The Parish Council will as last year purchase an item for the Church. (Following discussions with the PCC after this meeting they have asked if the PC would purchase a small PA system for them. The Clerk will look at costs to see if this is feasible)

11. Parish Council Accounts were submitted to the auditors on 31st July following a meeting attended by Richard, Trevor and the Auditor John Oldfield. They are now available to view on the website.

12. Our Budget for this year – we have more to do this year as the lockdown stopped proposed expenditure last year but we need to consider the potential cost of 40mph signs on Union Hill.

13. Reminder the Sudbury Cycle Club event is on 11th October.

14. An update - [www. Oil-club.co.uk](http://www.Oil-club.co.uk) – we discussed this at our last meeting. When the Clerk last ordered heating oil the driver said that 70% of the orders are now placed through this website. It is worth looking at as you receive a weekly e-mail giving the current oil price.

15. New Parish Councillor needs to be appointed. (Trevor and Richard will ask around the Village)

16. My Resignation as Clerk as I shall be leaving Semer. (Trevor and Richard will ask around the Village)

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th October 2020 at 7pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed.....

Dated