

Semer Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Tudor House on Thursday 15th September 2016 at 7pm.

In attendance:

Richard Keens (Chairman), Granville Bendall, Claire Hood, Jackie Barraclough, Robert Thorogood, Trevor Mitchell (Clerk).

The minutes of the meetings of 9th June 2016 were read and approved.

1. Planning – Hollow Trees Farm Shop – Single storey Extension at rear of shop to provide poly tunnels, offices, butchers store. The Parish Council have no objections.
2. Planning – Old School House, Church Lane – Erection of a conservatory. The Parish Council have no objections.
3. Felling of a tree at the Workhouse Graveyard – Neil Gant was employed to partly fell a horse chestnut tree which had fallen into the neighbouring property and was in a dangerous condition. The cost was £260. Neil has been asked to quote to bring down and saw up the remaining part of the tree.
4. Accidents on the B1115 – There were no recorded accidents on road since the last meeting.
5. BAPTC (East Bergholt Alliance of Parish Councils) – The minutes circulated by BAPTC of their recent meeting were discussed and in particular it was noted which councils had joined the Alliance.
6. Erection of a Marquee on the Church Meadow for a wedding reception – Rev. Liz Law has written to the Clerk in connection with a request she has received for this to take place in August 2017. Further details are awaited from the family.
7. Semer Website – Suffolk County Council are no longer supporting the *onesuffolk* website and rather than lose the facility it has been taken over by Community Action Suffolk. There will now however be an annual charge of £50 plus VAT. It was agreed that we would continue to use this service. It was also necessary to formally become a member of Community Action Suffolk. The Clerk will register Semer PC.
8. External Audit for Smaller Authorities – New rules have been introduced regarding the auditing of small parish council accounts.
9. Cycle Club Sudbury – The annual hill climb will take place on 16th October at Watsons Hill. PC agreed that parking will be allowed on the meadow provided there is access to the church. Clerk will write to the Cycle Club Secretary to confirm.
10. Portable Building at Westonia, Semer – Granville confirmed that this is to be permanent dwelling. No planning permission is required if used as accommodation by a member of the family.
11. Road Repair on A1141 at Sayers Farm – The Clerk wrote on 23rd June to Suffolk Highways regarding the erosion of the bank on the road at Sayers Farm with the potential for an accident. If two large vehicles passed at that point one could easily topple into the ditch. The highways department placed cones at the site but to-date no repairs have been carried out. The clerk will

contact the Highways Department for a progress report. This work needs to be done before the winter rains.

12. A tree at the bottom of Crookes Hill is apparently blocking the view of the road making it dangerous for drivers. Richard and Trevor subsequently looked at this but felt that no action was necessary.
13. The River Brett at Semer Mill is blocked by a fallen tree – the PC are concerned that now the Environment Agency carry out no maintenance on the river that there is a greater potential for flooding this winter. The river is particularly overgrown this year and fallen trees and obstructions should be removed by the Landowner. The Clerk will investigate what role the environment agency now has and whether the PC needs to take any action.
14. Jenny Antill's Blog – the Clerk urged Councillors to look at Jenny's website particularly her notes regarding the recent proposed Mayor for Norfolk /Suffolk under government devolution plans.
15. Speeding in Ash Street – There has been an increase in speeding vehicles in Ash Street. The Clerk will make enquiries regarding Community Speed Watch and Vehicle Activated signs.

There was no other correspondence to discuss and no other business.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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

Signed.....
Dated.....