

## Semer Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Semer Village Hall on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7pm

### In attendance:

Richard Keens (Chairman), Granville Bendall, Claire Hood, Robert Thorogood, Trevor Mitchell (Clerk), Jenny Antill (Suffolk County Councillor).

Apologies - Jackie Barraclough

1. The minutes of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were read and approved.
2. Planning Applications:
  - a. Cosford House, Semer – change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house. The Parish Council objected to this development. This is a tin shed not an agricultural building. Cosford House is the former Workhouse hospital not a farm house. A full planning application should be submitted for this development. The planning application was subsequently refused by Babergh DC on 17.3.15
  - b. Anglian Water – new borehole and new filter sheds at Semer Water Works. The Parish Council have no objection to this development the existing borehole has collapsed and 3500 homes locally will have water shortages this summer if the work is not carried out.
3. Highways:
  - a. Flooding at Dairy Farm – the drain has been hosed out by the Highways Department which has improved the situation. They are proposing to return when the weather improves to look at a blockage in the drain near the haha at Dairy Farm.
  - b. Flooding at Gate Farm. Granville will notify Trevor when flooding occurs so that photographs can be taken before reporting the matter to the Highways Department.
  - c. The ‘Semer’ village road sign at Union Hill has been replaced after being knocked over in a motor accident.
  - d. Ash Street, Overgang Road and Kersey Road will be closed 30<sup>th</sup> March – 6<sup>th</sup> April for repairs.
  - e. Robert Thorogood reported that the road past Drakeston Farm (Drakestone Green) has a build up of mud in the middle of the road. The mud has washed off the fields so much so that it was scraping the underside of cars. The road was also in poor repair. Robert has reported this on the Highways Department website but they state the mud is the responsibility of the landowner and that they have completed the road repairs. Jenny Antill suggested we ask the Highways Department to assist in contacting the landowner. The Clerk will write and mention the poor state of the road.
4. British Telecom Openreach - cables are down and lying on top of the hedge on the road by the Church Meadow going up to Watsons Hill. The Clerk will telephone BT. *(0800 023 2023 Option 1 Ref: EA2EPC88)*
5. Litter – Jenny Antill was asked about the problem of roadside litter across Babergh District. Other than the Parish Council organising a litter pick which was thought to be too Dangerous on the A1141 / B1115 the only other option was for the Parish Council to pay someone to clean the verges. This is a problem which only central government can resolve.
6. Charity Commission – the Church Meadow was registered as a charity when given to the Parish but no returns have ever been submitted to the Charity Commission. On speaking to them the only benefit of being registered is the possibility that further donations may be attracted because of the charitable status. Subject to checking with our Solicitors, Steed & Steed, that there are no covenants in the deeds then it was agreed that the meadow would be de-registered as a charity.
7. Village Hall Grant – Jenny Antill confirmed that she had earmarked £2,000 from her budget to assist with the re-roofing of the Village Hall. We should apply to her when we have explored the possibility of grants from Babergh DC.

8. Gypsy Sites – Jenny Antill was asked if Gypsies were a problem in the area. She said the only problem area was Chiltern Airfield where they parked each year and had to be removed by Court Order.

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

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....