

Semer Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Tudor House on Thursday 28th January 2016 at 7pm and meeting held at the Church Meadow on Saturday 6th February at 2.00pm.

In attendance:

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

The minutes of the meeting of 20th July 2015 were read and approved.

1. Planning – ‘Westonia’, Watsons Hill – large single storey extension at rear of bungalow. The Parish Council have no objections – subsequently approved.
2. Accidents on the B1115 – There were no recorded accidents on road since the last meeting.
3. Parish Precept – It was agreed that the precept for 2016/7 would remain at £800 per annum plus the small grant now £3.50 p.a.
4. Queen’s Birthday Celebrations on 11th/12th June – It was agreed that the PC would not organise an event to celebrate the Queen’s 90th Birthday unless assistance towards the cost was forthcoming from Babergh DC.
5. Community Policing – This was discussed as clearly community policing will disappear without funding from Parish Councils. Our budget is too small to contribute.
6. Devolving Power to Parish Councils – The Clerk advised the meeting that all PC’s now had to have a computer, printer, scanner, access to the internet, and a website to publish minutes etc. Funding was available to achieve this.
7. Highways – Richard agreed to telephone the Highways Department about bad road repairs when they use their new spray machinery. This has happened on Watsons Hill where the road was repaired and within a week or so the infill had washed away.
8. Workhouse Burial Ground - Michael Thorogood is giving a tour / talk about the old Semer Workhouse on Sunday 14th February at 11am. (Parking at Drakeston Farm at 10.30am to walk to the Burial Ground)
9. Church Meadow - A meeting was held at the Church Meadow to resolve the following issues:
 - a. The meadow being churned up by cars parking – Richard to place stakes and rope along part of the track to the church with appropriate notices.
 - b. Dog fouling – the PC did not want a dog waste bin but a notice will be placed at the meadow entrance.
 - c. The willow trees along the edge of the mere –Pruning will need to be carried out on large overhanging branches on 2/3 willows. These branches show signs of die-back. Some smaller dead branches will also need to be removed. It will be more obvious when the trees are in leaf as to which branches need attention. This work will be carried out in early May. See item (d) below.
 - d. Clearance of debris and removal of a small part of the hedge to create a walk by the side of the mere – This work will be carried out in early May to create an attractive circular walk along the Mere and through the church yard. The ditch by the church will be crossed by a new wooden bridge. A wooden seat will be placed along the walk.

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

Thursday's meeting closed at 8.15pm. Saturday's meeting at 3.00pm.

The next meeting will be held at Tudor House on 31st March 2016 at 7pm. (*meeting cancelled due to holidays*)

Signed.....

Dated.....