

## Semer Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Tudor House on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7pm. (Including Annual Parish Meeting – Richard Keens agreed to continue as Chairman for a further 12 months)

### In attendance:

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

Apologies - Granville Bendall, Claire Hood.

The minutes of the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were read and approved.

1. Highways:
  - a. Overgang Road – road planings have been left on the side of the road at the A1141 end after resurfacing has taken place. Suffolk Highways Department have asked the Contractor to clear these and complete new road markings.
  - b. The road at Drakeston Farm, (Drakestone Green) - Suffolk Highways Department having had no response from the Farmer have agreed to clear the build up of mud in the middle of the road. The mud has washed off the fields so much so that it is scraping the underside of cars. The Highways Department will then try to recover the cost from the Farmer.
2. 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 road will be closed on 12th June for BT to complete the work.
3. Charity Commission – following our last meeting the Charity Commission have confirmed that the Church Meadow was set up as a charity when the land was given to the Parish. Once charitable trusts have been declared over land they remain in effect as long as the land exists. It cannot be disposed of unless a similar area of land is purchased. Any income must be controlled through a separate charity bank account. An annual return to the Commission must be submitted in future.
4. Community Emergency Planning – A letter has been received from the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit regarding emergency / potential disaster planning. The Parish Council did not propose creating a plan for the Parish.
5. Letter from Lavenham Parish Council requesting assistance with the possible downgrading of the A1141 from an A to a B class road – Lavenham PC are seeking support to downgrade the A1141 in an attempt to reduce HGV traffic travelling from the A14 at Bury St Edmunds to Hadleigh. Damage is being caused to buildings particularly in Water Street, Lavenham. Semer Parish Council did not think that downgrading the road would lead to a reduction in the type or volume of traffic and were concerned that any downgrading would possibly mean the road not being de-iced in winter. This would make it difficult for residents in Semer and surrounding areas. The PC sited Benton Street in Hadleigh where a weight restriction is in place to prevent HGV's. Would a weight restriction be more appropriate for Water Street.
6. Sudbury Cycle Club – Closure of Watson's Hill on 18<sup>th</sup> October for their annual Hill Climb. The PC had no objection to the Cycle Club using the Church Meadow for additional Parking. Consideration will be given to those attending the Church Service on that day.
7. Babergh Town and Parish Liason Meetings – Council Members did not wish to attend these meetings.
8. Alan Ferguson – newly elected councillor for South Cosford – a letter has been received from Alan asking if he could come along to the next Parish Council Meeting. The Clerk will send a letter inviting him to the next meeting.
9. Dairy Farm Tractor & Trailer ride – James Buckle has invited Semer Residents to a tractor and trailer ride around Dairy Farms on Tuesday 23rd June at 6.30pm. The Parish Council will provide refreshments. Tickets available from PC members.
10. Church Meadow – Keith Horn has approached Richard Keens to see if the Parish Council would sell approximately 20ft of land on the Meadow side around Semer Mere. The Church Meadow was given to the Parish by Edith and Francis Vale for the benefit of Parishioners and the Council unanimously

felt that it would not be the wish of the Vale Sisters or appropriate to sell any part of their legacy.  
Please also see (3) above.

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

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....