

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting held in The Old School Community Centre at 7.00 p.m.
on Thursday 20 November 2014**

Present: Cllrs. Paul Bishop, Derek Blake, Margaret Godwin, Phil Gryce,
Gayle Mallows, Loveday Perceval-Maxwell, Cllr. Leslie Warmington
County Councillor Mary Evans, Borough Councillor Alaric Pugh, Inspector Peter Ferrie, Sgnt Matthew Gilbert,
PCSO Claire Ross, Claire Ebeling, Town Clerk
1 member of the public

1 To approve the revision of standing order 1 (M) pending approval of amended standing orders following the enactment of The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

The draft amended standing orders had been circulated by the Clerk in advance and were approved unanimously.

2 Apologies for absence – Cllr. Keith Haisman

3 To receive declarations of members' interests and consider requests for dispensation

None.

Section of the meeting open to the public:

4 Police Report – Inspector Ferrie referred to the Officer Briefing Sheet regarding the second phase of the Comprehensive Spending Review of the police service to make savings of £16.4 million by 31 March 2016. Recruitment has been frozen, there will be some natural wastage and some specialist units will fold. SNT reductions have not yet been decided. Inspector Ferrie does not expect any change to the SNT in terms of non-emergency staffing for Clare and emergency response would remain as currently, covered by Haverhill.

The Police Station in Clare is expected to be closed due to the cost of approximately £15k per annum. This would mean the Clare team would start and finish their shift at Haverhill instead of Clare, but would then carry out patrols etc in and around Clare as they do currently. Inspector Ferrie does not expect Clare residents to see any change to the policing provided and would wish to be informed if this were the case so that he could address any concerns immediately. He also assured the audience that the Rural Team, although working from Haverhill, would not be involved in any Haverhill issues.

PCSO Ross presented the crime report (see attached report).

5 Public Participation – None.

6 County Councillor's Report – See attached report.

7 Borough Councillor's Report – None

End of public section of meeting

8 To approve minutes of previous meetings held on 16th October 2014

The minutes were approved unanimously.

9 To receive an update on actions from the previous meeting

The Clerk reported that all actions were complete.

10 Clerk's Report – see attached.

11 Finance

i) Presentation of monthly reports – Cllr. Godwin proposed the adoption of the monthly accounts. Approved unanimously.

ii) To receive a proposal regarding the commemoration of Clare WW1 dead

a) Cllr. Gryce presented the numbers of Clare men who died during World War I (1914 – 0, 1915 – 3, 1916 – 4, 1917 – 15, 1918 – 6, 1919 – 3, 1920 – 0, 1921 -2) and proposed that on

the 100th anniversary of the death of an individual a wreath is laid at the war memorial at 11.00am on the day in question. A notice to be put up appropriately (noticeboard, website) so that relatives can attend. The cost of a small wreath is currently £11.99, therefore the appropriate amounts would be required for each of the years in question: eg £36 for 2015-16. Approved unanimously.

- b) Cllr. Godwin reported that the Finance Committee had discussed a request from Dedham Vale AONB for annual financial support and decided unanimously that an annual contribution should not be approved. However, it was proposed to recommend a one-off donation of £100 under S.137. Approved unanimously.

12 Correspondence - see attached.

13 Planning

- a) **DC/14/2084/HH – 7 Half Moon Yard, Nethergate Street – Insertion of window with Juliette balcony to rear first floor elevation**

Cllr. Gryce recommended that the response be no objection. Agreed unanimously.

Clerk

14 To receive an update on the Precept

Cllr. Godwin reported that the final figures for the Precept Application will be presented for approval at the next Town Council meeting.

15 To receive an update on the preparations for the Magna Carta event

Cllr. Godwin reported that the Magna Carta Committee had been planning a series of events to provide opportunities to enjoy entertainment and food of the period as well as to learn more about this important phase in Clare's history.

The Committee hope to arrange a festival to commemorate Clare's important role in the creation of Magna Carta through a series of events which they hope to hold in June 2015 including a medieval banquet, a festival in the Country Park with medieval enactments, 13th century arts and crafts, a children's procession and much more.

As part of the fundraising for the Festival 'Mary's Pudding Club' will take place on Friday 12th December at 7pm in the Community Centre.

16 To receive items for decisions required by Town Council Committees and Working Parties

Community Working Party - Cllr. Perceval-Maxwell reported that investigations are taking place regarding the website.

17 To receive a recommendation from the panel following interviews for the position of Councillor (*in camera*).

18 To receive agenda items for next meeting

To approve the Precept submission to St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

19 To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 18th December 2014.

Confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Attachment to minutes – Item 4 – Police Report

There are a total of 10 crimes for you to be aware of in Clare for the period of 18/09/14 – 20/11/14.

- Theft from motor vehicle were a wallet was stolen between the 16/09/14 and the 19/09/14.
- Criminal damage to a vehicle between the 26/09/14 and the 29/06/14.
- Criminal damage to ashtrays on the 05/10/14
- Criminal damage to a building were a window was smashed between the 17/10/14 and the 18/10/14
- Theft of motor vehicle on the 26/10/14
- Criminal damage to sign posts between the 27/10/14 and the 28/10/14
- Theft of phone equipment and cables between the 27/10/14 and the 28/10/14
- Theft from motor vehicle were tools were stolen between the 04/11/14 and the 05/11/14
- Interference of motor vehicle between the 08/11/14 and the 09/11/14
- Criminal damage to motor vehicle between the 18/11/14 and the 19/11/14

General information worth noting

There have been some recent burglaries (other buildings) which have been creeping across the rural area from the beginning of November - four in Thurlow and one in Cavendish, in three of the Burglary's a number of bikes and power tools have been stolen and on two of the occasions nothing was stolen so they must have been disturbed in the act after gaining entry.

There has also been a dwelling burglary in the Hundon area where copper and a Flat screen T.V have been stolen.

There has also been a theft of heating oil in Ousden.

HIGHWAYS

Ancillary works following the re-Surfacing programme

The bollards on Church Street and the bike racks outside the Pharmacy are due to be installed next week with work starting now on 24 November.

The works at Well Lane require two way traffic lights which will be operational 24/7 for the expected five day duration of the scheme.

However I have been assured that the contractors are aware of the road closure for the Christmas lights switch on 28 November. They have undertaken to have finished work, cleared away the traffic lights and be off site by 3pm – when the road closure comes into force.

The splitting of the one of the bollards outside Boathouse Mews is because green oak bollards were used – which were felt to be more in keeping with Clare than concrete – and the wood does dry out contract.

Stoke Road

The gulleys and drains along Stoke Road have been cleared and the water flow improved.

Contractors working at the Persimmon site persist in parking off site. I have an arrangement now with your former colleague Alan Parsley. When this happens, he sends me photographs which I forward to highways, who instruct the site manager to get the vehicles off the road. It is a rigmarole but it works.

HGVs

SCC has been unable to find any traffic management company prepared to undertake an interview HGV origin and destination survey because of health and safety concerns.

We are back to a number plate CCTV survey.

I am not happy about yet another setback

The current thinking is to have cameras at Felixstowe covering the entrance/exits of the port, at the start of the A1092 at Long Melford and either side of Clare to pick up and track HGVs in either direction. Ideally, I would like to capture the names of the different hauliers so we can telephone and ask them where they were going and what deliveries/collection they were making. This will have to be done manually. Data protection rules mean we will not be given from the number plates. I have spoken to the Stour Valley Lorry Action Group about getting together a team of volunteers to help do this – if any members of the CTC would like to help that would be much appreciated.

I have asked for clear and detailed costings having been assured at one meeting that it would cost little more to run a survey for a week than it would for a day. However, at a later meeting, I was told it would cost about £5,000 per day.

On another tack, it would help to put figures on the impact HGVs have on the fabric of Clare and on the health and wellbeing of its residents. I would like to work with CTC on this.

Highways Contract

A new area manager has been appointed to run the KMG operation in Suffolk. There will shortly be a meeting between senior KMG and highways staff and councillors, which I am attending.

Winter Preparations

The good news is that despite the many shortcomings over the past year, SCC highways and KMG are prepared for winter. Lessons have been learned from the struggle we had in the wild wet winter and spring to keep up with filling potholes which were soon washed away by the rain.

The biggest single action has been to acquire two velocity patching vehicles for use in Suffolk from the start of this month to the end of February. These vehicles are best suited to the rural areas of the county and have very high productivity, meaning that roads with lots of defects can be quickly repaired. These vehicles will come into their own if we have anything like the problems of last winter, or if there is a sudden peak of potholes following a period of laying snow.



See them in action <http://www.youtube.com/embed/7WN8uQnE8VE?rel=0&wmode=transparent>

You can see that they are quick and effective.

Other pothole repairs, especially in more urban areas, will be carried out using more traditional methods by two person gangs.

Unlike the start of last winter, 'hot boxes' are now in place at two of the three main Highway depots. This ensures that there is a ready supply of hot material direct to the repair gangs to facilitate more effective pothole repairs.

Stocks of specialist repair materials, such as Viafix and Instarmac, which can successfully be used in wet conditions, will be more closely monitored and maintained with particular attention to the Christmas and New Year period when asphalt manufacturing plants are closed. The provision of severe weather and pothole challenge funding from central government means that there will be a large programme of planned maintenance and repair continuing through the winter.

SCC and Kier MG have been working together to ensure that the 1100 grit bins and 1300 grit heaps across the county are replenished before the winter and that there are robust arrangements in place to maintain these throughout. All bins should be filled by the end of this month – please let me know if this hasn't happened in Clare.

Speed Limits

I have been chairing a review of the county's speed limits which is nearing completion. We will be reporting next month and setting out the mechanism and criteria by which communities can apply for a change in a speed limit from say 40mph to 30mph. Before I raise expectations too high, I should warn you the process is lengthy and expensive.

Broadband

About 60 people attended the broadband public meeting at Stansfield Village Hall – including Cllr Phil Gryce – who I am sure will give you an update.

Policing in Clare

Following representations about the future of Clare Police station the area, I approached Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner and invited him to come and speak to local residents. He has confirmed he is happy to attend a public meeting not just about the police station but about the future of policing in Clare. I had forwarded dates for December but we need to be proposing dates for January/February. I suggest I liaise with your clerk.

Thatch and Chimney Fires

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is planning a public awareness, advice and information session in Clare on Tuesday 16 December from 10am.

Mary Evans, Clare Division, Suffolk County Council

Attachment to minutes – Item 10, Clerk’s Report – November 2014

Action:

Following the presentation from Jayne Cole at the last meeting, please decide on whether the TC wish to sign up to the Local Council Public Advisory Service (see separate email).

Action: Approved – Clerk to contact LCPAS to confirm. It was agreed for the time being to continue with the SALC membership in addition and to review at a later stage.

Christmas Lights – Please confirm who will meet the Deputy Mayor before the event begins.

Action: Cllr Evans confirmed that she would be opening the event and Cllr. Bishop confirmed that he would meet and greet the Deputy Mayor.

Following some comments from parishioners following the Remembrance Day event, I would like to propose that important public events be noted by all Councillors and dates be put in diaries to ensure attendance.

Action: To be discussed at the next meeting. Clerk to list civic events.

Information:

I have reported to Matthew Lee issues to be addressed in the Country Park:

Street light outside the scout hut

Overgrown and slippery path from Highfields (Bailey Lane) into the park.

I have requested that SCC clear up the debris left after cutting back vegetation in Hermitage Meadow and that they ask their contractors to please clear up and remove the vegetation they cut away rather than leaving it in the highway or dumping it on top of hedges etc. Ref no 3462468.

Planning decisions

DC/14/1219/LB – Orchard House, 22 Nethergate Street - Remove existing rendering from front elevation and replace with lathe and lime plaster - Application approved

DC/14/1347/HH & LB – 33 Callis Street - Demolition of two existing outbuildings and replacement with a new detached summer house for domestic use - Application approved

DC/14/1627/FUL – Leys Farm, Hundon Road - Proposed Poultry Shed to house 4000 birds - Application approved

DC/14/1919/TCA – The Old Manse, High Street – Fell Sycamore tree - Application approved

DC/14/1739/HH – 13 Station Road – Single and two storey rear extension – Delegated approval

Attachment to minutes – Item 12, Correspondence:

Items for action
(all circulated to Town Councillors)

Haverhill Town Council	Invitation to Civic Carol Service on 10 th December Action: Send a decline response
St Edmundsbury Borough Council	Invitation to Civic Carol Service on 3 rd December Action: Send a decline response
Patrick Scrivens	Lloyds Bank closures Action: Cllr. Bishop to write to the local Director of Lloyds.
Thatch & Chimney Road Show	Request to run an event on Market Hill to give advice. Action: Approved, Clerk to send a response. Query re access in front of Co-op – Clerk to contact Co-op re rails and trolley park to find out if they are to be permanent.
Inspector Peter Ferrie	Policing in Clare See Public Participation section of the minutes.

Items for noting
(copies available from the Clerk on request)

Stephen Kimminau	Railway water damage copy email addressed to SCC.
Suffolk Highways	Works to footpath adjacent to Clare Pharmacy w/c 24 th November.