

# **SUTTON-cum-LOUND PARISH COUNCIL.**

## **Approved minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

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#### **Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2011**

**1. Councillors present:**

Mr M.C. Rees (Chair), Mr R. Beare, Mrs A. Close, Mr P. Cody, Mrs K. Foster, Mr J.Gough (from 7.15pm)

**Guests:** Mrs L. Yates (BDC& Notts CC)

**2. Notice calling the meeting**

Mr. Beare proposed and Mr Cody seconded a motion that the meeting be called – motion carried.

**3. Apologies:** None

**4. Declarations of interest**

Mr Cody declares an interest in Agenda item 10. Grass Cutting

The Chairman Mr Rees requested council to hold a minute's silence in respect of Mr Peter Roberts, Clerk to the Parish Council for sixteen years, who died on December 11th 2010 following illness.

In the absence of a Parish Clerk, Mrs Close agreed to take the minutes.

**5. Public Open Session**

There were no public members present. Mrs Yates asked if there were any issues that the council would like to raise following the recent bout of bad weather and whether there had been any problems with the free bags of salt issued. Mr Rees stated that no bags had been received. It was noted that there had been confusion as to what colour refuse bins were to be collected and when and communication had been poor. It was also noted that Bassetlaw's communications had been sent out to Parish Clerks, and given the circumstances surrounding Mr Roberts illness and subsequent demise, it was broadly accepted that Sutton – cum – Lound council had perhaps missed there communication as a result of this situation.

The roads had been kept clear by local farmer Mr F. Walters, as was the Village Hall car park following a request from the hall committee. Mr Walters stated he was initially happy to assist, however, should the situation continue he would have to consider requesting the council to engage him on a more formal commercial footing. Mr Rees requested Mrs Yeates (County Councillor) to clarify the Counties formal strategy in respect of contracting local farmers in times of bad weather, and furthermore what the insurance and litigation risks were likely to be. Mrs Yates was not able to confirm this at the meeting but would make every effort to respond at the next meeting.

A further query was raised about grit boxes, whether these should be purchased and whether they would be useful. Mrs Yates stated that Notts County Council would fund grit boxes and would fill them in the first instance but would not provide further funding for refilling them.

**6. Safer Neighbourhoods Group – Update**

Mr Rees stated that there was nothing to report. He had emailed members to enquire whether this group was continuing and had not yet had a reply.

**(Post meeting update – next meeting is Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> at Sutton – cum – Lound Village Hall)**

## **7. Minutes of the last meeting held on 10 November 2010**

Mrs Close proposed and Mr Gough seconded a motion that the minutes of the last meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010 be passed as a true record – motion carried.

## **8. Matters arising**

### **a) Recycling**

Mr Roberts had written to BDC with respect to queries about recycling facilities and plans for the future – no response has yet been received.

### **b) Allotments**

A site visit took place of the land to the rear of 25/27 Portland Place. Mr Rees had received an email from Shelly Renwick (BDC) which said that following enquiries about the land, they were now putting it up for sale by auction, a size of 0.22 acres, likely to be sold under £30,000. The residents at 25/27 and 31 Portland Place have access rights to their properties but these are not permanent. A query was raised whether this could be sold if the Parish Council required land for allotments. Mrs Yates agreed to enquire about this.

**Action: 1. Mr Rees to send Mrs Yates and Mrs Close a copy of the email he received.**

**2. Mr Rees to write to BDC objecting to the sale and requesting the land be held for the Parish use as allotments.**

Mrs Close asked whether information on the size of allotments could be found from the book Mr Roberts had purchased. The book will be located when the Clerk's files are retrieved from Mrs Roberts.

Mr Cody raised the issue about land at the back of Portland Place that would become available in 2011 and it was agreed that this needs to continue to be pursued.

**Action: Council to re contact County regarding the leasing of the land.**

A list of names of people asking for allotments was given to Mr Rees, who stated that once land had been obtained, the list would require updating, and any lettings would be subject to "lottery" style draw as it was unlikely sufficient allotments would be available for everyone requesting one.

### **c) Clyro Place Hedging**

Mrs Close stated that although it had been agreed by NCC, this work had never been undertaken and it should continue to be monitored and pursued when the weather starts to improve.

**Action: Council**

## **9. Parish Clerk, Tribute/dedication and Recruitment of new clerk**

It was noted that Mr Roberts had given over 16 years service to the village as Clerk to the Council and suggestions were considered re a suitable tribute, (Permanent Christmas tree, Open Public notice board). Members agreed (due to Mr Roberts relentless work in achieving an electricity source for said tree) that the most fitting tribute would be to purchase a rooted Christmas Tree and install a plaque to commemorate his service to the village.

**Action: re suitable trees and costs – Mr Cody.**

It was also noted however, that communication issues were a point in the Parish Plan and a public "open" notice board (architectural and aesthetic) needed some further investigation anyway. Mr Rees had had some previous experience of such a board whilst judging the Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village awards, and agreed to investigate further.

**Action: Pursue details and costs of suitable public board**

A letter of condolence to be written to Mrs Roberts.

**Action: Mrs Close**

With regard to the Christmas tree, it was noted that as there had been several negative comments regarding the “road-works net fence” surrounding the tree, (a statutory requirement exists, to fence of the electric lighting on the tree), and therefore a suitable wooden fencing may be purchased for longer term use, however it was also noted that storage of such an item may be an issue and council would need to consider this before taking any definitive action.

**Action: Mr Rees to investigate costs.**

With respect to the recruitment of a new clerk to the Council, Mr Rees had sought advice from Linda Ogilvy (NALC) who had provided some information on the process. He had also enquired whether the clerk at Mattersey may be willing to help out in the interim but had not yet had a response (to date).

Mrs Close suggested that we obtain someone with CiLCA qualifications if possible, (or pursue the qualification once appointed) in order for the Council to work towards accreditation as a Quality Council.

Following discussion, members agreed that a clerk would be sought who would also take the role of Financial Responsible Officer. A job description and person specification will be drawn up and adverts put in the By the Way, Local newspapers and other locations.

Mrs Yates suggested the name of someone with reputable qualifications and Mr Rees agreed to contact. Members gave authorisation to Mr Rees to progress this matter.

**Action: Mr Rees**

Parish Council files and information to be retrieved from Mrs Roberts.

**Action: Mr Rees**

**10. Grass Cutting**

Mr Cody declared a personal interest in this matter and refrained from entering into the discussion. Mr Rees informed council that following his discussions, the current contractor has stated that he is interested in continuing with the contract in 2011/2012 and has confirmed he is prepared to hold the same rate as the current contract.

**Proposal:** That the contractor be asked to continue to undertake the grass cutting in 2011/2012 at the same rate as 2010/2011. Proposed: Mr Beare, Seconded Mrs Foster:

**Motion Carried.**

**11. Planning.**

Newly proposed schemes;

21 Town Street – single storey rear extension, there were no objections following perusal of the plans.

Decisions - Granted by BDC:

1. Mire Lane – Orangery
2. Town Street – Orangery
3. 7 Lound Low Road – Single storey extension
4. Barn conversion and access alterations at Bellmoor Farm

Decisions - Refused by BDC:

Barn Conversion at Bellmoor. (It was noted that a further application for Barn Conversion at Bellmoor had been approved, though it was unclear if this was the same barn or a different application.)

## **12. Finance**

It was noted that the precept is due to be forwarded to BDC at the end of January 2011. Mr Rees to obtain the necessary information to progress.

### **Action: Mr Rees**

Mr Rees stated that the current account balance stands at **£22,157.45**

#### Payments in:

Village Hall Committee	£725.75	Hall Rental
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#### Cheques to be paid:

Mr Walters	£470.00	Work around the village
Mr Rees	£33.97	Christmas Tree Lights
Mr Cody	£70.75	Christmas Tree
Mr Softley	£45.90	Electric supply to Christmas Tree

## **13 – Neighbourhood Watch - Update**

Mr Hopkins was unable to attend the meeting to provide an update. Minutes of the Neighbourhood Watch Committee had been received. Mountain bikes had been stolen from Hawksley Farm recently

## **14 – Any Other Business.**

Mr Gough noted that there had been an increase in the number of wagons through the village.

Mr Beare asked about information on walks around the village and noted that the local Wildlife Centre did not have any information about this. Mr Rees informed council that he had been talking to NCC P3 scheme regarding development of interactive signs and literature on local walks, however he had also been informed that the rural access dept had received notification of severe cuts under the austerity measures planned for 2011/12.

### **Action: Mr Rees to pursue with NCC**

#### Correspondence

Bassetlaw District Council Local Development Framework – Mr Beare received.

Safe at Last – request for donation – declined.

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations – 2-5 June 2012 – more information at [www.culture.gov.uk/whatwedo/honours/7610.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/whatwedo/honours/7610.aspx)

#### For information:

Parish Council Liaison Group Meeting – 19 January 2011 – Town Hall Worksop

Newsletter – Nottinghamshire Fire Brigade

Self Help and Support Groups Directory

Stop Hate Crime Leaflets

British Legion – Great Poppy Party Weekend – 10-12 June 2011-01-29

NALC Annual Report

Affordable Rural Housing and Practical Guide for Parish Councils

## **15. Diary**

The next meeting will be held on 9th February 2011 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.