EARL SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 10th November 2022

7.30pm Earl Soham Village Hall

MINUTES

In attendance: DG,MR,AP,CC,TJ,AG,PR.

1. Apologies for absence parisheoners

None

1. Declaration of interest.

None

1. a) Approval of minutes from 8th September 2022.

Unanimously approved

b) Matters arising from 8th September 2022.

None

1. Public Comment

None

1. Hour Community - Nick Corke

Nick gave a presentation on the work of Hour Community, the Framlingham based charity serving the local community.

Hour Community is able to expand its work with 2 d]cars and a minibus and this in total now involves:

Delivering medicine and food to homes. Taking people to the doctors £5.00, a chaperone service for hospital appointments £30, 13 seater minibus for local

associations to use £150.

The charity also runs a refurbishment furniture operation as well as running a ‘Man’s shed meeting’ facility.

With 30% of the local population being OAP’s the services are becoming more necessary.

Rob, who was present also, will be the contact for Earl Soham.

Everyone thanked Nick and his team for doing a very much needed service, very well.

1. Church Lane Traffic

A discussion took place on the issues surrounding reckless and dangerous driving on Church Lane following the distressing incident on Church Lane, where a residents horse had to be put down after being hit by a speeding car. Both riders suffered physical injuries and trauma symptoms are on going for them.

It was agreed with many examples being put forward that this was a problem that needs to be addressed directly.

The owner of the car has been identified as an employee at the Weston’s factory at the top of Church Lane, by the police and matters are on going. Subsequently, the village has seen a number of conversations take place between residents that were relayed to us and were discussed at length. The summary of this discussion is best summoned up by the following examples given:

1. I never walk up the lane between 4-5 o’clock in the week due to reckless driving.
2. I have been tailgated by cars I know come from the factory at the top of Church Lane
3. I have had to jump in a ditch to avoid being hit by car (late afternoon).
4. I have had to jump on to the verge with my dog to avoid these dangerous drivers (late afternoon)
5. When out doing my running I have had to jump aside to avoid fast cars (late afternoon)
6. Whilst walking regularly up the lane I see aggressive behaviour from vehicles I know come from the factory at the top of the lane.
7. I have been meaning to speak to Weston’s for a long time about their employees driving, and I am so disappointed in myself that I never got around to it.
8. Numerous incidents of speeding, poor driving and cans of Red Bull being thrown from the car – all believed to be employees of your factory.
9. Numerous people talk of early morning speeding through the village, and subsequently then driving up Church lane.

It also became known that residents have previously made complaints directly to your company on this matter of reckless and dangerous driving, but no improvement on the matter were seen.

Whilst it is hard to prove that all incidents are employees of Westons there is much acceptance that the cars are recognised regularly and some have certainly been seen to be parked at the factory car park.

It was agreed that DG would write a proposed letter and circulate before sending to the MD at Westons. Also Dg would write to highways to investigate the possibility of extending the 30mph limit further up Church Lane.

1. Report from County Councillor

None received

1. Report from ESDC councillor

None received

1. Planning Applications NONE
2. Village Hall update

The rear steps to the grass have now been finished off. The main Hall floor has been polished and the windows cleaned. A meeting is due to be help imminently to discuss getting people and events to use the Hall. A license is still awaited for the Cinema so that can be re-started. It was also reported that the drainage has been further improved and now seemed to be working with no water now running on to the road.

1. Precept 2023/24 budget preparation.

The previous years Precept had been distributed to all councillors and a general discussion took place about the approach and aims that should be taken for 2023/2024. It was agreed we should have a ‘flat’ precept and where possible monies should be diverted to pinch gates which can help with traffic calming.

Subsequently a line by line discussion took place of next years budget at the end DG said he would update the agreed new precept which was achieving principle of a budget of £13,287, the same as this years. This would then be distributed and a meeting would be set for December 8th so this can be officially approved.

1. PC Project updates – SID – paper work required from Neil Warden so this can be passed to Anne Jones. Telephone Box – GH will meet with CC to finalise so the project can start. Quiet Lanes – The signs have now arrived and will be put up by PR and TJ on 13th November, and this will complete matters. PR was thanked for his efforts in getting this done and completed. Earl Soham signs (Pinch Gates) – GH will get quote for Low Road pinch gates, and Earl Soham signs for all pinch gates so a decision on how these can be phased in and paid for can be taken. AG can now do the leaflets double sided. Website – DG wrote to Stefan, so now CC will chase Stefan, so we can potentially get him on board to help manage this for us. Cemetery – TJ Will a quote for the company to do the names and locations for this to go to the next step. All information on this is held by GH.
2. Sizewell C

CC gave a detailed update. The process is still on going, but investment levels are still a problem, though preparation work still seems to be going ahead by construction companies. Concern over dramatic increase in traffic levels were spoken of.

1. Internal audit report and actions

A line by line review was carried out on the above and the recommendations were duly considered and will be actioned where appropriate.

1. Financial Regulations

This included 1) Data Protection and Information Management Policy

2) General Privacy Notice

3) Privacy Notice - for all Councillors

4) Subject Access Request and Consent form

5) GDPR

All items shown - Data Protection to be personalised. Subsequently discussed and agreed.

1. Confirm Financial Officer

Seen, discussed and agreed

1. Adopt Standing Orders

Seen, discussed and agreed

1. General power of competence

Seen, discussed and agreed

1. Risk Assessment

Seen, discussed and agreed

1. Effectiveness of internal controls

Seen, discussed and agreed

1. Income received report

Seen, discussed and agreed

1. Confirmation that clerk has opted out of pension scheme

Seen, discussed and agreed

1. Asset register

Seen, discussed and agreed

1. Adopt new bank reconciliation to new format

Seen, discussed and agreed

1. Approval of Auditor for 22/23 accounts (SALC)

Seen, discussed and agreed.

Equality and Diversity – unanimously agreed and adopted.

1. Financial Report.

Although the report had not been sent out, it was gone through by GH and the only movements in the account since last time was payments to GH,Precious Gardens and interest adjustments. Unanimously agreed and accepted.

1. Cheques to be signed.

Callanders £58, Zurich Insurance £300, SALC £54.

1. Correspondence Since Last Meeting.

None

1. AOB

MR reported that a Christmas tree is again to be donated by Warnes Seeds. Thanks and appreciate we’re expressed by all.

Anna Jones had suggested she may be interested in putting her name forward to be a councillor. It was noted the Village Leaflet would ask people to apply.

1. Date Of Next Meeting 8th December 2022

Signed…………………….. Date………………………..

Chairman