

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
GLEMSFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 10TH APRIL 2007
AT GLEMSFORD VILLAGE HALL**

Present	Len Young Howard Boone Neil Gurr Anna Watkinson Rex Thake	John Suttle Lucy Knox Neil Searle
In attendance	Sara Sunderland Richard Kemp	
Apologies	Colin Parmenter (hospital)	

119 POLICE MATTERS

There were no police officers present but a report had been received.

Ten crimes had been recorded within the parish, this compares to 8 for the same period the previous year.

There had been an attempted accosting, this occurred at around 9pm on Sunday 1st April 2007, when a 13 yr old boy was walking alone in the Skates Hill area. He was suddenly grabbed by an unknown person believed male and dragged into an alleyway. He was held there for what was described as around 30 seconds when a member of the public approached them and assisted the young boy, who then ran off unharmed and reported the incident to his parents.

The police are anxious to trace the male that assisted the boy and a press release will be given to assist in the enquiry

120 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 13th March 2007 and 3rd April 2007, having previously been circulated, were approved and signed.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Gurr

SECONDED: Cllr. Searle

PROPOSED: Cllr. Knox

SECONDED: Cllr. Gurr

121 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Roy Diggins, Chairman of the Social Club had come to the meeting after reading reports in the paper. He asked how the social club could be held responsible for half of the feasibility study fee when the Social Club had not decided to be part of the community centre and would be staying at its present site.

The Vice-Chairman stated that as far as the Parish Council were aware the social club wanted the feasibility study as the Chairman had told us this on a number of occasions.

Cllr. Thake stated that he and the Parish Council had been assured by the Chairman of the parish council that all of the social club were in agreement with the proposed

community centre. The Parish Council had asked for this to be put in writing on a number of occasions but this had never happened. Cllr. Thake began to have doubts about the validity of these claims, so questioned the Chairman and then received a telephone call from the chairman to say that a meeting had now been called as the social club members did not all seem to be in agreement. The Parish Council had taken the Chairman's word on all matters because were led to understand he was a trustee and the chairman of the social club at the time.

Cllr. Thake said that the principles of planning permission for the proposed site had already been provisionally agreed by Babergh officers, and this had been ascertained before the feasibility study was carried out. He stated that unfortunately someone had then conducted an interview with the newspapers which had caused untold problems with the land that the Parish Council were proposing to buy. As far as he was concerned the whole project had been sabotaged due to the article in the newspaper.

Mr. Diggins reiterated that there had been nothing in writing from the social club regarding the proposals and Cllr. Thake agreed with this. He stated that in his opinion the parish council could not force the social club to pay anything towards the feasibility study and does not think that the social club has any liability legally.

Cllr. Suttle asked if this had all been minuted and was assured that it had been, and on numerous occasions the Chairman had been asked to provide written confirmation from the social club, but had failed to do so.

Cllr. Searle asked Mr. Diggins what had happened at the Social Club meeting. Mr. Diggins informed the meeting that he was now chairman of the social club and that he and other members had become disillusioned with being told by previous committee members that the social club would be shutting down and moving to another site. He had put his name forward as chairman at the last AGM, which took place about two months ago. At the AGM it was announced that Mr. Diggins had offered to take over as chairman but there was no vote. Cllr. Parmenter had then become the treasurer.

Cllr. Boone stated that he had chaired a meeting months ago at the social club, and the only people who had not attended were representatives from the library. He had tabled a lot of drawings and he was led to believe that everyone was on board. Mr. Diggins stated that it was probably when there were three people on the committee and this would not be viable as members had not been consulted.

Cllr. Watkinson said that she had also attended a meeting at the social club, very early in the talks, and various members of groups currently at the village hall had attended. She had taken notes and people there had agreed that they would be prepared to use the community centre.

Cllr. Gurr concluded that as nothing had ever been received in writing from the social club, then the matter would now be closed as the Parish Council had been misled over this issue.

Mr. Kirkman from Fourth Avenue informed the meeting that the residents were having problems with children playing ball games in the area. Stuart the community beat officer had advised him to ask about a no ball games sign as damage was now being caused to cars and property. The Clerk would enquire with Babergh about this.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Young

SECONDED: Cllr Boone

122 SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Kemp informed the meeting that he had made enquires about the footway on Skates Hill and been informed it was a very low priority and would not be done until 2020 or such time as it is not important enough.

Cllr. Kemp had made enquiries about Long Melford/Westgate Street and had been informed that they would be realigning the road markings, inserting bollards with illuminations and better signage.

Cllr. Kemp had received an email from the Western Area Libraries Manager, which stated that they had an excellent arrangement with the Parish Council and it seemed to be working in reducing the instances of trouble. Also the speed that they can be responded to works well. Therefore, they were not proposing to fit CCTV at Glemsford although they had fitted security lights and would be meeting with Gill in next week and discussing situation with her.

Councillors were not happy with this email and suggested that the Clerk formulate a reply, stating that they would be happier if the CCTV was sited and that councillors and the Clerk should not be relied on to ensure that situations did not become out of hand. She would also invite Mr. Taylor to the May meeting.

The vote for the middle school system to be scrapped had been carried. Changes would take place over a ten year period and Cllr. Kemp felt that this may enhance Glemsford as it could be a centre for other schools in the area. Cllr. Searle had reservations about this and was very concerned about any future extensions to the school if this involved losing any play area space or field. He did not feel that in its present state the School could possibly take any more children and stressed that this needed to be addressed now, and not ten years later.

Cllr. Kemp had grave reservations about the reply time when the police were contacted about any issues. He had recently needed to contact the police and despite emailing them on 10th March, had not received a reply.

123 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

There would be an election for Glemsford for district councillors.

Cllr. Searle had been approached by residents who lived in council houses and had recently had some work undertaken on their kitchens. They were concerned that the cookers had been placed directly next to the sink and on two occasions had knocked saucepans with boiling water off the stove. Cllr. Thake passed a number to Cllr. Searle of the relevant person to contact at Babergh District Council.

Cllr. Thake had great concerns about the CAST project at Babergh. The reception area was already being altered, and staff had informed him that they have been given a job but do not have equipment to carry it out. The communications are going to cost a huge amount of money, and Cllr. Thake was totally against the fact that reserve money was being used. This could entail three or four councils having to pay it off providing they have no other problems. The proposal had only been lost by three votes and all of the Conservatives and all Independents had voted for it. There would be a chance to review it in six months and Cllr. Thake said that a lot of councillors wanted it to be done a department at a time, but they had voted for

rolling programme, and were not committed until at least 2012 for the rolling programme. The only way it will be stopped is if the six monthly review decides to halt it.

124 **CLERK'S REPORT**

The new lights at the village hall and Highbank were now sited and we were currently waiting for EDF to arrange the supply.

The invoices for the youth facilities park had been sent to Babergh for the grant payment.

Babergh have added the play area to their annual playground inspection list as they now have a new company doing it and the Clerk also asked them to include the youth facilities park to the schedule.

The Chairman had asked the Clerk to pass on the fact that a water meter had been inadvertently sited at the recreation ground. Councillors agreed that this was not needed and should be removed as soon as possible to avoid paying the standing charge.

The Clerk had written to Babergh District Council about teething problems with the Be Active courses, and these were all being addressed.

Roland Hill had called about renovating the village sign on Tye Green with the WI. The Parish Council could want to see written specifications before any decision was made.

125 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Account Status

Income	15045.67
Expenditure	4378.91
Cash in hand	7289.30
Petty Cash	316.55
High Interest	43670.83

Payments received

Fines	25
Village Hall	288.50

Accounts to be paid

Kent Blaxhill	85.53
Lubbock Fine	1645.00
Allianz Cornhill	2390.13
Alfred McAlpine	328.01
Industrial Supplies	3.60
BT	142.26
Inland Revenue	197.60

126 VILLAGE HALL AND YOUTH FACILITIES PARK

The Clerk suggested buying a wet Hoover for the hall in case of other floods. Cllr. Searle would arrange this.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Boone

SECONDED: Cllr. Watkinson

127 ACTION SHEETS

Mr. Laflin will remove the screed on top of concrete pavilion base and would also move the shelter to the hard standing with loader and remove the container.

The goalposts would be removed from the container and erected, and the roller would also be removed.

The Clerk would contact Allianz Cornhill regarding the youth shelter and if we would be covered for councillors to move it.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Gurr

SECONDED: Cllr. Boone

128 ANY OTHER MATTERS

The Clerk would contact Mike Laflin about the missing manhole cover on the piece of field near the Silk Mills.

The Clerk would contact Jim Nunn about the missing manhole cover in Hobbs Lane.

Cllr. Gurr asked about the siting of CCTV on private premises which were grade II listed. Cllr. Thake had already received queries about this and would look into it.

Cllr. Thake extended thanks on behalf of the council to Cllr. Watkinson who was retiring after twenty years service.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Approved

Date

Next meeting Tuesday 8th May 2007