

**GLEMSFORD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 11TH JANUARY 2011**

Present	Adrian Southgate Colin Parmenter Rex Thake Tiffany Clarke	Len Young Michael Brown Newman Ford
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In attendance Richard Kemp

Apologies Lynn Bloomfield
Robbie Benson
Lucy Knox

As both the Chair and Vice-Chair were absent it was agreed that Cllr. Parmenter chair the meeting.

PROPOSED: : Cllr. Thake

SECONDED: Cllr. Southgate

49 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2010, having previously been circulated, were adopted and signed.

PROPOSED: : Cllr. Parmenter

SECONDED: Cllr. Brown

50 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Harriet North wished to check that the new litter pickers to be purchased with Glemsford Village of the Year money, would be acceptable, Councillors agreed these were suitable for the job. A donation had been received from Cllr. Young for the high vis jackets. A Litter Pick would be arranged and the public would be made aware that anyone can use the purchased items should they wish to.

60 SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Prior to Christmas, Liberal Democrat Councillors called in the County Council's decision to move its Fire Control Room to Cambridge.

The County Council originally brought a paper to the December cabinet outlining moving the County's Fire Control Room, currently based in Colchester Road Ipswich, to Cambridgeshire, as the building it currently occupies is being sold. This move would be a stop gap prior to the introduction of the regional fire control rooms which were planned to be in place by 2013.

The Public Protection Scrutiny Committee met on 21st December, to analyse the decision, and to listen to the reasons put by the Liberal Democrats to stop this decision. These included;

- The lack of information regarding the certainty of the Regional Fire Control Rooms
- No evidence within the original paper of consultation with those organisations who work with the Fire Control Room e.g. Suffolk Family Carers, Trading Standards etc.

- What contingency plans have been put in place as a result of a delay, or updated policy on the regional control rooms.
- The distance of the retained staff travelling to the Cambridgeshire site.

Unfortunately the opportunity to look at this decision once again was turned down by the majority Conservative members.

An announcement after the meeting from the Government revealed that the Regional Control Rooms are going to be abolished. This leaves Suffolk the only County in the east without its own regional control room, losing the local knowledge, as well as many of the dedicated staff.

The papers for the meeting can be found here;

http://apps2.suffolk.gov.uk/cgi-bin/committee_xml.cgi?p=doc&id=1_15015&format=doc

Suffolk County Council are currently engaging in a number of consultations on their main website. This includes;

- New Strategic Direction Engagement - ongoing
- Future of Country Parks and Recreation sites – 14th Jan 2011
- Suffolk Care Homes consultation – 24th Jan 2011
- Schools admissions Consultation – ends 28th Feb 2011

For more information about these consultations and to respond, please head to this link;

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/Consultations/Listing.htm>

The County has also launched its online petitioning system, where members of the public can bring an issue to the attention of the council, or approve or disapprove of a council decision. For more information please head here;

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/News/EPetitions.htm>

The first major meeting of the New Year is the Cabinet, taking place on 11th January. The items for this meeting include;

- Revisions to Home-to-School Transport Policy
- Creating a Vision for Suffolk's Public Health Function and Annual Progress Report on the Council's Contribution to Healthy Ambitions
- Divestment of Suffolk's Safety Camera Partnership to Suffolk Constabulary

These items will all be discussed on 11th January from 1:30pm. As usual members of the public will be able to ask questions to Cabinet portfolio holders at the beginning of the meeting. These questions have to be submitted on the fourth working day prior to the meeting at 12 noon. (Wednesday 5th Jan)

All papers and relevant information can be found at this address;

http://apps2.suffolk.gov.uk/cgi-bin/committee_xml.cgi?p=detail&id=1_15021

Now that the cold weather has set in, it is important to ensure that all parts of the community can access vital information and services throughout the cold period. This webpage includes all the information in terms of gritting, top winter driving tips, health services, and accessing live information such as from Local and National Radio Stations.

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/News/BreakingNews/HealthSuffolkResilienceForumJan2010.htm>

Cllr. Kemp informed Council of the meeting tomorrow Wed 12th Jan at 7pm, in the URC Committee room next to library at which ideas would be discussed to make facilities available which will otherwise be lost due to national cut backs. Local bus service will be lost due to lack of funds. The crossing for Glemsford Primary School is still ongoing and awaiting results of a feasibility examination which is required to take place, to assess if there is a need at the school.

61 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Thake discussed the ongoing merger of Councils. He expressed that although he felt that this was initially a good idea he now feels that money would not be saved. The merger requires several redundancies which could be costly. Also it could be several years before any of the benefits would take effect. The need for Parish Councils to take on more work would be inevitable. Finally to ensure that local services are still available this would require increases in the precept for future years. Financial cuts are only at the beginning and will increase. A potential idea is to arrange consultations within the local community, to see if they are prepared to pay towards the services through their Council Tax.

Cllr. Young expressed that for every £25000 that is spent by Babergh Council this increases rates by 1% approx.

The Chairman said that Council should bear in mind that we need to think about the financial hardships that upcoming.

Cllr. Young reminded the council that members of the Village are campaigning for faster broadband in our area. The Council agreed this is required. Tony Callender and Brain Atwood are the main contacts and could they be contacted to see how we can assist them.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Thake

SECONDED: Cllr. Young

62 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A. **New Applications**

B/10/01580/FHA 1 Spring Meadow

Erection of single storey front porch extension (following demolition of existing).

Agreed to recommend this application for approval.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Brown.

SECONDED: Cllr. Ford

B. **Applications Granted**

B/10/01343/FHA 5 Holdsworth Close

Erection of double garage to existing garage block.

63 CORRESPONDENCE

The DPPO documentation did not include enough information regarding cost of service. The Clerk would gather the necessary information and forward to Councillors before the next meeting.

64 ANY OTHER MATTERS

Cllr. Carr asked if the Police could be contacted by the Council to complain about recent dog attacks in the village and ask for a reply within 7 days to let us know how they are dealing with the matter.

The first Glemfest meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday 26th January at 8pm and will be at The Angel, Glemsford.

A member of the public concerned over lack of salt and removal of salt bin at Schoolfields, wished to know who to contact in order to get more salt for the paths, and was advised to contact Richard Kemp.

**There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8pm.
Next Meeting: 8th February 2011.**

Approved

Date