

**GLEMSFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2011 at**  
**at Glemsford Village Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Lucy Knox	Tiffany Carr
Michael Brown	Len Young
Lynn Bloomfield	Adrian Southgate
Rex Thake	Colin Parmenter
Robbie Benson	

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Richard Kemp

**Cllr. Ford was not present and no apologies were received.**

**72. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2011, having previously been circulated, were adopted and signed.

**PROPOSED: Cllr. Bloomfield**

**SECONDED: Cllr. Brown**

**73 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Owen Hender had sent a letter regarding concerns about the basketball club that Cllr. Benson had formed. There were issues with time slots and a coach will be left with Robbie, the Chairman would contact the Clerk and get her to liaise with Cllr. Benson about availability. Cllr. Benson would get touch with Alex Macfarlane to see if he could help. Colin suggests that the funds from the old playing field committee could be used to assist in some way. The police suggested that Stephanie Lloyd could be contacted to see if they could provide an adult supervisor if Owen could undertake the coach training. The coaching course age will need to be looked into

Anne Mallalie asked how the parish council felt over the likely loss of the library. There is a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at Clare Community Centre regarding their Library which may be beneficial to attend. Richard has held detailed meetings regarding Melford Library and the main concern is the lack of information regarding the funds that will be available to assist with the running. The actual cost of running our library needs to be clarified. Richard Kemp has left the Melford library so that an interest in taking it on has been raised along with certain conditions being met. Glemsford can liaise with Melford & Lavenham so everyone can pool ideas. The rent for the library needs to be looked at and confirmed. Rex recommends that all the local villages stick together and share ideas. Len voiced concerns that the rates for the library will be added to the Parish costs.

Harriet North made everyone aware of the meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7.15pm at Glemsford School to discuss the library matter further.

The public liability certificate in the village Hall is 2 years out of date, needs to be looked at.

Harriet North wished to arrange a litter pick, Don't be a Tosser, first weekend in April 2011 looks likely, and all are welcome.

Concerns over the circulation of information regarding the Parish Council were raised.

The minutes and meeting dates, most importantly. This needs to be addressed. All issues need to be better advertised. Cllr. Carr informed the meeting that the Council

is now on Facebook in order to move with the times and hopefully reach a large audience. She will also look into more displays of meeting dates and putting the minutes in the free Mercury newspaper.

Cllr. Young felt that councillors have not attended as many public events or meetings/gatherings as much as they could, therefore we are missing out on vital community spirit, therefore this could be addressed by councillors making themselves more available for as many public events as possible.

Harriet North wished to give an update the Glemfest proceedings, which is all in hand. A temporary events notice will need to be applied for. The next Glemfest meeting is at 8pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at the Angel, Glemsford.

#### **74. SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

The end of February saw the final budget setting meeting, at which the budget already approved by the Cabinet was voted through by the Conservatives on the County Council. The cuts will affect many people in rural and urban areas, throughout the county, and I strongly opposed the decisions taken to reduce many vital frontline services.

The meeting which lasted over six hours discussed the original budget, two amendments, and then a number of other outstanding items from previous meetings.

The first amendment was from the Labour Group, which suggested that the County Council should not remove the School Crossing Patrol service, and should not remove all funding for Road safety training. This would be funded through the contingency fund, which has been set aside by the Conservatives at the Council to manage the risk present with this many budget cuts. The amendment was voted down, with all opposition parties including myself voting for the amendment to be adopted, as well as seven Conservative members. This however, was not enough to pass it through.

The Liberal Democrat Group submitted a second motion which called for a greater level of savings from the centre of the organisation and from a small proportion of the £108m which the council holds in reserves.

The Liberal Democrats amendment would have saved these services;

- Libraries
- Youth Clubs and Youth provision
- Subsidies to public transport services for Sundays, evenings and Bank Holidays
- Park and Ride Service from the Bury Road, Ipswich site
- Funding for the eXplore student card, which gives half price travel on buses up to age 19
- School Crossing Patrol Service
- Keep open all Household Waste Recycling Centres, instead of reducing them from 18 to 11
- Continue checking Lorries to see if they are overloaded.
- Stop the divestment of the Fire Control Function to Huntingdon
- Keep Felixstowe as a Day Crewed fire station, instead of reducing it to retained
- Retain full time crewing of the Ipswich Aerial Appliance

By using these funds;

- Re-open Bury Road Park and Ride by reviewing revenue streams for Park and Ride to increase income, including from concessionary fares, creating a cost neutral service
- Reduction in Road Maintenance Revenue Budget – not affecting emergency repairs
- Business Mileage reduction of 10% - saving nearly £1m a year
- Reduction of hours, to enable the continuation of all Household Waste sites
- Reduction of one Director and 2 Assistant Director posts
- Reduction of 2 Cabinet posts
- Reduce back office staff in Fire Service & review the number of appliances attending incidents (at present, for example, they send 5 appliances to a cat up a tree)
- Reduce External Room Hire by 30%
- Felixstowe Fire Station to 5 day weekday manning
- Use of Service reserves
- Reduce Corporate Contingency reserve
- Reduce Management of Change reserve

These savings would be heavily focused on the use of the management of change budget, which was set up for business transformation during the year at the council, and the corporate contingency fund, which is there to help manage risk throughout the year. We believe with the current financial situation this is the best time to use the reserves to ensure communities will continue to receive essential services. This amendment was sadly defeated on the day, with all opposition parties supporting, but none of the Conservative majority doing so.

In the end the budget was passed through with the Conservatives all supporting the main budget, and the opposition against.

You can find all the information regarding the budget at this link;

[http://apps2.suffolk.gov.uk/cgi-bin/committee\\_xml.cgi?p=detail&id=1\\_15073](http://apps2.suffolk.gov.uk/cgi-bin/committee_xml.cgi?p=detail&id=1_15073)

The consultation for Libraries is still going ahead, as the County are looking to divest, or close a number of the Libraries around the County. The mobile library service is also under threat.

Within the list that may well close come 2012, are Long Melford, Glemsford, and Lavenham.

The consultation began on 18<sup>th</sup> January, and finishes on 30<sup>th</sup> April. You can find the consultation on the home page of Suffolk County Council under the Consultation heading.

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk>

In addition to the budget cuts as specified above, the County Council has made significant reductions in the levels of subsidy provided to passenger transport, a total of £2.2m, which enable commercial services to operate in non-peak time slots. This means that some services will cease completely, whereas others will stop operating in the evenings, and on weekends.

The County Council has now released information of all those buses that will now cease. You can find all the relevant information here –

[http://www.suffolkonboard.com/news/changes\\_to\\_public\\_transport\\_services\\_april\\_2011](http://www.suffolkonboard.com/news/changes_to_public_transport_services_april_2011)

The County has recently launched online petitioning where members of the public are able to create, and sign petitions to bring an issue to the Councils attention, or to approve or disapprove a Council decision.

There are currently a number of petitions online, including petitions for libraries, and for the eXplore card. Once a petition reaches 3,675 signatures, the issue then has to be debated in Full Council.

For more information, and to sign petitions, please go to this link;  
<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/News/EPetitions.htm>

The County Council is also running a number of different consultations at this current time, they include;

- Ongoing consultation on the New Strategic Direction
- Libraries Consultation as mentioned above
- Home to School Transport consultations
- Have your say on the 2011-14 Integrated risk Management plan – Fire Service
- Youth Club 2011
- Air Quality Management and New Development 2011 Consultation

All of these consultations can be found from the front page of the Suffolk County Council website.

The cabinet meeting on March only had two items, both of which were noted/passed.

The first is the quarterly budget monitoring report, in which the head of finance at the Council updates the cabinet on the financial situation within the Council.

The second item was creating a policy statement for the creation of free schools and academies in Suffolk.

You can access these reports from the Council and Democracy area of the Suffolk County Council website.

The issues with the visibility, following a complaint, at Pannells Close have been looked in to and no visibility issues can be found.

Richard Kemp, Karen Smith & Julia Proctor will be attending a meeting regarding a crossing at Glemsford School on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March and further details of the meeting will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **75. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

The Mid Suffolk merger is still the main topic and they have had 55 applicants for the new chairperson position, from which they will select the best for the job. 2013 is the estimated completion time for the merger.

## **76. PLANNING MATTERS**

### **a. New Applications**

#### **B/10/01517/FHA          Brookfield Place**

Conversion of existing garage into additional accommodation (for disabled person); erection of extension to existing garage to form en-suite; erection of front entrance porch; and erection of pitched roof over existing first-floor dormer window.

Agreed to recommend this application for approval.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Parmenter

**SECONDED:** Cllr. Bloomfield

**b. Applications Granted**

**B/10/01508/FUL                    British Telecom Telephone Exchange, Angel Lane**

Replacement of glazing (with metal louvers) in 3 no. windows on East and West elevations in connection with BT broadband upgrade works.

**B/10/01580/AS                    1 Spring Meadow**

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

**77.            CORRESPONDENCE**

Regarding The request from the bowls club to have a cupboard to put their carpet rolling in, Lucy has measured ever cupboard at the hall and there is not one that it will fit in. There were also concerns that this item would be extremely difficult to be moved. Therefore Lucy has requested that The Bowls Club need to see if they can move the carpet machine then the housing of it will need to be looked into again..

The bus shelter damage will be looked into, the options would be to replaced the damaged panel but then run the risk that this will be broken again and due to current cuts and financial difficulties, this may be an expense that the parish could not currently afford.

Colin has decided to not stand as Parish Councillor, but was commended on his work over the last 26 years.

Michael has volunteered to help with the Digital Switch Over. His poster will be displayed in the Parish notice board. He can be contacted to give advice on who is entitled to free boxes and other information required.

Glemsford is playing in the Men's Suffolk Junior Cup final which is being played on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April at Portman Road, Ipswich, 7.15 kick off. Anyone wishing to attend please contact Cllr. Benson for tickets.

There being no other business the meeting finished at 20.55 pm

Next Meeting: 12th April 2011 (incorporating Annual Parish Meeting).

**Approved** .....

**Date** .....