** *SUTTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL***

***MINUTES***

of Parish Council meeting held on **Monday 26 September 2022**

at 7pm at The Barnsdale Community Centre, Sutton Heath

**Present**: Cllr L Chalklen

Cllr N Ward

Cllr R Merriam

Cllr S Hadley

Cllr E Prokopowycz

M Merriam (Parish Clerk)

**In Attendance:** Stirling Askew (military liaison)

Cllr Andrew Reid (SCC)

Cllr James Mallinder (ESC)

1. **To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Betteridge**.** Before the meeting continued Matthew Thomas was introduced to the meeting. Matt is a resident of the parish and had submitted an application form for councillor which had been circulated to the councillors. This had been considered and it was agreed that Matt be invited to join the parish council. This was proposed by Cllr Ward and seconded by Cllr Prokopowycz and thus Matt was warmly welcomed on board. Cllr Matt Thomas would sign the relevant form at the end of the meeting.

1. **To receive declarations of interest in respect of Agenda items**

There were none.

1. **To approve the draft minutes of meeting held on 4 July 2022**

These minutes had previously been circulated. They were proposed by Cllr Betteridge and seconded by Cllr Merriam.

1. **To receive brief reports from:**
   1. *Suffolk County Council*.Cllr Reid gave a brief report on the contents of his newsletter.
   2. *East Suffolk Council*. Cllr Mallinder was also present and gave a report on the contents of his newsletter.
2. **To discuss Parish Clerk and Councillor vacancies**

The Parish Clerk position is still not filled. There are still two councillor vacancies. Both positions continue to be advertised.

1. **To discuss finance:**
   1. *Income & expenditure report and bank reconciliation*. Cllr Merriam explained the income and expenditure as per the papers which had been circulated at the meeting. There was money in the bank account to be spent and so various projects were mentioned ie flashing speeding signs, electric charging points, a method to support elderly people in their homes, funding a Warm Room (ie Poppies or the room next door to it could be used) to allow people to gather together in a warm room with refreshments available, CAP sessions to help people regulate and manage their own finances, cycle routes ie a cycle track from Sutton Heath to Sutton Hoo. It was suggested that £5,000 of the money in the current account be placed in a better higher interest bearing (one-year?) account with a further £5,000 being added later if that worked. This should be investigated.
   2. *Blossom Appeal update.* £1,829.74 is being held and another quiz night is being planned for February 2023. The target is £2,022 so this should be easily achieved.
   3. *Old laptop to TWAM*. The old parish laptop has been wiped and so can be passed on to Tools With a Mission in Ipswich who refurbish second hand tools and equipment which are then sent to third world countries.
2. **To discuss any update re First Aid Training**

Cllr Chalklensaid that the first aid company increased their prices to £430 per session which was for 12 people (8.30-4.30). The increase in price was approved; proposed by Cllr Ward and seconded by Cllr Merriam. The Parish Clerk would ask Sharron Mayhew for available dates.

1. **To discuss update from Events Committee:**
2. Quiz – £571 raised at the Quiz in September – the next one will be held in February.
3. Sutton Heath Choir. A meeting is to be held. It has been suggested that the parish council fund the charge per week for the first ten weeks (£52.50 for the choir mistress). There will thereafter be a £3 per person donation per week. There will be no charge for renting the hall. There was discussion between the parish council and Mrs Kerr a resident with an interest in the choir who was in attendance at the meeting. A nominated person from the council would be on the committee (but would not need to be in the choir). Cllr Hadley volunteered to do this. It was agreed to support the choir in this way as they start up afresh – proposed by Cllr Ward and seconded by Cllr Prokopowycz.
4. The Sutton Heath calendar has only received 2 entries. The closing date is 1st October. People were to be encouraged to submit photographs which will be considered. Proceeds of sale of calendars go towards the Blossom Appeal.
5. Bingo sessions have started up again. Thanks go to Chelsea and Becky for running these.
6. Remembrance Day service – refreshments afterwards in Crompton Hall.
7. The poppy waterfall – thanks go to Sharron Mayhew for her hard work in putting this together.
8. Afternoon Tea on 14th December. £10 per head – seniors are free.
9. New Year’s Eve disco to raise money for Blossom Appeal. Someone will do disco, if he is available, for £150. Bring own nibbles and refreshments. £150 funding for disco was proposed by Cllr Ward and seconded by Cllr Prokopowycz.
10. **To discuss Rock Gardens**
    1. Memorial stone and wording. The Parish Clerk was given a quotation by Spencer Wix in Rendlesham (a copy of which had been circulated to the councillors). In comparison with the previous quote which had been received from Masters, the quote from Spencer Wix was by far the cheapest at £1825.50. The MOD would fund half of the project. Re the wording it was agreed to have the words “Placed in memory of Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022” on one side and “Dedicated to honour all of the brave Service Personnel who laid down their lives in service of their country” on the other. Acceptance of the quotation was proposed by Cllr Ward and seconded by Cllr Thomas.
    2. Hollesley Gardener / Gardening Club. A water tap and a shed have already been purchased. Keys with Cllr Betteridge. Enthusiastic volunteers weed the garden every fortnight Wednesday 11-12noon. The hard work of Marie and Phyllis was acknowledged in setting this up. Cllr Hadley said there is a hold up re setting up the licence for the Hollesley Gardener plus one other who would be helping but this would be available soon. Cllr Hadley also mentioned said that there are many pumpkins available at Hollesley so she could provide some for the youth club. Mr Askew would speak to Michelle.
    3. There will be a Valentine’s Day quiz, an Easter craft event (pebble painting) Rock Barracks open day on 29th July (and the Freedom Parade on 28th July where there will be a concert in Elmhurst Park in the evening).
    4. Sutton Heath Village Fete, potentially on 22nd July.
    5. Dance for Health has started in the Crompton Hall.
    6. It has been suggested that a Sutton Heath league for petanque be investigated if there is an appetite for it. The Parish Clerk would ask the Parish Clerk in Campsie Ash how this can be set up.
11. **To receive update re PREIM**

Cllr Prokopowycz has been in touch with PREIM re the trees in Thorn Walk. As a result of a survey PREIM said there are a number of trees which are not healthy and they are recommended to be reduced by 3m by April 2023. There is an urgent one which needs to be attended to by the end of October. Remaining trees are all very healthy and are not meant to be reduced in any way or they will die. They have all been checked out.

It was agreed that the roots on Thorn Walk are dangerous and PREIM need to do something about them whatever the cost. Cllr Prokopowycz said that she would be having a discussion with Mr Brown of PREIM in this regard.

1. **To consider any planning applications received**

There were none.

1. **To receive public questions**

There were none.

1. **To consider correspondence received**

An anonymous letter had been received about speeding on the estate and the main road. The Parish Clerk was asked to put something into the Newsletter to say that speeding on the estate and main road are topics which have been raised before. The parish council have been in contact with PREIM about this and there doesn’t seem to be a straightforward answer.

Speeding on the main road – Suffolk County Council carried out a speed survey two years ago and said that as a result it was deemed traffic calming measures were not warranted.

1. **To discuss AOB (for info only – any decisions to go on Agenda for next meeting)**

Cllr Thomas mentioned that he has come across an app called The Oil Club which sends an email of where the cheapest oil can be found. If you click on the link and say you will buy at that price, provided you order by midday on Monday you get it at that same price. For elderly people it might be helpful. It was suggested that this would be a useful information for the Newsletter.

1. **To agree the date of the next meeting**

The date of Monday 14th November was agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed: …………………………………….. …………………………………………..

Chair Parish Clerk

Date: ………………….………………….. ………………………………………….