

Minutes of meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at Sutton St Edmund Village Hall commencing at 8.00pm Chaired By: Cllr Rogers – Chairman of Parish Council

Also present: The Parish Clerk and 7 members of the public.

- 1.The Chairman welcomed all present.
- 2.The Clerks notes of the meeting on 28th March 2011 were read and proposed to be a true record of the meeting, it was resolved to sign the notes as minutes.
- 3.The Chairman gave a short address: Report attached
- 4.The clerk gave a short financial statement:

Finances for the year 2011/2012 have kept within budget and the council once again had a successful annual Audit.

The precept has been increased by just under 2.5%. This has been achieved by cost cutting where possible in an effort to ease the continued financial burden of our current climate to our Parishioners.

- 5.There followed an open forum:

The possibility of a mobile phone mast to be erected in the village as a form of raising revenue to help keep the precept down, plus giving better reception.

What can be done to improve Broadband speeds within the parish.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.30pm

Confirmed and approved

Signed:

Date

***SUTTON ST  
PARISH***



***EDMUND  
COUNCIL***

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**Annual report for Sutton St Edmund Parish Council  
for March 2012**

**Chairman's report / Review of the Year**

My report for the year 2011/12 comes at the end of a thankfully peaceful and relatively uneventful year in the life of Sutton St Edmund Parish Council.

I suppose that the hottest topic of the year amongst the vast majority of parishioners has been the future, or not, of the proposed wind-farm. I wish I could be more informative but, at the time of writing this report, the only certain information I have is that South Holland District Council (SHDC) are awaiting a decision from Fenland District Council before deciding on their own course of action. There has also been an extension on the application to 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012. Sorry not to be more explicit.

During the past year quite a number of relatively small, but nonetheless important, projects have taken place in order to maintain the upkeep and wellbeing of our village.

1) A new dog litter-bin located at the entrance to the playing field area was put in place but sadly, it disappeared, I must presume it was stolen. However, we have ordered a replacement plastic one which hopefully will remain in place! But, of course, the cost of the replacement has to be funded from our relatively small budget.

2) The village sign has been cleaned and repainted. This was funded by Mr. Steve Morris and with the help of the Cooke family who re-installed the finished article. It looks great and I am very grateful to all concerned for their time and generosity.

3) The village car park has received a good makeover, weeds and foliage removed and fresh gravel laid and rolled. This was funded by a grant from SHDC via Councillor Seymour, again I am grateful for their support.

4) The public telephone box, which was purchased by the Parish Council, has been freshly painted along with the village bus shelter, which at the time of writing remains graffiti free!

- 5) A container of salt has been placed near to the village post box for the use of all parishioners for footpaths outside of their properties should the need arise.
- 6) The village war memorial is being kept beautifully clean and tidy, but the state of the property close to it is, as everyone knows, in a poor state of repair. I am certain that this distracts attention away from the important and honourable centre of our village. The Parish Council have attempted to resolve this situation on several occasions with limited success, mainly due to our limited powers, therefore it is now being dealt with by SHDC in conjunction with the owners of the property.
- 7) All allotments are being checked on a regular basis and I can report that they are all being cared for efficiently and effectively.
- 8) Some footpaths are still in need of repair and this is being reported regularly to SHDC.
- 9) Following several enquiries to myself and other Councillors, concerning the possible reinstatement of delivery of the Fenland Citizen newspaper, the Council contacted the Fenland Citizen and suggested the feasibility of supplying copies of the Citizen in bulk to one designated point in the village and parishioners could then collect their own when convenient. A designated person would collect the copies from the publisher. However, the Fenland Citizen inform us that, due to financial constraints, they have had to cut back on the number of copies printed in general. As a consequence, they are no longer able to supply the Citizen to numerous more remote villages in the area. At present the Parish Council is in the process of discussing with the publishers of the Parson Drove Newsletter, the possibility of including information from Sutton St Edmund and South Eau Bank in their publication. Nothing has been decided at the time of writing this report. Councillor Yvonne Husband spoke to numerous parishioners about the possibility of re-introducing our own newsletter. However the response she received was, to say the least, less than encouraging.
- 10) The Parish Council contemplated putting in place a formal emergency/bad weather plan to help any parishioner who needed assistance. But following informal consultations around the village, it seems that the informal "friendly neighbour" policy is the preferred way forward. I think this was mainly due to the fact that parishioners do not wish to be formally committed to being the named point of contact. However, all the parishioners approached were of the same opinion that we would all pull together in time of need.

11) The village playing field is in good order and because of the legal requirements of Health & Safety, it is checked on a weekly basis. Of course, because of the all too rapidly increasing ages of the majority of young people in the village, the playing field is used much less than in the recent past.

12) There appears to be a marked increase in Heavy Goods Vehicles from various parts of the UK using the village roads in recent weeks, by day and night. Although there has, up to present, been no official research done as to why this is happening, a general consensus seems to be that Satellite Navigation systems may be directing traffic through our area as the shortest route from, for example, the A47 to the A15. I must stress that there is no evidence, as yet, to support this theory! I have spoken with LCC Highways about the state of repair of the roads generally in the parish, including the possibility of 'road calming bumps'. I have also discussed the possibility of speed restriction signs at South Eau Bank, again mainly because of the increased volume of traffic, I am pleased to announce they are willing to introduce speed restriction. I am aware that LCC also have financial constraints enforced upon them, but hopefully during the next financial year some of our requests will be given a higher priority. I am pleased that some of the pot holes that appeared during the icy weather have already been temporarily repaired.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to formally express my thanks to all the members of Sutton St Edmund Parish Council team for their commitment over the past year. In particular I wish to thank, Kate, our litter "picker-upper" who does an exemplary job in a sometimes thankless task in all winds and weathers. Long may Sutton St Edmund be fortunate to have people like Kate who care enough to make a difference. Also my thanks and gratitude to Jane, our clerk, who also works tirelessly behind the scenes by, amongst many other tasks, supplying the Council with all the information they need and responding to the endless letters and communications.

Debbie Rogers  
Chairperson