

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at Sutton St Edmund Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm Chaired By: Cllr Ramkaran – Chairman of Parish Council

Also present: The Parish Clerk, County Cllr Webb and 6 members of the public.

1. The Chairman welcomed all present.
2. The Clerks notes of the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013 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:  
The total income for the financial year is expected to be approximately £7420 with expenditure in the region of £6660. The Precept (the money received from SHDC) this year was £5100.

Other income has been generated by Allotment rents at £1490, a grant from SHDC of £300 for gravel to be used in the village car park and again in 3<sup>rd</sup> place is Bank interest at under £3.

The Accounts for 2012/13 were signed off by the internal and external Auditors and the notice displayed for the required period on the Parish notice board.

The task of setting the Parish Councils Budget was tackled earlier this year than previous years giving the Council time to develop a comprehensive yet tight budget along with a working 5 year plan, all of which has been displayed on notice boards and the Council Web site for all to see. The precept request was then submitted in November.

I would like to thank the Chairman and all the councillors for their continued support and work over the last year.

5. Items from Parish for discussion:  
Future use of Phone Kiosk – It was proposed to put some shelves in it to be used for swapping books in the parish. (This will be put on agenda for Parish Council to action)

6. There followed an open forum:

Items raised and discussed were as follows:

- The profusion of bad pot holes in the Parish
- A grant from the Parish Council towards the costs owed by the Wind Farm appeal fund

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 7.25pm

Confirmed and approved

Signed:

Date

## **Chairman's report for the year to March 2014**

Perhaps the most important decision affecting the Parish this year was the rejection of the appeal for permission to build the wind-farm. The decision was eventually made by the Minister on the recommendation of the Inspector. Thanks to everyone who attended the enquiry. We did have to wait a long time for the answer.

The Parish Council has continued to work to ensure that everything it is responsible for is safe and well maintained. Risk Assessments were carried out, by Councillor Rogers and Councillor Ramkaran, on all property for which the Council has responsibility. As a result of this, while risks were very low, some maintenance issues were identified. Action was taken to reduce risks by removing the shelf in the phone box, fixing the loose post holding the dog bin and treating the post supporting the village sign to prevent further rotting. The edges of the basketball court were sprayed to kill the weeds and prevent damage to the surface. Thanks to Councillor Morris for carrying out this work.

The play area has been kept tidy and the trim trail ropes have been replaced. The grass was cut regularly throughout the spring and summer. The hedge alongside the dyke was cut back and tidied by Councillor Morris. Gravel in the car park has been topped up. Regular inspections of the play area are carried out. Inspection is weekly for most of the year and monthly from December to March.

The trees in the car park have been pruned to reduce the risk of falling branches. Gravel has been added to the surface and we thank District Councillor Seymour for providing grants to cover the cost of all the gravel.

The War Memorial has been kept tidy and always looks very good. The hedge has been trimmed and grass cut. Unfortunately the property behind it continues to deteriorate and so far we have been unable to get anything done about this despite approaches to South Holland Council.

We have seen some improvement to our roads. During the year South Eau Bank was resurfaced by adding a new layer. This road now has a 40 mph speed limit. Lincolnshire County Council has been approached about the state of our roads on several occasions. Luttgate has been patched but there are still holes and cracks, with some sections having little top surface. We understand that this road will be top dressed in 2014. We still have too many potholes in all our roads and you are reminded that you can report dangerous holes on the LCC website.

We have considered the visibility at the junction of Broadgate and South Eau Bank and LCC have provided a junction sign on South Eau Bank before the junction. Visibility is quite good in the winter but the vegetation will need to be cut back in summer.

I would like to thank all members of the Parish Council for their work over the past year. Special thanks go to Kate who continues to clean up the litter, even in one of the wettest winters ever. I would like to thank Jane, our clerk, who works hard to ensure that we have the information we need and who deals with a great deal of correspondence.

