

Minutes of meeting of Marlesford Parish Council

Held at the Community Centre on Friday 12 May 2017 at 7.00pm

Present: The Chairman, Lord Marlesford; Cllrs. Dr Roger Waterfall, Mrs Lesley Bensley, Mrs Diana Wells, Mr Sam Catling and the Clerk Mrs Beverley Russell.

Mrs Diana Howard was welcomed as the new parish councillor.

Also present Mr Park Sims Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator (for item 12) and Dr Margaret Carswell (for item 4) District Cllr Mrs C Poulter and County Cllr Stephen Burroughes.

1. Election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman

Lord Marlesford was proposed by Mr Catling and to continue as Chairman, seconded by Mrs Wells and elected unanimously.

Dr Waterfall was proposed by Mr Catling to continue as Vice Chairman, seconded by Mrs Howard and elected unanimously.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mr Ross Proctor and Richard Cooper

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 24 February 2017, were approved by the Council as an accurate record of the meeting. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

4. Crime in Marlesford

Colonel Park Sims, referring to a paper circulated by Richard Cooper of Marlesford Neighbourhood Watch, reported that the police had failed to notify anyone in Marlesford of the serious burglary at Keeper's Cottage. He said the whole system of police liaison with local communities was breaking down. It was agreed that Lord Marlesford should write to Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore making a complaint about the inadequacies of the present system and suggesting that details of all rural parishes should be available to the police online so that they would at once know who to get in touch with.

5. Sizewell C: Park & Ride and Four Village bypass (4VBP)

Richard Cooper's excellent minute of and report on the Chairman's meeting with EDF at the House of Lords on Tuesday 25 April, and Lord Marlesford's follow-up letter of 3 May to Mr Jim Crawford, Sizewell C Project Development Director, had been circulated.

The Council thanked Dr Carswell for her highly effective representation of the Parish Council interests in Sizewell. There was a discussion on who should take over this role. It was Proposed, and Agreed, to accept Richard Cooper's offer to monitor developments on the Park & Ride, and that he should be invited to organise a discussion meeting with neighbouring Parish Councils.

Cllr Waterfall agreed to follow at local level, participating as appropriate, events and developments related to the 4VBP.

It was agreed that Lord Marlesford would continue to keep in touch with all Sizewell C developments which could affect Marlesford.

6. Fly tipping in Marlesford & Litter

Cllr Poulter reported that she had so far been unable to ascertain the reasons for dropping further action on the fly tipping in August 2016 of multiple items, identified by SCDC officers as coming from the premises of a Marlesford resident, in four locations in the Parish.

The Parish Council felt that failure to take effective enforcement action on fly tipping at local level would merely encourage what was already becoming a significant national problem.

Cllr Poulter agreed to arrange for SCDC to write to the Parish Council with an explanation.

Cllr Catling reported that there had been a considerable increase in litter in Marlesford, mainly dropped from vehicles. It was agreed that Dr Carswell should remind all volunteers of their earlier offers to pick litter and invite other parishioners to participate.

7. Vehicle speeding in Marlesford

Considerable disquiet was expressed at the lack of speed controls in Marlesford and the serious hazard that these represented, especially on the Marlesford to Parham road.

Cllr Burroughs was asked to arrange for SCC officials to make an urgent site visit with Cllr Waterfall to assess the possibility of installing temporary electronic speed indicators, especially on Hall Road. Cllr Burroughs agreed to arrange this as soon as possible after the June General Election. The county council officers currently responsible were David Chenery and Derek Oldham. However some organisational changes to the structure of the County Council are expected to be announced shortly.

8. School Lane, Marlesford

Cllr Burroughs was requested to get urgent maintenance work done on School Lane which has not been resurfaced for over 30 years and is in danger of deteriorating into a track.

9. Broadband in Marlesford

Cllr Burroughs was advised that there was considerable dissatisfaction with the broadband speeds being provided by BT Open Reach to premises in Marlesford. Although central government finance (taxpayers' money) had been provided through the Suffolk County Council for the installation of the new BT Green Cabinet located on the A12 adjacent to the Marlesford Farm Café linked to the main fibre cable, there was doubt whether the copper wire of all those broadband users had been connected to the fibre in the Green Cabinet.

Cllr Burroughs said that if he were provided with the registration number of the Green Cabinet he would ask the County Council officer responsible, Mr Peter Ingram, to investigate and report back.

10. Marlesford Old School Fund: Cllr. Waterfall informed the meeting that the money had been invested in the COIF Charities Investment Fund and the interest will be distributed in grants to promote education amongst young persons in the village. Currently interest rates are low but it was hoped that next school year two grants could be made such as a contribution towards purchase of school uniform for entering secondary school.

11. The Firs Bowling Green: Cllr. Waterfall told the meeting that Tom Kenyon had undertaken some repairs to the hut and laid the carparking surfacing for the disabled outside the Church door as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Community Award. Cllr Waterfall reported Tesco's had a 'plastic bag' fund which could contribute money towards a disabled access to the bowling green hut. And thirdly Mr Anthony Cross advised not to have the power disconnected at the hut in case a future use of the hut involved power then it would be very expensive to have the power reconnected. There is a quarterly layout for the standing charge.

12. Finance Report. The Marlesford Parish Clerk reported funds of £3,490.10: £2,654.72 in the Savings/Community account on 29 March 2017 and £835.38 in the Business/Premium Account on 9 January 2017.

13. New seat under village sign. Cllr. Waterfall circulated information of a new seat made from 100% recycled plastic by a social enterprise based in Ipswich for £334.95 plus VAT. It was agreed that Cllr Waterfall obtain a quote for a brown seat, delivery, engraving etc. Cllr Waterfall estimated that the total installed cost could come to £600.

14. Report from Councillors:

Cllr Mrs L Bensley reported on SALC and local government matters: The Library budget had been cut, there was to be a Suffolk walking event on 13 May for fitness, and consideration of a charge to be made for running events in parks.

Cllr. Catling reported more litter than ever was being deposited in Marlesford. He required help to pick up more litter. Margaret Carswell to send round email for helpers.

Cllr Waterfall reported the building in Walkers Cottage garden had received retrospective planning approval. SCDC Planning Department had not notified Marlesford Parish Council of this. Cllr Waterfall to get from SCDC a copy of the retrospective application and consent given.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

15. Date of next Council Meeting

Thursday 10 August 2017 at 7.00pm

Chairman

Date

