

SIDESTRAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14th September 2023

1. Apologies for absence- Angie Fitch-Tillet (District Councillor)
2. Present: Ray Bateman (chair), Sally Burton, Ian Stoner, Ivor Watkins, and Alex Cooper. In attendance: Ed Maxfield, and Neil White (clerk)
3. Declaration of Interests- none declared
4. Minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2023 were perused and other than matters dealt with later in today's minutes, there were no matters arising
5. County Councillors Report. Ed Maxfield delivered a brief report covering the ongoing developments regarding the possible re-classification of rights of way in to footpaths and possibly roads and reported that there were likely to be more developments before policy would finally be settled. Ed agreed to write to Duncan Baker to ask for changes to the intended legislation to ensure that the possibility of upgrading footpaths to roads does not take place as this was never the intention of the changes. The Chairman informed the meeting that he had reported various problems with road signage to Highways. There did not appear to be any developments in regards to Sidestrand Hall School's entrance plans
6. District Councillors Report- there was no report delivered today
7. The Chairman reported that he would like to attend future Safer Neighbourhood meetings and Coastal meetings in the future
8. Bank account. Sally Burton reported that good progress had been made in opening a new current account for the Parish Council with NAT WEST bank but that it was possible that this would take another month to actually happen. Due to the threat from Barclays of imminent closure of the Council's current account it was unanimously decided that all of the funds in the Barclays account. Except for one penny, would be transferred to Neil White on a temporary basis for safekeeping. Mr White agreed to transfer the funds back within 24 hours of being requested to do so and to provide a "comfort letter" to the Parish Councillors.

9. Correspondence. It was agreed that the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman would attend the forthcoming meeting in North Walsham regarding speeding, following an invitation from Duncan Baker and there were no objections to the route to be taken by next year's marathon. The clerk agreed to confirm these decisions with the respective parties.

10. Any Other Business:
 1. Telephone box. It was agreed to defer discussions regarding the future until the next meeting
 2. Possible purchase of bench. Alex Cooper agreed to obtain some quotes and the matter will be discussed at the next meeting
 3. Reading Room. After an interesting debate, it was decided that a joint meeting between all 4 interested parties (Reading Room, Parish Council, Church and Sidestrand Archive Group) was urgently required, which Neil White would chair. A provisional date of October 26th at 3 pm in the Reading Room was agreed. Neil White also agreed to try and obtain details of any previous payments to the Reading Room from the Parish Council in order to calculate the amount that is currently owed in regard to rent for Parish Council Meetings.
 4. The meeting agreed that it would be a good idea to plant wildflowers and trim hedges etc at the "double bend" just past the Reading Room and discussions would take place as how best to achieve this.

11. Date of next meeting. The next meeting and the Annual General Meeting are to be held on Thursday November 23rd 2023 at 3 pm

Chairman