

Semer Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Semer Village Hall on Wednesday 24th October 2018 at 7.00pm.

In attendance:

Richard Keens (Chairman), Robert Thorogood, Trevor Mitchell, Alan Ferguson (District Councillor) and Hannah Clarke-Keens (Clerk).

Apologies - Jackie Barraclough

The minutes of the meeting of 25th July 2018 were read and approved.

1. Planning Application Approvals – The council acknowledged that planning permission had been granted for the overflow car park at Hollow Trees Farm shop on 9th September 2018, and for Cosford Rise on 18th September 2018.
2. Barclays Bank, Church Meadow Account – Richard is to collect new mandate forms for the church meadow account and Parish Council.
3. Conservation Appraisal/Special Landscape Area for Semer and Brett Valley – The Council briefed Alan on their enquiries into whether the Brett Valley would meet the criteria for conservation protection through either AONB status or a conservation appraisal. Alan shared that Special Landscape areas for Rivers are not always relevant when it comes to planning decisions, and advised the council members not to worry unduly about this issue as Semer is classed as Open Countryside and that offers protection enough for large scale unwanted planning which would affect the landscape of the hamlet. The council wanted it noted that they are not against development within the community, where it is in keeping with current housing/dwellings.
4. The Barn at Ash Street – No planning permission has been granted for the Barn at Ash Street. The second planning application has also been refused. Alan confirmed that it was a grave error of judgement from Babergh District Council to initially approve the application and that they should have paid up a lot sooner given that the court judgement was ruled in March 2018. He is delighted that the case was won by Semer Parish Council and that this is a lesson learnt by Babergh.
5. GDPR – Having re-read the guidelines for Parish Councils and GDPR we are compliant. This may need to be reviewed should any practices change.
6. Parish Liaison Meeting on 9th October 2018 – Richard and Hannah attended the Parish Liaison Meeting on 9th October 2018 which focused on CIL's and the election process for Parish Councils which will take place in April 2019. I have attached a copy of the presentation from this meeting with the minutes for reference. The Council is actively seeking to co-opt new council members and an advert will be shared on the Semer Parish website.
7. Payments for Approval - CAS £60.00 for website hosting - now paid. The estimated costs for the 2019 Parish Council elections have also been received which is £101.98 to the parish.

Any Other Business:

District Councillor's report for Semer Parish Council from Alan Ferguson – Alan shared his report with the council (copy attached with the minutes). Items discussed were:

- The Boundary Commission and the new ward SE Cosford which comprises of Semer and 8 other parishes.
- The 5-year land supply which Babergh is confident it can demonstrate may be under threat due to a changing NPPF document. This probably won't be relevant for Semer but is potentially an issue for Babergh.
- Following the council offices move to Ipswich, Babergh will now be holding "pop up points" in the Hadleigh Library once a week, Thursday from 1pm – 5pm for ward members who need advice but are unable to reach the Sudbury offices.
- Tree Branches left behind by BT Contractors – It was noticed that branches cut down by BT Contractors had been left on the verges around Semer and not cleared away becoming a hazard. Local residents have complained about this issue but had no response. The council asks that if anyone see's this happening please report it as soon as possible and inform council members so that action can be taken.
- Parochial Church Council to have access to website – Trevor has offered to train members of the Parochial Church Council on how to use the village website and provide them with access so that they can make updates etc. themselves. The village website is a very useful tool and should be made use of.
- Potential loss of the Roundabout magazine – The magazine may potentially stop being printed as there is nobody to take it on. This will be a disappointing loss for local residents and trades people alike as it is a well-used directory by all.

The next meeting will be held on 16th January 2019 at 7pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed.....

Dated