

Semer Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Semer Village Hall on Wednesday 25th July 2018 at 7.00pm.

In attendance:

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

Apologies - Granville Bendall, Jackie Barraclough

The minutes of the meeting of 11th April 2018 were read and approved.

1. Overgang road – No action has been taken by Suffolk County Council and we are still awaiting repair of the road.
2. Barclays Bank, Church Meadow Account – The account has now been reopened and the funds restored. Richard Keens is to visit Barclays bank and will acquire new forms for a new mandate as the previous one is out of date.
3. Hollow Trees Farm shop planning application to extend existing car park to create an overflow car park – The council have no objection to this application, and agreed it is a safer alternative to the current overflow car park across the A1141.
4. Conservation/Protection for the Semer hamlet/Brett Valley – After some brief research it would appear that Semer does not have its own Conservation Appraisal which all other neighbouring parishes hold. These are available to view on the Babergh District Council website, Hannah will contact BDC to enquire as to whether Semer can apply for one also and what the benefit is to having one etc. It was discussed that although it may seem like a long shot, it might still be worthwhile investigating the possibility of acquiring AONB status to encompass the Brett Valley in its entirety. This would be a larger project and would require some assistance and local knowledge from key members of the community. Further investigation to continue.
5. Neighbourhood Plans – Trevor and Hannah attended the meeting regarding Neighbourhood Plans held by James Cartlidge on 20th April 2018. Semer Parish Council members present at the meeting voted against a Neighbourhood Plan for Semer, as they felt it would be an unnecessary expense. Whatfield have just begun the process of preparing their own NP, and Semer Parish Council may be consulted upon as we are a neighbouring parish.
6. Babergh District Council land supply press release – Babergh have released the statement that it is able to demonstrate a 6.5year housing land supply, this meets the governments requirements of 5 years. Alan Ferguson believes this could mean some protection for the parishes, as it puts the council in a stronger position to refuse inappropriate proposals. To view the full article please visit <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/evidence-base/annual-monitoring-report-amr/>
7. Community Policing – Information was shared regarding the Suffolk Constabulary, which has recently undergone a restructure. The information was vague, but the number of PCSO's will be reduced.
8. Semer field fire – The council discussed the fire which started in one of Mr Arthie's fields which spread up towards the rear of Hollow Trees Farm shop which was evacuated and the roads were closed. It was reported 15 appliances helped tackle the blaze and the Council

would like to thank James Buckle and his team for assisting the fire crews with additional vehicles. Fortunately, there was no damage to property and nobody was injured.

Any Other Business:

Planning application for the barn on Ash Street - Trevor brought it to the attention of the council that a new planning application has been submitted for the barn at Ash Street under application ref. DC/18/03284. The Clerk has not received any consultation notice from Babergh. Trevor and Hannah to contact Alan Ferguson via telephone and email for further information on the matter.

GDPR – Trevor queried whether we have taken the appropriate steps as a council to ensure we don't breach GDPR. Parish councils are exempt from appointing a DPO, but in case the council has missed anything Hannah will look into the matter and double check that we are compliant, or if the council needs to put anything further in place.

Register of Member interest – Richard Keens is the only council member left to complete this form, and it needs to be completed as soon as possible.

New councillors – The council ideally would benefit from having additional councillor. Present council members to canvas the community for a potential new member.

Successful tractor ride – Thanks to James Buckle and his team for another successful tractor ride in June, with approximately 40 attendees.

The next meeting will be held on 24th October 2018 at 7pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....