

# HENLEY PARISH COUNCIL

*"Creating a spirit within our community that is always friendly & welcoming."*

Clerk: Rod Caird, 26 Church Lane, Henley IP6 0RQ  
Tel: 01473 831172 Email: [henleyparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:henleyparishcouncil@gmail.com)

## Minutes of Henley Parish Council Meeting Tuesday March 8, 2016 7.30pm Henley Community Centre

<b>Public Discussion</b>	<p>Three members of the public and Cllrs James Caston, John Field and John Whitehead were present.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate is holding a hearing on May 17 at 10.00am at the Mid Suffolk offices in Needham Market into the appeal by the owner of the Cross Keys against Mid Suffolk's refusal of his application for change of use to residential. Members of the public present said they would be presenting a case against the change of use.</p> <p>It was suggested that continued problems on Clay Lane might be partly solved if the landowners on either side of the lane were willing to make land available for proper passing places.</p> <p>The District Councillors reported that the new Community Infrastructure Levy was adopted by Mid Suffolk in January and will begin in April. Under the scheme, as an example, a Parish Council such as Henley would receive about £30,000 from a development of approx. 30 houses. The District Council budget was approved in January with both councillors voting in favour. Council tax increases by less than 2%; rents are down by 1%; garage rents are up by 10%. The overall position is healthy but the steady reduction in the government's revenue support grant will mean the council has to rely on its reserves in coming years.</p> <p>65 new council homes will be built in Mid Suffolk and Babergh. The first nine are being built in Laxfield.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Committee has looked at the problem of council houses standing empty between tenancies for unnecessarily long periods.</p> <p>Cllr John Field reported that a proposal at County level to use £10.72 million from reserves, which would have removed the need to cut social care, young peoples' services and community transport, was voted down. On the other hand the County's forecast deficit is reduced and the County's cabinet decided not to raise council tax by the 1.7% assumed by the Chancellor in calculating grants. Devolution proposals involving Suffolk, Norfolk and possibly Cambridge are going forwards but it is not clear how the office of an elected Mayor for the region will work.</p>	
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	<b>Present: Kevin Griggs (chair), Stephen Brock, Keith Lawrance, Martin Redbond, Bryan Marks, Graham Doyle and Rod Caird (Clerk)</b>	
<b>1/080316</b>	<b>Apologies and Approvals of Absence</b>	
	None	
<b>2/080316</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</b>	
	None	
<b>3/080316</b>	<b>To approve as accurate the Minutes of the Meeting held on January 12, 2016</b>	
	Approved	
<b>4/080316</b>	<b>To discuss progress reports as follows:</b>	
	<p><b>Henley Square traffic signage:</b> The Highways team has said the work will be started in the next week.</p> <p><b>Vehicle Activated Sign on Main Road:</b> The sign has been used northbound on Henley Road and southbound on Main Road in Hemingstone. It is now on Ashbocking Road outside the Primary School. It was decided to analyse the data from the sign on traffic behaviour before exploring a Neighbourhood Speed Watch scheme, which had been suggested by residents.</p> <p><b>Henley Primary School Respect Zone:</b> Highways has expressed concern about the zone's green cones causing obstruction on the road but it was explained that the cones are set on the pavement and not the road. It was agreed to arrange a site meeting at Pearson's Place with Mid Suffolk and County highways in order to try to resolve problems concerning one resident's access to parking. It was also agreed to cost a footpath from the Community Centre car park across the grass area at the side of the entrance and leading to the pavement along Church Meadows. Cllr Field will confirm whether county funding is available for a "walking bus". Congestion in Pond End will be monitored.</p> <p><b>Clay Lane traffic and road condition:</b> Cllr Field will raise with Highways the possibility of acquiring land for passing places.</p>	

	<p><b>Improvements to Parish noticeboards at the bus stop and Henley Square:</b> A grant from the District Councillors' locality budget of £1,000 has been received and the Clerk will present a detailed proposal for new noticeboards to the next meeting.</p> <p><b>PCSO Funding proposals:</b> Meetings are continuing with the aim of ensuring PCSO provision will continue with the financial support of parish councils including Henley.</p> <p><b>Church Lane ditches and concerns about the smell from the pig farm:</b> Ditch work has been carried out by landowners on each side of Church Lane but there are still problems on the right side of the lane going east before the bend by the horse field and houses. To be raised with Highways. Clerk reported the pig farm smell concern to the Environment Agency and a report is still awaited.</p> <p><b>Tree Preservation Orders and maintenance:</b> It was agreed to leave this on the Agenda.</p>	
5/080316	<b>To consider Henley's planning future and proposed meetings with Mid Suffolk planning department</b>	
	At a meeting with MSDC planners, three options had been identified, assuming a need to provide housing for new Henley residents and a greater range of housing for existing residents: a neighbourhood plan, a neighbourhood development order, or a community right to build order. It was agreed the first step should be to conduct a housing needs survey with the support of Community Action Suffolk.	
6/080316	<b>To consider the appeal made to the Planning Inspectorate by the owner of the Cross Keys against the decision made by MSDC to refuse his application for change of use to residential</b>	
	It was agreed to write to the Inspectorate re-stating the Parish Council's view that change of use should not be allowed.	
7/080316	<b>To consider whether to explore an opportunity to house a telecommunications mast at the Community Centre</b>	

	Clerk to contact the company concerned and request detail.	
<b>8/080316</b>	<b>Payments due and financial report</b>	
	<p>The bank reconciliation to date was signed, showing a balance including uncleared items of £13,652.23.</p> <p>Payments were made to Rod Caird (clerk pay, £297.00 for three months), Gipping Press (for Respect Zone signage, £144.90) and Henley Community Centre (room hire, £144).</p>	
<b>9/080316</b>	<b>Urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council</b>	
	It was agreed the Clerk would circulate a note urging people not to park on verges. It was also agreed to thank those who turned out to support the village litter pick. It was agreed to consider a village event in June in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday.	
<b>10/080316</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
	Tuesday May 10, 2016, at 7.30pm in the Community Centre for the AGM of the Parish Council and also the Annual Village Meeting, which will include reports from residents' groups and organisations.	