

HAUGHLEY PARISH NOTES – JULY 2008

7 councillors, C.Cllr Clover and 16 villagers from Haughley attended the Haughley Parish Council meeting held last Tuesday.

CHAIRMAN

Because the Parish Council does not yet have a full complement of councillors (11), the post of Chairman is voted on and agreed at each monthly meeting. Councillor Geoffrey Kay was elected for the July meeting.

ELECTED COUNCILLOR

There was only one applicant for the two current councillor vacancies recently advertised by Mid Suffolk District Council. Because there was a further subsequent resignation from the Parish Council, the meeting agreed to wait until the outcome of further advertising for councillors by MSDC was known. It could well mean the Council would be co-opting two members instead of one. Any subsequent co-option notices will appear on the Notice Boards.

REPORTS

C. Cllr Clover – Following the Ofsted inspection last year the County Council had subsequently put in £350k towards the Youth Service with a further £150k extra for the next couple of years. Proposals to the BCE regarding the future governance of Suffolk by SCC was mentioned with the comments to be submitted by 26th September.

C.Cllr Clements has kindly agreed to progress the parish council's request for locality funding in respect of Pre-school and the Scouts.

Police Report – Crime Figures for 17.06.08 to 15.07.08 3 crimes reported.

Theft – Other - Fir Tree Lane. An oval ceramic plaque with neutral background & four small birds with open beaks on a branch with the word welcome on it stolen from a hook next to the front door of the property. Enquires completed and crime finalised due to no leads.

Theft – Other – Duke Street. Large slate plant pot containing a bay tree plant was stolen from o/s the front of the property. Enquires completed and crime finalised as no suspects/witnesses.

Theft – Other – Haughley Park. A leather type wallet and a Sony Ericsson mobile phone was stolen from a locker at the business premises. Enquires outstanding.

In the neighbouring parish of Wetherden 1 crime was reported – a **distraction Burglary**. Person(s) have gone to the address and stolen £320 in cash without the owner seeing. Please be aware of any person(s) coming into your property and ensure ID has been seen. **If in doubt DO NOT LET THEM IN!!!!**

Other Problems

From a crime perspective in Mid-Suffolk the main problem this past month has been lots of Thefts and Burglary other buildings.

As always when you leave doors and windows open you should ensure your valuables are locked away safe and secure – it has been noted that most of vehicles or outbuildings entered are left insecure by their owners.

Traffic Calming - Information had now been received in respect of the traffic diversions which will be in place for approximately 18 weeks. Copies of the map were circulated to councillors and villagers who were present at the meeting. The Highways Agency's website is

www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/19296.aspx

This page provides all the information anyone needs to know regarding the upcoming closures and diversions.

Haughley Silo - the issue on whether or not parking by HGVs over the weekend was permitted remains ongoing and is being investigated by Mid Suffolk District Council.

Village Hall - Some time ago the Council ring-fenced £40k towards improvements/refurbishment of the Hall but unfortunately circumstances prevented the scheme being actioned. However with a newly formed committee they are currently applying for various grants and have requested an amount of only £25k instead of the original £40k. The Parish Council has now agreed to underwrite the refurbishment costs of up to £25k – thereby releasing the remaining set aside amount for other projects under consideration by the Council.

Post Office – A report on progress in respect of the plans and current grant situation was provided. There was no information available at present in respect of future staffing of the post office. Old Newton and Crown Street post offices were applying for a judicial review in the hope of getting the closure decision by POL overturned and this would ultimately affect Haughley Post Office in terms of staff being available for re-employment

PLANNING

The following planning applications were then discussed and supported for approval:-

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| 2330/08 | Land adj. to 7 Duke Street. Eucalyptus – cut to stump level. Remove 2 small fruit trees |
| 2202/08 | Former United Reform Church, Old Street. Conversion of chapel into dwelling. Demolition of outbuilding adj. to chapel. |
| 2210/08 | Former United Reform Church, Old Street. Demolition of outbuilding adj. to Chapel |

Applications granted by MSDC:-

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| 0751/08 | Haughley Barn and Park Farmhouse, Access Road to Haughley Park from Haughley New Street. Continued use of conference centre as conference centre and wedding venue. Change of use of dwelling to holiday lettings. |
| 1572/08 | Tothill Service Station, Tot Hill. Overclad of existing brickwork building with Kingspan Micro-Rib composite cladding panels. |

DOG BIN Re-location of the bin in Church View to about 20 metres across the bridge and the Mere View footpath has been requested and will be undertaken shortly. Change of staff at MSDC resulted in some bins not being emptied but hopefully this has now been resolved. Please report any further problems to the Clerk.

LIGHTING PROBLEMS

Any problems/faults with the street lights can always be reported through Customer Services Direct (SCC/MSDC joint services) by telephoning 0845 6066067. The majority of street lights do have a reference number for any light in question, and this should be given when reporting the fault. A fault confirmation reference number will then be provided by CSD.

FINANCE **9** Cheques were passed for payment

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 19th August 2008.