

POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17th April 2008 in the Village Hall Polstead.

Present: Mr Nick Brandt (in the Chair), Mr Michael Hackford (Vice-Chair),
Mr John Baxter, Mr Richard Kilshaw, Mrs Anne Macwilson & Mrs Trish
Ravensdale.

In attendance: Mr David Yorke-Edwards (County Councillor), Mrs Sue
Wigglesworth (District Councillor), Mrs Sandra Gray (Clerk)

1) Apologies for Absence: Mrs Mandy Flather, Melissa Gaylean.
The Councillors consented to these absences.

2) Declarations of Interests:
There were none.

3) Minutes of the meetings of 20th March and 1st April 2008
The Minutes of the 20th March 2008 and 1st April 2008 were approved by the Council
and signed by the Chairman.

4) Matters Arising:
There were none

5) Reports:

County Councillor

David Yorke-Edwards reported to the Council that the first stage of the reform of
Local Government had been completed. The Boundary Committee finished their
work on the 11th April 2008 and, once the draft proposals are published, public
consultation will take place on which concept people would want.

District Councillor

Sue Wigglesworth reported to the Council that there is a public consultation session
on 6th May 2008 on the future provision of leisure facilities in Hadleigh.
Questionnaires had been sent to a percentage of households in the Hadleigh area and
this session was to give everyone in the surrounding area a chance to comment. The
proposal of a sports/leisure building beside the pool to accommodate, for example dry
facilities, is proposed as an additional facility to support the running of the present
swimming pool and it's hoped for future replacement.

Suffolk Constabulary

The Clerk reported that Melissa had been unable to change an appointment for the
meeting but would make the Annual Parish Meeting on the 22nd April.

6) Reports & Questions from Councillors:

Chairman Nick Brandt reported the Council that, although he had missed the first half
of the day for Local Homes for Local People Event, he had been impressed with the
presentation of the latter part of the day. In particular, local resident, Cathy Pecks,
had given an excellent presentation on the reasons for local homes for local people as

a result of her circumstances in Polstead. The Council agreed that it was necessary to act if there was a need for affordable housing in Polstead and that the design of properties was important when the choice of a site had been made.

Councillor Trish Ravensdale reported that she had successfully completed her New Councillor Training and that she had acquired knowledge to help Polstead with their future projects e.g. The Safer to School initiative at Suffolk County Council.

Councillor John Baxter informed the Council that, after the departure of the previous Clerk, the Council was no longer on the mailing list for new bus timetables from Suffolk County Council. Having informed Suffolk County Council of the situation it was hoped that the new timetables would be sent and one could be placed in the Community Shop as well as on the Notice Boards.

Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported that, although he had been unable to attend the Layham Quarry meeting, he had sent his recommendations on the restoration area to be considered to the Liaison Committee.

Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported to the Council regarding the continuing problem of the filling up of silt in the gully to the drain at the Pond and that Suffolk Highways and Babergh were unable to help. District Councillor, Sue Wigglesworth, had assisted as much as she could in the discussions at Babergh but it was concluded that it was an isolated local problem. The Council agreed for the Clerk to enquire if Mr Henry Engleheart could assist in the clearing of the gully to prevent further flooding.

Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported that he still had two Polstead Cherry Trees for planting; one for Polstead Heath and one for White Street Green. It was agreed that once Councillor Richard Kilshaw had been given confirmation of a location by Councillors Anne Macwilson and Mandy Flather, the trees would be planted.

7) Reports & Questions from Parishioners

There were none.

8) Highways & Footpaths

• Homey Bridge

The Clerk reported that she had contacted John Boutcher and that he would be meeting with the Chairman on Friday 25th at Homey Bridge. It was agreed for the Clerk to write and inform Henry Engleheart of the meeting. The Chairman would report the outcome of the meeting to the Council in May.

• Footpath Warden

The Clerk reported that Claire had recently had an operation and would be unable to attend the Annual Parish Meeting. Therefore, the gift for all her work as Footpath Warden would be delivered to her parent's home. The advert for the vacant position of Footpath Warden was discussed and it was agreed for it to be placed on the notice boards and website and in the newsletter.

9) Planning Matters:

A) Pre-Agenda Applications:

There were none.

B) Any Urgent Planning Matters:

The following planning applications were received after the agenda had been distributed:

B/08/00352/FUL/CJT Cherry Nook Straight Road, Polstead Heath, Polstead, Colchester, CO6 5BB. Erection of 2 No. two –storey detached dwellings with associated garaging (existing dwelling “Cherry Nook” to be demolished). Construction of new vehicular access as amended by drawings 126.01A, O2A, and received 28/03/08.

This was sent for information only.

Planning Application No. B/07/02001/FUL/BEL Frogs Hall, Martens Lane, Polstead, Colchester CO6 5AQ Erection of 1 No. agricultural store and No.1 stable building. Retention of vehicular access.

The Clerk reported that planning permission had been granted with conditions.

Planning Application No B/06/01249/FUL/JW Sprotts Farm, Holt Road Polstead Colchester CO6 5BT. Variation of condition 05 of P.P. B/87/484 to allow occupation of the Brambles as tourist accommodation as opposed to residential annexe.

The Clerk reported that planning permission had been granted with conditions

10) Summer Hog Roast

The Clerk reported that the envelopes and leaflets were ready and were awaiting labels, which would be done in the next few days. The Chairman agreed to take the leaflets to the Community Shop for distribution. The Council unanimously agreed to a budget of £500.00 for the event. Vice-Chair Michael Hackford agreed to order two toilets and would liaise with local bands to provide the musical entertainment. For those Parishioners who were vegetarians Councillor Anne Macwilson would ensure that alternative food was provided. It was agreed that three barrels of beer would be purchased and the Clerk would arrange a licence with Babergh.

11) Allotment/Fencing

Councillors Richard Kilshaw and Anne Macwilson reported that the best option for fencing would be around the two allocated plots and the third plot would be given over to the parishioners to enjoy. The Council agreed for S J Sargeant to commence work and two benches would be purchased as previously agreed. P H Landscapes would be instructed to cut the grass of the allotment on a regular basis.

12) St Mary’s Church Clock

The Chairman reported to the council concerning the letter from the Church Warden, Bill Wigglesworth, detailing the negotiated five-year maintenance contract. The revised contract is £150.00 and, as it was felt that the clock was an essential part of the visual fabric of the village of Polstead, the Council agreed to pay the full cost. Proposed by Chairman Nick Brandt seconded by Councillor Trish Ravensdale, 5 in favour and one abstention.

13) Village of the Year

The Council discussed the entry form and the categories were allocated as follows:

- Community Spirit – Chair of Village Hall Committee
- The Parish Council – Chairman, Nick Brandt
- Natural Environment – Councillor Richard Kilshaw
- General appearance of the village – Chairman, Nick Brandt, and the Clerk
- Special achievements – All Councillors

Councillor John Baxter would provide an aerial photograph of the village with special initiatives to Polstead, such as the work on the allotments, clearly marked.

All information would have to be with the Clerk by Friday 25th April 2008 for collation to be sent in time for the deadline of 2nd May 2008.

14) Financial Matters:

It was agreed that, due to the cost, the Chairman would receive only one copy the Local Council Review from NALC. The cost would then be £13.50, not £84.00.

The Charities, Home Start and Suffolk Accident, had applied for a donation for the Rescue Service. The Council agreed for the clerk to write a letter thanking the charities for their request and informing them that consideration would be given in February next year when the Council had a clearer idea of the amount of money to be allocated to Section 137 payments.

The RFO reported that the Accounts had been prepared and were ready for the Internal Auditor.

15) Correspondence Received

Since the issue of the Agenda, the Clerk reported the following correspondence:

- Information from Babergh regarding the recommendations for the Boundary Committee for England.
- The Mobile Library visit to Polstead will now be on alternate Tuesdays at Heath Close from 2.40pm to 2.50pm.

16) Chairman & Clerk Reports & Correspondence

The Clerk reported that she had contacted John Goodyear and Simon Hollitt to talk to the Council about the Heath Road Footway and the location of the Bus Stop/Shelter at the Parish meeting in May. They are both able to attend. Mr Keeble had been notified of the proposed meeting and would be told of the confirmed date.

17) Future Agenda Items

Hog Roast

Bus shelter/bus stop

Heath Road Footway

18) Dates of next meetings

Annual Parish Meeting 22nd April 2008

Annual General Meeting 15th May 2008

18th June 2008

17th July 2008

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 22.00pm.