

# **POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008 in the Village Hall Polstead.**

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

**In attendance:** Mrs Sue Wigglesworth (District Councillor), Mrs Sandra Gray (Clerk), four Members of the Public

**1) Apologies for Absence:** Mr David Yorke-Edwards, Melissa Gaylean, and Lisa Matthews

**2) Declarations of Interests:** There were none

### **3) Minutes of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007 & 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

The Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007 & 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

### **4) Matters Arising:**

There were none.

### **5) Reports:**

#### **a. County Councillor:**

Councillor David Yorke – Edwards had given his apologies and the Clerk read his report to the council. The Government had announced its settlement to the County Council for the next three years, a 7.3% 4.8% and 4.4% increase respectively. It was pointed out that the settlement for the coming year was higher than expected and that there will probably be other commitments which the Government will expect the County to pay.

Ipswich was not granted Unitary Status. The delay in reaching the decision had cost the Ipswich Borough and Suffolk County Councils a considerable sum of Council Tax payer's money. The Electoral Committee have been instructed to look at the structure of Local Government in Suffolk. The main idea would be to divide Suffolk into two areas, West and East.

#### **b. District Councillor:**

Sue Wigglesworth reported to the Council the Engineers Report for Hadleigh Pool recommended that no financial investment be made to restore it as it was not viable. The bottom of the pool was not built correctly. The Council will maintain the pool as long as it possibly can. There will be a public consultation process regarding the leisure facilities in Hadleigh and the sale of East House will provide the funds for leisure facilities.

Great Blakenham is the favourite site for the incinerator.

#### **c. Suffolk Constabulary:**

No report was given.

## **6) Reports & Questions from Councillors:**

Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported that the work to be done on by way 34 will now be carried out by February. The original timetable was for by Christmas.

The soak away idea for the allotments was found to be not viable on further investigation so water butts were the favoured option.

Richard Kilshaw raised the issue of the ownership of the gully by the Pond and the Council agreed for the Clerk to check if Highways had visited the site for the routine maintenance.

Mandy Flather thanked Trish Ravensdale, Mrs Hackford and Anne Macwilson for all their hard work for the Carols on the Green event. It was agreed for a thank you card from the Chairman to be sent to Father Christmas and the vicar.

Trish Ravensdale reported that a parishioner had informed her of the broken stile on the footpath to the Red Barn. The Council agreed for the Clerk to inform the Footpath Warden, Claire Hyde.

The Chairman closed the Meeting

## **7) Reports & Questions from Parishioners**

A resident of Martens Lane reported his concerns at the increase in the flow and size of traffic along Martens Lane and in particular the future traffic flow with regards to Planning Application No B/07/02001/FUL/BEL. The Chairman agreed that an advisory letter from the Council highlighting local residents concerns be sent to the owners of Frogs Hall.

## **8) Polstead Projects Report.**

In the absence of Lisa Mathews Sue Wigglesworth informed the Council of the aims of the Polstead Projects and in order for them to apply for funding support the questionnaire asked if the Parish Council supported them. The Council agreed to give its support, nominated by John Baxter, seconded by Michael Hackford. Copy of the Polstead Projects Mission Statement was given to the council.

## **9) Planning Matters:**

### **a) Planning Application No B/07/0208/FHA/CJT White House Farm, Straight Road Polstead CO6 5DL. Erection of garden building.**

The Councillors discussed the above application and agreed that the lowering of the height of the proposed garden building “reflected and respected the relationship of the site and its setting “better. Therefore, there was no objection.

### **b) 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 Councillors discussed the above application in two parts.

With regards to the erection of an agricultural store and stable building the Council had concerns at the size of the stables to be built and if it would likely to become a stabling business and thus increase the traffic on Martens Lane which was already causing concern with local residents.

The retrospective application of the retention of the vehicular access was discussed at length by the Council. Again concerns were raised as to the future use of the stables and the increase of traffic in Martens Lane.

The Council vote was divided, 4 in favour 2 against and 1 abstention. The Council agreed to the retention of the vehicular access subject to suitable landscaping i.e. hedging along the side of the access road.

**c) Planning Application No: B/07/02022/FHA/BEL Peyton Hall Farm Stone Street Boxford Sudbury CO10 5NS. Erection of single storey side extension to existing cart lodge.**

The Councillors discussed the above application and had no objections.

**d) Planning Application No: B/07/02007/LBC/MC Polstead Hall The Ponds Polstead Colchester CO6 5BS. Application for Listed Building Consent- Construction of Stack; internal alterations**

The Councillors discussed the above application and agreed that the application “respected the original scale, form design and purpose of the architectural unit.”

#### **E) Any Urgent Planning Matters:**

The Clerk reported to the Council the following:

- **Planning Application No B/08/00066/AGD/MB Alverstoke Farm, Boxford Road Polstead, Colchester, CO6 5DW.** Notification under Part 6 of schedule 2 of the Town and County Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995-Erection of grain store.

The Councillors discussed the above application and had no objections.

- **Planning Application No B/07/01768/FHA/AS Bloomfields, White Street Green, Polstead Colchester , CO10 5JN.Erection of single garage linked with existing dwelling.** Planning permission had been granted with conditions

- **Planning Application No B/07/01845/FUL/GD Part OS 3928 land north of Shelley Road, Polstead, Colchester. Temporary use (3 years) of land for the stationing of a caravan to house an agricultural worker.**

This application had been refused.

- **Planning Application B/07/01893/FUL/MB D’arcy Cottage, Rockalls Road Polstead Colchester CO6 5AR. Alterations and extension to existing dwelling to form 2 no.dwellings.**

This application had been refused.

Sue Wigglesworth reported to the Council that planning permission had been granted for Application No: B/07/01590/FUL/FB Copella Fruit Juices Ltd. The Council were consulted about the creation of a Liaison Committee with Copella, as with Layham Quarry. The Council unanimously agreed to this proposal as it was felt that a lot of future problems /ideas could be solved quickly. The Council approved Mandy Flather to be the representative for Polstead Parish Council.

#### **10) Bus Shelter/Bus Stop**

No report was given. The Working Party would be meeting in the near future and a report would be given at the meeting in February.

### **11) Polstead Website**

Richard Sandford reported to the Council that the W.I.Gardening Club and Carpet Bowls were providing material for their pages on the Website and that he would help with the Carpet Bowls page due to lack of internet access.

A Policy Question was raised with regards to Commercial Website Links the Council was in favour of supporting local businesses and gave their consent and for there to be a link to the Polstead Website.

Richard was concerned that the Minutes were not on the Website as quickly as he would like. The problem was waiting for the Minutes to be approved, it was agreed Councillor Anne Macwilson to give her brief notes of the meeting to Richard as well as in the Community News. Richard highlighted the lack of photos, in particular the large size, taken at events around the village. The Council agreed to be “photographic active”!!!

### **12) Summer Hogroast**

The Chairman reported to the Council that he would like to have a summer hog roast for the village. The date agreed was 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008 on the Playing Fields. It was agreed for this to be an Agenda item in February when the flyer to be sent to parishioners would be finalised.

### **13) Change of Bank Account**

The Council agreed to the closure of the Business Reserve Account (Step Saver Interest Account) and Business Premium Account. The funds would be transferred to an Instant Access Saver Account, paying a higher rate of interest. Proposed by Michael Hackford seconded by Nick Brandt

The Precept upon Charging Authority was signed

### **14) Correspondence Received**

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

- Forthcoming Bus Service Changes
- Temporary Closure of part of the U8515 Heath Road, Polstead  
28th January 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008

### **15) Chairman & Clerk Reports & Correspondence**

The Chairman thanked Mandy Flather, Anne Macwilson & Theresa Ravensdale for all their hard work and resounding success for the “Carols on the Green” on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Clerk explained that Suffolk County Council had written regarding the claimed footpath at Rockall Road. They advised that the most efficient way of dealing with the claimed footpath to be a Public Footpath on the original alignment around the edge of the allotments. Michael Hackford was concerned that the matter had not been discussed in 2006. The Clerk confirmed that the Minutes showed no record of the Council agreeing to the line of the footpath. It was agreed for this to be an Agenda item in February to allow a full discussion.

The Clerk reported that the Audit for 2006/7 had been returned by Lubbock Fine, all was correct but the comment that they had made was regarding the update of the

Councils Standing Orders. The Clerk reminded the Council that this had been raised at the September 2008 meeting. In the meantime it was agreed for the Clerk to distribute the Standing Orders for approval at the February meeting

The Clerk reported that Jim Marshall had three or four young Polstead Black Cherries and they needed to be planted in the winter months. The Council agreed for John Baxter & Richard Kilshaw to liaise with Jim Marshall as to the exact location for the trees, proposed by Michael Hackford seconded by Trish Ravensdale.

The Clerk informed the Council that in relation to benches etc on the Allotments she had received a catalogue of Urban and Outdoor Furniture manufactured from 100% recycled materials. The Council agreed to apply for a Locality Budget of £700.00 from David Yorke- Edwards to cover the cost of the benches and the fencing around the allotments proposed by Michael Hackford seconded by Richard Kilshaw.

The Clerk informed the Council of Baberghood Watch. It was agreed that she would speak to Brian Regan, the Neighbourhood Watch Representative with a view to taking on the role.

The Chairman gave his personal thanks for the “Carols on the Green” on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2007 to Trish Ravensdale, Mandy Flather & Anne Macwilson

#### **16) Future Agenda Items**

Standing Orders  
Hog Roast  
Survey/questionnaire village amenities  
Playing Field  
Bus Stop/Shelter  
Permissive Path

#### **17) Date of next meeting and Date of Annual Parish Meeting**

21<sup>st</sup> February 2008  
20<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
Annual Parish meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008  
Annual General Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008

**There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 22.25**