

POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th July 2007 in the Village Hall Polstead.

Present: Mr Nick Brandt (in the Chair), Mr John Baxter, Mrs Mandy Flather, Mr Michael Hackford (Vice-Chair), 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) Mrs Margaret Regan (outgoing Clerk & RFO) & 3 Members of the Public.

1) Apologies for Absence: Melissa Gaylean (Suffolk Constabulary)

2) Declarations of Interests: There were none

3) Minutes of the meeting of 21st June 2007: The Minutes of the meeting of 21ST June 2007 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman after the following amendments under 10) Allotments, "Ray" should read "Roy" and 10) Allotments, the last sentence should read "The gate at the top of the allotments would be locked *once a year* and this would be recorded as it was not an official footpath /access".

4) Matters Arising: There were none.

5) Reports:

1) County Councillor:

David Yorke-Edwards welcomed new and old Councillors for Polstead Parish Council after the local elections. He reported that the healthy position of the revenue budget was mainly due to the mild winter and the under spend on winter maintenance. This will go in the reserve in case of a severe winter. David Yorke Edwards had been re-appointed to three scrutiny committees and he reminded the Council of the availability of the locality budget for local projects. The Chairman thanked David for his report and reminder regarding the locality budget and the Council would inform him in the near future of an appropriate project.

2) District Councillor:

Sue Wigglesworth reported to the Council that the Babergh Summer Activities would take place on Monday 30th July at 10-12 noon and 12.30 to 2.30pm and on Monday 6th August 2.00- 4.00pm. The Councillors would distribute the leaflets to families in the village. It was agreed that the Clerk would place notices in the Notice Boards advertising the event dates & times for Polstead and Nayland. Sue Wigglesworth also informed the Council that "Localism" was the main aim for central Government, which would result in Unitary Councils.

6) Reports & Questions from Councillors:

Michael Hackford reported that Roy Richardson had cut the allotments and would invoice the Council at the end of the year.

The Chairman reported that he and Councillor, Anne Macwilson had attended the New Councillor Briefing session and that he felt future Training sessions should only be attended if the Parish as a whole would benefit not just the Council.

John Baxter reported that he had also attended the new Councillor Briefing Session at Risby and benefited from hearing about practices in other Parish Councils, which could benefit Polstead.

7) Reports & Questions from Parishioners

Parishioners felt that the Polstead Website needed updating.

Parishioners also raised concerns that the Polstead Magazine was becoming an advertisement for the Stoke by Nayland Club and it was agreed that Anne Macwilson would talk with Eddie Oakes about how Polstead village could raise its profile in the magazine.

Several farmers had reported to Anne Macwilson about their concerns regarding excessive amounts of overhanging branches in the lanes, which were creating problems for large agricultural machinery. It was agreed for the Clerk to notify Suffolk Highways of the lanes of greatest concern.

8) Planning Matters:

1) Planning Application No B/04/00810/FHA/BHW 2 Rockalls Road Polstead CO6 5BZ.

The Clerk reported to the Council that the porch had been smooth rendered contrary to the rough render specified in the original planning application and that the Planning Officer at Babergh wanted the Local Council's view. Neither the Chairman nor the Vice – Chair could see a problem. Therefore, the Clerk had informed Babergh that Polstead Parish Council had no objections. The Council agreed with this decision.

2) Planning Application No: B/07/00589/FUL/CJTPolstead Caravan & touring Company Holt Road Polstead CO6 5BZ:

The Clerk informed the Council that permission had been granted for this application

3) Planning Application No: B/07/00002/FUL/RC Part OS, Land east of Stoke Road, Polstead

The Chairman reported that he had attended a site meeting with the Parish of Shelley in relation to the above application. He informed the Council that the previous Parish Council had objected to the plan and Shelley Parish Council required views of the newly elected Polstead Parish Council. After discussion the Council agreed to the objections made by Polstead Parish Council in February 2007 and the Chairman agreed to confirm this in writing to Shelley Parish Council.

9) Highways and Footpaths

The Chairman reported that a Parishioner had complained about the overgrowth in Footpath 17. The Chairman had personally paid for the overhead growth to be cut and the Council expressed their thanks.

10) Allotments

The Clerk distributed a draft of the typed leaflet to be delivered to residents during the month of August.

11) Polstead Play Park Risk Assessment and Nomination for Risk Assessor:

John Baxter explained the Risk Assessment that he and Mandy Flather had done on the Play Park. It was agreed that Richard Kilshaw and Michael Hackford draft the legal notice required and to arrange its purchase. The Council unanimously agreed for Michael Hackford to act as Risk Assessor and report problems to the Council.

12) Financial Matters

The Chairman thanked Margaret Regan for all her hard work and assistance in financial matters, especially in relation to the Bank Mandate.

13) Correspondence Received:

Since the Agenda had been issued, the Clerk informed the Council of the following correspondence:

- A letter from a resident, complaining about the public bench on the green at Heath Close, was read to the Council. The Clerk would write a letter to the resident on behalf of the Council.
- The notice of a temporary closure of Road U8516 Martins Lane, Polstead /Stoke-By Nayland on 26th July 2007 was read to the Council.
- Suffolk County Council was requesting feedback from Councils who were successful in the tackling of anti-social behaviour.
- The Council noted a request from East Anglian Air Ambulance for donations. The amount to be donated would be discussed at a future meeting.

14) Any Other Business:

Councillors gave their ideas for improving the Village to be Agenda items at future meetings:

Richard Kilshaw – Footpath fund and Park

John Baxter & Michael Hackford – Designated Bus Stop/ Bus Shelter

Mandy Flather – Parish Plan

Nick Brandt – Hog Roast/Village Fun Day next Year

15) Date of Next Meeting:

20th September, 2007 at 7.45pm. Planning Applications and correspondence received would be available for inspection from 7.15pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 22.10