

POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15th November 2007 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: Mr David Yorke-Edwards (County Councillor), Mrs Sandra Gray (Clerk), 2 members of the Public

1) Apologies for Absence: Sue Wigglesworth and Melissa Gaylean.

2) Declarations of Interests: There were none

3) Minutes of the meeting of 18th October 2007 & 6th November 2007

The Minutes of the 18th October 2007 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman. The Minutes of the 6th November were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman

4) Matters Arising: Councillor Mandy Flather reported that “Polstead Website” was listed on the Agenda issued to Councillors but had been omitted from the one posted on the Notice Board. The Clerk apologised and said that she would speak to Richard Sandford.

5) Reports:

a. County Councillor:

Councillor David Yorke – Edwards reported to the Council that the next year’s budget was proving difficult, as the Government increase would be less than inflation. It was also noted that, due to the “Bird Flu” outbreak, extra work and expense was needed and the Government are slow to compensate Local Authorities.

It was also reported that there would be large fines for Councils in the future if landfill were used extensively. County Council have an “Energy from Waste” policy and the way forward will be incinerators. Six potential sites around the County will be announced in January.

Councillor David Yorke-Edwards informed the Council of the procedures for obtaining their Locality Budget for the benches, tables, fencing and plants. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain prices and inform the County Councillor.

b. District Councillor:

No report was given.

c. Suffolk Constabulary:

In the absence of Melissa, the Clerk tabled the Parish Council Report for October. One crime, of ABH, had been committed on the A1071 on the 4th October 2007.

6) Reports & Questions from Councillors:

The Chairman, Nicholas Brandt, informed the Council that he had attended the annual Babergh meeting at Stoke by Nayland.

Councillor Trish Ravensdale reported to the Council that she had attended the Village Hall meeting and that they would be asking the Council for assistance. A new group would be starting which would involve musical instruments and, therefore, a secure cupboard costing £4,000.00 was required. It was agreed by the Council that a representative from the group would be asked to talk to the Council and that this will be an agenda item for January.

The Polstead Playgroup Leader, Myra Reed, is retiring after 20 years service; the Council unanimously agreed that £50.00 be donated to her leaving present, nominated by Anne Macwilson, seconded by Nicholas Brandt.

Councillor Richard Kilshaw informed the Council that he had repaired the safety rails at the Playing Field and requested expenses of £10.00. This was agreed by the Council, proposed by Trish Ravensdale, seconded by Mandy Flather.

A map of Polstead and its footpaths along with a Definitive Statement of Public Rights of Way was shown to the Council and it was agreed that the Clerk would forward copies to the Footpath Warden. The Council discussed the feasibility of obtaining a more clearly defined map but felt that the cost would be more than that agreed at the meeting in October. It was agreed, however, to approach Richard Sandford with regard to putting a footpath map on the village website. In the meantime, the Clerk would try to obtain a better copy for the Council.

Councillor Richard Kilshaw informed the Council that he had arranged for byway 34 to be re-surfaced before Christmas. It was agreed by the Council that the Clerk would write to Mr D McGregor informing him of the re-surfacing and asking if he could clear any debris in the way on his side of the land. Any queries or assistance required could be discussed with Richard Kilshaw.

Councillor Richard Kilshaw raised concerns regarding the Notice Boards and who had keys. He was particularly concerned about the removal of Parish Council notices. It was agreed by the Council that the Clerk would report to the Council those who had keys or access to the Notice Boards.

Vice-Chair Michael Hackford reported to the Council that, on the evening of Friday 9th November, the wheels of the jeep in the playground had been removed. The Clerk reported it to Melissa Gaylean as criminal damage. It was agreed for a notice to go in the parish magazine appealing for information, which could be given in confidence either to a Councillor or to the Parish Clerk.

Councillor John Baxter reported that several parishioners had expressed their dislike of the road sign for the Village Hall and Community Shop at the bottom of the Hill. The County Council had provided the signs and, therefore, the Parish Council were unable to take any further action.

Due to the importance of Planning Application B/07/01590/FUL/FB it was agreed by the council to discuss it before reports and questions from Parishioners.

7) Planning Matters:

a) Planning Application No B/07/01590/FUL/FB Copella Fruit Juices, Hill Farm, Brick Kiln Hill, Polstead Sudbury. Erection of extensions to existing production premises, associated new plant, landscaping and perimeter fencing (existing farm building to be demolished).

The Councillors discussed the above application and in particular the Site visit made by Councillors Nicholas Brandt, Michael Hackford and Mandy Flather. The Councillors reported that they had received satisfactory assurances from the planners regarding noise, lighting and the visual impact of the development. It was noted, however, by Vice-Chair Michael Hackford that the elevation of the proposed building by Stone Street would be above that of the existing building. It was felt that those residents at White Street Green would see more of the plant than other residents in the village. It was agreed that traffic considerations needed to be addressed as well as the issue of Copella processing Suffolk Apples rather than importing fruit from further a field.

The Chairman closed the meeting.

8) Reports & Questions from Parishioners:

Residents near to Copella gave their reasons for their objections to the above planning application in detail to the Council. They reported their previous complaints with the company and the assistance they received from the Department of Environmental Health in dealing with these complaints.

The Chairman reopened the meeting.

After much debate, the Council agreed on the attached comments to be sent to Babergh Planning Department. See Appendix 1.

b. Planning Application No. B/07/00338/FHA/BHW & B/07/00339/LBC The Thatch, Mill Lane, Polstead, Colchester CO6 5AB. Erection of single-storey rear extension and erection of detached log store. Minor Amendment to approved scheme and internal alterations

The Clerk informed the Council that this notice was for information only.

c. Planning Application No: B/07/01768/FHA/AS Bloomfields, White Street Green, Polstead, Colchester, CO10 5JN. Erection of single garage linked with existing dwelling.

The Councillors discussed the above application and agreed that, in relation to Babergh Local Plan HS17, “The extension reflects and respects the relationship of the site and its setting, and those of adjoining dwellings”

d) Planning Application No: B/07/01378/FUL/BHW. Bedfords, Boxford Road, Polstead Colchester CO6 5DW. Construction of manege

The Councillors discussed the above application and agreed that, in relation to Babergh Local Plan CNO2a, the proposal “retains all elements and components, including spaces, which contribute to the special character of the area”

e) Planning Application No: B/07/ 01651/FUL/MB Hadleigh Road, Boxford Sudbury CO10 5JH. Continued use of domestic shed as tractor spare parts business. CONSULTATION AS AN ADJOINING PARISH

The Councillors had no objection to the above application.

f) Any Urgent Planning Matters:

The Clerk reported to the Council the following:

- **Planning Application No B/07/01424/OUT/CJT Land east of Brambles, Cockles Downs, Rockalls Road, Polstead Colchester. Erection of residential dwelling for Forestry Worker.**

This application had been withdrawn.

- **Planning Application No B/07/01362/FUL/MB Darcy Cottage, Rockalls Road, Polstead, Colchester CO6 5AR. Alterations and extensions to existing dwelling to form 2 no.dwellings.**

This application had been withdrawn.

- **Planning Application No B/07/01301/FHA/FB Flemings Hall Martens Lane, Polstead Colchester CO6 5AG. Erection of single storey side extension to form annexe accommodation.**

Planning Permission had been granted with conditions.

9) Christmas on the Green

Councillor Trish Ravensdale reported that the new landlords of the Public House on the Green were not willing to host the event, as has been the case in previous years. It was agreed to hold the event outside the Village Hall and use the facilities as required. The Council agreed to fund the hire of the Hall and the Chairman would supply the wine, to be paid from Chairman's expenses. It was also noted by the Council that "Christmas on the Green" should be an Agenda item in July.

10) Bus Shelter/Bus Stop

Councillor John Baxter reported to the Council in detail the discussions and meetings he had with Suffolk Highways. It was concluded by Suffolk Highways that safety was not an issue where the bus stops at the present time. The location of a shelter is more of an issue, however, and it was agreed that the Sub-Committee would consider possible locations for a bus shelter and report to the Council.

11) Road/Street Signs

The proposal at the Annual Parish Meeting to have road and street signs in Polstead was discussed at length. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Anne Macwilson to have no road and street signs in the village. This was put to the vote and passed by four votes to three.

12) The Pond

Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported to the Council that, by clearing the gully by the drain at The Pond, water was no longer overflowing onto the road, freezing and causing a hazard. The Council expressed their grateful thanks to Richard and agreed

for the clerk to notify Suffolk Highways of the location of the gully and the importance of its clearance.

13) Polstead Website

This is to be an Agenda item in January.

14) Correspondence Received

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

- Rural Dispensing Regulations
- Countryside Access Community Scheme
- Babergh Media Release-Hadleigh North By- Election Results
- Babergh Affordable Housing News
- BERR reply to the Council's concerns regarding Post Office closures.

Councillor John Baxter took the Minerals Core Strategy-Submission Stage and would report to the Clerk of any relevant points to Polstead.

15) Chairman & Clerk Reports & Correspondence

The Clerk reported to the Council that Mr Phil Hewson had requested an allotment on the 9th November 2007. It was agreed that Mr Hewson could have the allotment and that the Clerk would send a tenancy agreement. It had been agreed at the Finance Meeting on the 6th that the final area of allotment would be for communal use and the Locality Budget had been applied for in respect of the table & chairs etc. This application would still be made and the items used in another public area of the village.

It was agreed that Councillors be notified of any Planning Applications and if required a Planning Meeting be held in December.

16) Future Agenda Items

Village Hall Cupboard Request
Summer Party
Polstead Website
Playing Field
Bus Stop/Shelter
Permissive Path Access Sign

17) Date of next meeting 17th January 2008

There be no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 22.20

APPENDIX 1

Planning Application No: B/07/01590/FUL/FB

Location: Copella Fruit Juices Ltd, Hill Farm, Brick Kiln Hill, Polstead, Sudbury

Proposal: Erection of extensions to existing production premises, associated new plant, landscaping and perimeter fencing (existing farm building to be demolished).

This application was discussed at some length at the monthly meeting of Polstead Parish Council on Thursday 15th November 2007.

Broadly speaking, the Council is happy with the proposals for the existing footprint i.e. the infilling and extension of the existing buildings. The Council have visited the site and received assurances that Babergh District Council was itself monitoring the issue of noise and light/pollution. Provided that this is so, the Council would not wish to raise any objections.

Polstead Parish Council is rather more concerned with the proposed conversion of old farm buildings:

- 1) Are these buildings to be used for processing fruit grown locally or for imported fruit? If the latter, does the application conform to planning policy?
- 2) The proposed new buildings undoubtedly involve elevation considerably above the existing ones. This aspect needs to be considered very carefully since it could act to the detriment of the surrounding countryside. Babergh Local Plan Policy No 2 CNO2a and CRO1

Overall, Polstead Parish Council was concerned about the increase in volume and weight of traffic which is expected. This increase does not affect the village of Polstead nearly as much as it does the parishioners of Stoke by Nayland and Leavenheath whose concerns we support. The council refer to the Babergh Local Plan No 2 Structure Plan Policy ECON1/Policy EM12a.

In conclusion, Polstead Parish Council agreed not to make a formal objection. However, the Council asks Babergh Natural and Built Environment Division to give full weight to their concerns when determining this application.