

# **POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in the Village Hall Polstead.**

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

**In attendance:** Mrs Sue Wigglesworth, (District Councillor), & Mrs Sandra Gray  
(Clerk)

**1) Apologies for Absence:** Mr John Baxter & Mrs Anne Macwilson. The  
Councillors consented to these absences.

**2) Declarations of Interests:**

There were none.

**3) Presentation of the Draft Proposals for Unitary Local Government in Suffolk-  
Mrs Sue Wigglesworth**

The Chairman Nick Brandt welcomed and thanked District Councillor Sue Wigglesworth for attending the meeting. Sue Wigglesworth gave a background and history as to why the Boundary Committee was brought in and their draft proposals for Unitary Local Government in Suffolk.

It was acknowledged by the Council that Babergh serves residents and the Parish Councils well and, therefore, Councillors could not see any real need for a change. However, it was recognised that, in not so well run districts or areas, a change to unitary local government would be more welcomed. Area Committees was an area where the Councillors required clarification. Concern was expressed that there may not be enough volunteers to take up the required positions. At this stage, the power and funding of Area Committees has not been stated.

The Council discussed at length with Sue Wigglesworth the main options proposed as well as the alternative boundaries offered by Babergh, which included Hadleigh becoming part of the Ipswich and North Haven Unitary.

Polstead Parish Council agreed that the Chairman and Clerk write to Babergh stating that, as a Council, Polstead prefer the option of an Ipswich and Felixstowe unitary authority and a Suffolk unitary authority comprising of the rest of the county apart from the Lowestoft area of Suffolk. The Council will point out that they believe the second unitary authority will be too large and result in a poor service to Parish Councils.

In relation to the Babergh proposal of extending the Ipswich unitary authority to Hadleigh and surrounding area, Polstead would like to state that they would not wish to be included in this area. Furthermore, if Hadleigh were made part of the extension of the Ipswich unitary authority Polstead Parish Council would want to be taken out of their present ward and placed in a more appropriate ward, especially in relation to education of young parishioners, such as with Stoke by Nayland, Leavenheath etc. This is a request that was made at the last review of wards.

Proposed by Councillor Mandy Flather seconded by Councillor Trish Ravensdale  
The Clerk would circulate to the Council the letter of comments sent to Babergh before the next meeting.

**4) To receive reports and questions from Councillors**

Chairman Nick Brandt reported that, since the meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> July, Footpaths 15 and 30 had been cleared

**5) To receive reports and questions from Parishioners**

There were none

**6) Any Urgent Planning Matters**

There were none

**7) Dates of next meetings**

18<sup>th</sup> September 2008

16<sup>th</sup> October 2008

20<sup>th</sup> November 2008

**There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.**