

POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th September 2008 in the Village Hall Polstead.

Present: Mr Nick Brandt (in the Chair), Mr John Baxter, Mr Michael Hackford (Vice-Chair), Mr Richard Kilshaw, Mrs Anne Macwillson

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

1) Apologies for Absence: Mrs Mandy Flather, Mrs Trish Ravensdale. Melissa Gaylean (Suffolk Constabulary) & Mr and Mrs Levoi. The Councillors consented to these absences.

2) Declarations of Interests:

There were none.

3) Minutes of the meetings of 17th July 28th July and 31st July 2008

The Minutes of the 17th July, 28th July and 31st July 2008 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

4) Matters Arising:

With regards to the tree which needed clearing on Footpath 30 (reported in the Minutes of 6th August), the Chairman reported that this had now been cleared.

5) Reports:

A) County Councillor

David Yorke-Edwards had nothing to report as the County was still awaiting the Boundary Review decision. David Yorke-Edwards confirmed that Polstead Parish Council would be able to use the Locality Budget towards the new boiler for the Village Hall. It was agreed for the clerk to inform David Yorke-Edwards of the amount the Council had decided to request.

B) District Councillor

Sue Wigglesworth reported that, as with David Yorke-Edwards, the District was awaiting the Boundary Review decision. However she confirmed that the financial cases for the unitary options had been published.

C) Suffolk Constabulary

In the absence of Melissa, the Clerk reported that, even though she had arrived at 11.00am, pressures at Hadleigh meant that she had been unable to attend the Hog Roast and offered her sincere apologies.

6) Reports & Questions from Councillors:

Councillor Richard Kilshaw requested that the Council consider paying a contribution towards the Playing Field insurance. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the Budget meeting in November.

It was agreed by the Council that the tidying up etc. of Carse Pond, which at present acts as a sustainable drainage system for Heath Road, would be a future agenda item. Councillor Richard Kilshaw asked if Babergh had agreed to clear the drain at the bottom of the hill every thirteen weeks. The clerk reported that she would pursue this request.

Vice-Chair Michael Hackford raised the issue of broken fences on the playing Field. It was agreed for quotations to be obtained for replacing the fences as well as the fencing for the triangle at the pond. The cost would then be discussed at the Budget

meeting in November.

Vice-Chair Michael Hackford raised the concerns of a parishioner at the safety of speed limits on the junction of the 1071 and Stackwood Road. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact highways regarding this ongoing concern for the village of Polstead.

7) Reports & Questions from Parishioners

There were none.

8) Highways and Footpaths

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Mr & Mrs Levoi giving their apologies that they were unable to attend the Council meeting tonight but hoping that the Council would give full consideration to four conditions that they proposed in return for their support of a new footpath across their land.

It was reported that Byway 34 and the Driftway (footpath 15 between Polstead Hill and Rockalls Road) and Cherry Billy Lane were now cleared. [editor's note: Footpath numbers and locations are shown on the Polstead Footpath Map -

<http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/PolsteadPC/WalkinginPolstead/>]

The Chairman reported that the gate at Homey Lane by the bridge had now been replaced by a wooden gate, but the swing piece of the Kissing Gate had not been replaced.

The Chairman also reported that the strimmer owned by the Council had been sent for repair.

It was reported by a parishioner to the Chairman that the stile at beginning of the footpath entrance to Mill Lane was broken. The Clerk would report this to highways.

9) Boundary Review

District Councillor Sue Wigglesworth reported that Hadleigh Town Council had held a meeting to discuss their inclusion in the Ipswich Unitary but that it had not been well attended. Babergh support the North Haven and Rural boundary

10) Planning Matters:

A) Pre-Agenda Applications:

There were none.

B) Any Urgent Planning Matters:

The following were received after the Agenda had been issued:

Planning Application: B/08/00889/FHA/GC The Kennels Rockalls Road, Polstead, Colchester CO6 5AS. Erection of a garden pavilion

The Clerk reported that Planning Permission had been refused

Planning Application No: B/08/00933/FHA White House Farm Straight Road Polstead Colchester CO6 5DL. Erection of two-storey garden building to provide 2 (no.) garage spaces, office, 2(no.) bedrooms, bathroom and storage space.

The Clerk reported that Planning Permission had been granted

Planning Application No: B/08/01005/FHA/AS Christobel White Street Green Polstead Colchester. Erection of single-storey extension to front elevation.

The Clerk reported that Planning Permission had been granted.

Planning Application No: B/08/01175/FHA/AS Jubilee Cottage Straight Road Polstead Heath Polstead Colchester CO6 5BD

The Clerk reported that Planning Permission had been granted.

Planning Application No: B/08/01096/LBC/MC Sprotts Farm, Holt Road, Polstead Colchester CO6 5BT. Alteration to lower sections of external walls (as amended by details received 11/09/08

The clerk reported that Planning Permission had been granted

11) Summer Hog Roast

The Council unanimously agreed that the Hog Roast had been well received by the parishioners who had attended the function. The Council agreed that this should become an annual event but more volunteers would be required to continue its success. It was agreed that once all payments and receipts from the day had been received the Clerk would publicise all the figures on the website. It was agreed that the date for the Hog Roast next year would be discussed at the next meeting and would therefore be an agenda item.

12) Tennis Court on Playing Field

The Council agreed for the Chairman to investigate the construction and maintenance costs of an all weather tennis court on the playing field. Proposed by Anne Macwillson, seconded by Vice-Chair Michael Hackford

13) Carols on the Green

It was agreed that Councillors Mandy Flather, Anne Macwillson and Trish Ravensdale would help with the organisation of the Carols on the Green in 2008, due to the Church Carol Service being held on 21st December, it was agreed that the Carols on the Green would be on December 14th.

Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported that the prizes allocated for children's games at the Hog Roast had been unused and could therefore be used at the Carols on the Green.

14) Financial Matters:

The Clerk reported to the Council that the Audit had been completed and that there were no matters which came to their attention requiring an Additional Issues Arising Report. The Annual Return was approved by the Council proposed by Chairman Nick Brandt, seconded by Vice-Chair Michael Hackford.

The Clerk notified the Council that, starting in 2009, accounts from smaller relevant bodies have to have their accounts approved by 30th June; therefore the timescale had been reduced. The Clerk had spoken with the auditor Mr Neil Marshall and agreed a set of proposed dates to be given to BDO Stoy.

Locality Budget

It had been confirmed that the Locality Budget could be used towards the new boiler for the Village Hall and the Council agreed for the Clerk to request £800.00. Proposed by Councillor John Baxter, seconded by Vice-Chair Michael Hackford.

15) Correspondence Received, Chairman and Clerks Correspondence

The Clerk highlighted the Planning Review sessions organised by Babergh to the Council and Councillor Richard Kilshaw, Chairman Nick Brandt and Vice-Chair Michael Hackford would attend the session on the 8th October 2008.

The meeting with the Suffolk Constabulary on the 22nd September was highlighted and the Chairman said that he would attend on behalf of Polstead Parish Council to explain the Council's concern at the lack of importance given to rural communities by the police.

The Council discussed the purchase of a Marquee. The clerk had applied on behalf of the Council to SALC for a grant of £200.00 towards the cost. One of the conditions would be to hire out the marquee to local organisations. The Council agreed to investigate the cost purchase of a marquee in principle, proposed by Chairman Nick Brandt seconded by Councillor Richard Kilshaw.

16) Future Agenda Items

Carols on the Green

Carse Pond

Marquee Purchase

Hog Roast 2009

Precept 2009/10

Article for Magazine detailing the role of a Parish Council

Dates of next meetings

16th October 2008

12th November (Budget Meeting in the Reading Room)

20th November 2008

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 22.05 pm