

## POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in Polstead Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Nick Brandt (Chairman), John Baxter, Amanda Flather, Michael Hackford, Richard Kilshaw, Anne MacWilson and Theresa Ravensdale.

**Attending:** PCSO Coleman, Dave Crimmin (Clerk) and 4 residents.

#### 10/173 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Sue Wigglesworth (Babergh District Councillor) and David Yorke-Edwards (Suffolk County Councillor).

#### 10/174 Declaration of Interests

None were declared.

#### 10/175 Minutes of Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 10/176 Reports from County and District Councillors and Suffolk Constabulary

The reports are contained in Appendix A.

#### 10/177 Reports and Question from Councillors

Cllr Ravensdale stated that BDC has still not actioned the Clerk's request to mend the Rockalls Road sign outside the Cock Inn. The Clerk will contact BDC again.

Cllr MacWilson reported on her visit to Boxford Farms which gave her the opportunity to review the issues relating to the erection of polytunnels and the proposed changes to the storage area. She felt that the polytunnels were being placed in the only land that can grow blueberries and the location was not visible to anyone travelling along the road unless they mounted the verge and looked over the hedge. The proposed changes to the storage area did not have any impact on residents. She was grateful for the opportunity that Suzanne Rendell had given the council.

#### 10/178 Reports and Questions from Parishioners

There were no concerns raised by the parishioners.

#### 10/179 Report from Bus Shelter working group

Cllr Brandt updated councillors on discussions he had with Cllrs Baxter and Hackford, Sue Wigglesworth and Mr and Mrs Humphries on the proposed bus shelter. He reminded councillors that both the Village Hall Management Committee, who owned the land identified for the proposed site, and Mr & Mrs Humphries, who owned the hedge by the site, had to accept the scheme for it to proceed.

Cllr Brandt outlined his attempts to get 3 quotations from local contractors but was only supplied with one from Homefield Sheds & Shelters of Newton and the councillors resolved to accept this quotation of £1,350 + VAT for the 10ft by 4ft shelter. The councillors further resolved that HS&S should also be contracted to get the concrete base installed and set a budget for all aspects of the project at £2,200. **Local Govt Misc Provisions Act 1953 s 4** Cllr Kilshaw wished to record his preference that the concrete base be offered to local contractors. Cllr Hackford will contact HS&S to confirm galvanised connections for posts of shelter. The councillors requested the Clerk to see if David Yorke-Edwards was able to offer a Locality Budget grant towards the project.

#### 10/180 Planning

- a. The councillors reviewed Planning Application **B/10/01262/FHA Mayflower, Stackwood Road** - Erection of detached double garage with store room and resolved that they had no objection to the application.
- b. The councillors reviewed Planning Application **B/10/01280/FHA White Gables, Stackwood Road** - Erection of single-storey side extension, rear dormer and erection of

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- detached double garage (amended scheme to that approved under B/09/00088/FHA) and resolved that they had no objection to the application.
- c. The councillors noted Planning Application **B/07/01580/FUL Copella Fruit Juices Ltd, Hill Farm, Brick Kiln Hill** - Erection of extensions to existing production premises, associated new plant, landscaping and perimeter fencing (existing farm building to be demolished). Description of non-material amendments.
- d. The councillors reviewed Planning Application **B/10/01323/LBC The Thatch, Mill Lane** - Application for LBC - erection of single-storey rear extension (retention of); timber canopy over front door; satellite dish on rear elevation; insertion of 4 no. replacement windows to front elevation; insertion of 2 no. replacement windows to side elevation; demolition of chimney; insertion of 1 no. velux window in rear lean-to roof; and internal alterations. The councillors wished to register their displeasure in noting that this and B/10/01322/FHA were yet again applications for retrospective consent, made by a professional builder, who ought and, we have no doubt, does know better. The councillors resolved to object to the application. The rear extension is directly attached to a listed building and great care must be taken with the construction of the building, the materials and its overall appearance. The councillors also drew attention to:
- i. The front elevation having, at the time of writing, 3 windows constructed in the same way and in the same materials and the fourth being constructed from a wholly different material.
  - ii. The materials used for and the appearance of the door and window of the side elevation to be wholly inappropriate for a extension to a rustic cottage.
- e. The councillors reviewed Planning Application **B/10/01322/FHA The Thatch, Mill Lane** - Erection of rear extension and detached log store and erection of fence / wall (retention of) and resolved to object to the application. The dimensions of the log store facility appear to be excessive and are considered to be over development for the small site.
- f. No further planning application had been received by the council since the agenda was posted.
- g. The councillors resolved that they do not object to Suffolk County Council raising the issue of highway encroachment with the owners of the property at the junction of Straight Road and Stackwood Road.
- h. The status of previous applications reviewed by PPC, is as follows:

Application Reference	Address	Planning Details	PPC Minute	Parish Council Comments	Babergh DC Comments
	Sprott's Farm Holt Road Polstead	Proposed diversion of sections of Footpath 8 and 32.	10/049 a 10/109 c	Agreed with second proposal	
APP/D3505/A/10/2 124559/WF	Brendacot Heath Road Polstead	Appeal against refusal of B/09/01506/FUL	10/067 a	No further comments but requested copy of decision.	Appeal Dismissed 22/10/2010
B/10/00593/FUL	Boxford (Suffolk) Farms Hill Farm Brick Kiln Hill Boxford	Permanent erection of poly tunnels for horticultural use up to 9 hectares.	10/124 b	Objected to application.	
B/10/01026/FUL	Land between The Oaks and Millfield Wood Heath Road	Erection of grain store. Construction of hard standing and vehicular access to Heath Road.	10/140 c	Objected to application and requested a site meeting of BDC Development Committee.	Site visit took place on 6th October 2010.
B/10/00921/LBC	The Cottage Mill Street	LBC for alterations to west-facing window (serving the kitchen); erection of replacement window to north elevation; erection of replacement front door; and erection of replacement flue exit pipe with a condensing boiler.	10/140 d	No objections	
B/10/01086/FHA	Charlotte Bungalow Bower Hose Tye	Erection of single-storey side extension.	10/140 e	No objections	Permission Granted 28/10/2010
B/10/01137/ROC	Copella Fruit Juices Ltd, Hill Farm, Brick Kiln Lane	Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to vary conditions 07, 08 and 09 attached to P.P B/07/01590/FUL to enable the development to proceed in phases.	10/159 a	No objections	
B/10/01177/FHA	2 Tills Cottages, Hadleigh Road	Retention of detached garage (part amended scheme to P.P. B/04/00383/FHA).	10/159 b	No objections	
B/10/00247/ENF	The Thatch, Mill Lane	Issue raised by PPC with regard to works being undertaken re B/07/00338 and B/07/00339.			Planning Applications B/10/01322 & 1323
B/10 01192/TCA	Polstead Mill, Mill Lane	Felling of 1 No. Willow (salix alba) tree.	10/159 c	No objections	Permission Granted 22/10/2010

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#### 10/181 Finance

- a. All cheques signed and due for signing, as itemised in Appendix B, were authorised by the councillors. The councillors also noted the income received since the last meeting and reviewed the Statement of Accounts against the budget and the Bank Statements against the reconciliation.
- b. The councillors reviewed the proposed budget for 2011 / 2012 (Appendix C). The councillors took into account the warnings from both SCC and BDC that there will be little possibility of grants to parish councils in the forthcoming year. With interest rates still generating only nominal interest, the income outside of the precept for 2011 / 2012 would be less than £50. In terms of expenditure during 2011 / 2012 whilst ensuring that PPC was able to maintain the work on the village infrastructure it also had to make a provision of £1,150 for the cost of an election in May 2011 and £500 towards the cost of training new councillors. The councillors agreed that the expenditure budget in 2011 / 2012 would be £16,121.

The councillors resolved by 6 votes to 1, with Cllr Kilshaw against, that in order to maintain a general reserve of £3,455 that the precept would need to increase from £11,770 to £14,500 in 2011/ 2012. It was felt that whilst the increase may appear startling the actual increase to each of the 387 council tax payers in Polstead will be an average of 14p per week. It was felt by the councillors that if the parishioners want a well kept village then they would not object too strongly to an extra 14p per week for it.

#### 10/182 Highways and Footpaths

- a. After reviewing suggestions by Cllr Kilshaw on improvements that could be made to a 30 metre boggy stretch along FP8 the councillors resolved that the Clerk write to SCC to see if they were able to provide any maintenance to this well used footpath.
- b. Cllr Ravensdale will raise the issue of the bank encroachment of the road next to the Community Shop at the next Village Hall meeting.

#### 10/183 Babergh Development Framework

The councillors resolved to send the draft response on the BDF consultation which whilst emphasising that Polstead, due to its now non-existent bus service, should be classified as "countryside", may benefit from minimal affordable housing.

#### 10/184 Carols on the Green 2010

The arrangements were finalised for the event on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2010 starting at 6.15pm. The councillors resolved that a budget of £100 be established for a Christmas tree, children's chocolate and food for the evening. **LGA 1972 s 145.**

#### 10/185 Bike Rack

With only two responses from children likely to use a bike rack at Stoke by Nayland when connecting to the Colchester bus service the councillors agreed to drop the idea.

#### 10/186 Correspondence Received (Appendix D)

Following a review of the correspondence the councillors' agreed that no further action was required.

#### 10/187 Chairman and Clerk's Reports (Appendix D)

The Chairman updated councillors on his ongoing discussions with SCC on the community bus service and the possibility of getting the school bus to stop close to the proposed bus shelter. The Chairman also updated councillors on the meeting with BDC which had highlighted Babergh's budget challenge for 2011 / 2012 and beyond and the proposed merger with Mid Suffolk. Following a review of the Clerk's Report the councillors' agreed that no further action was required.

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**10/188 Future Agenda Items**

- Precept confirmation.

**10/189 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on the Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011 in Polstead Village Hall starting at 7.45pm.

**The meeting closed at 9.53pm.**

**Appendix A County, District and Suffolk Constabulary reports and Public Forum**

The following report was submitted by Sue Wigglesworth. "As with all local authorities Babergh DC has to look at how it can reduce expenditure without reducing the quality of its essential services. Over the next 4 years Babergh has to save £7.5million. District Councils must provide an efficient waste collection, an environmental health department, a planning department, a social housing service, which also includes the prevention of homelessness, (Babergh currently has just over 3000 council properties,) and organise the collection of council tax and the distribution of benefits.

So far, Babergh and Mid-Suffolk have a shared contract for waste collection and the Revenues and Benefits Department, responsible for collecting council tax and distributing benefits, is forming a combined service with Mid-Suffolk and Ipswich and will work from the Ipswich office. In addition, Babergh's legal department has joined with Mid-Suffolk for a trial period. Babergh and Mid-Suffolk councillors have agreed to create an integrated management team which will be headed by a single Chief Executive. Still to be decided, but agreed in principle, is the ambition to merge the two councils in 2013.

A full merger cannot be undertaken without full consultation with the public. The two Councils have to demonstrate to the Boundary Commission that there is support for a merger from the public, the business community and from our neighbouring councils, and that the proposal provides value for money. Part of this process will require a Local Poll which is likely to be held in May at the same time as the District and Parish elections. Councillors are anxious that this is a meaningful poll and that a majority vote for a merger must be reached in both areas. The Boundary Commission would, if satisfied, start their work in carrying out a review of the boundaries and go through further consultation. The number of councillors would be reduced and the new wards would be created. This would take several months and the final decision for or against a merger would be made by the Secretary of State (ie Eric Pickles). If the outcome was positive, elections for the new Council would be held in 2013.

PCSO Colman reported that there had been 2 crimes between 21<sup>st</sup> October and 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010 - a burglary at Bower House Tye which resulted in the theft of a hedge trimmer, strimmer and bicycle - criminal damage at the Village Hall with the offender paying for the repair.