

POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 20th January 2011 in Polstead Village Hall

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

Attending: Sue Wigglesworth (Babergh District Councillor), David Yorke-Edwards (Suffolk County Councillor), PCSO Coleman, Dave Crimmin (Clerk), 4 representatives from National Grid and 2 residents.

11/001 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Councillor Brandt who is on holiday..

11/002 Declaration of Interests

None were declared.

11/003 Minutes of Meeting held on 23rd December 2010

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

11/004 Reports from County and District Councillors and Suffolk Constabulary

The reports are contained in Appendix A.

11/005 National Grid consultation

The councillors were very grateful to National Grid for sending their representatives to the meeting in order to give a short presentation on the consultation to review its approach to undergrounding the electricity lines needed to connect new power generation. Simon Pepper and Carl Simm from NG also answered questions on the consultation and the impact that the consultation will have on the proposed Bramford to Twinstead power line project. The councillors agreed to review the NG consultation at the February meeting in order to respond ahead of the deadline on 16th March 2011. The Clerk was asked to send a letter to NG thanking them for their attendance.

11/006 Reports and Question from Councillors

Cllr MacWilson read an anonymous letter she had received on behalf of the council which highlighted an issue. The councillors agreed that PPC could take no action on letters sent anonymously. Cllr Flather updated councillors on a function that White Street Green (WSG) residents are holding on the Green in June. Cllr Flather outlined the initiative that residents were undertaking in WSG in order to fill gaps in hedgerows which she hopes will be adopted elsewhere in Polstead. Cllr Flather requested that the council contact the landowner on the LHS of the road from WSG to Holt Road to see if there were any plans to plant a hedgerow along this stretch of road. The councillors asked for Cllr Brandt to make contact with the landowner. Cllr Kilshaw will prepare a drawing of the flooding issues along Heath Road for consideration at the next meeting. Cllr Ravensdale raised the issue of the full dog bin at WSG. The Clerk explained that the bin has now been emptied and he is awaiting BDC's feedback on the ownership of the bin to see who should be paying for the service. Cllr Hackford raised concerns on the number of pot holes. It was agreed that councillors will report all such holes to the Clerk so that he can update SCC.

11/007 Reports and Questions from Parishioners

There were no concerns raised by the parishioners.

11/008 Planning

- a. No planning application had been received by the council since the agenda was posted.
- b. The status of previous applications reviewed by PPC, is as follows:

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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	Permission Granted 18/11/2010
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.	Permission Granted 10/11/2010
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	Permission Granted 10/11/2010
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	Permission Granted 26/11/2010
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	Permission Granted 11/11/2010
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
B/10/01262/FHA	Mayflower, Stackwood Road	Erection of detached double garage with store room.	10/180 a	No objections	Withdrawn 01/12/2010
B/10/01280/FHA	White Gables, Stackwood Road	Erection of single-storey side extension and erection of detached double garage(amended scheme to that approved under B/09/00088/FHA).	10/180 b	No objections	Permission Granted 02/12/2010
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.	10/180 c	Noted only as response already given with Minute 10/159 a.	
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.	10/180 d	Objected to Application	
B/10/01322/FHA	The Thatch, Mill Lane	Erection of rear extension and detached log store and erection of fence / wall (retention of).	10/180 e	Objected to Application	
B/10/01497/TCA	New House, Polstead Hill	Felling of 1 no. Scots Pine tree and removal of dead and overhanging branches of 1 no. Elm suckers.	10/194 a	Noted only as response already given with Minute 10/159 a.	
B/10/01444/FHA	Lower Justice Wood, Kersey Road	Erection of a rear conservatory.	10/194 b	No objections.	

11/009 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 resolved to set the 2011 / 2012 Precept at £14,500 and authorised BDC's Precepting Authority accordingly.
- c. The councillors resolve to include the Receipts and Payments as identified in the RFO Report in the minutes published in the magazine and website.

11/010 Bus Shelter

The Clerk reported that following agreement with the Village Hall Committee and Mr & Mrs Humphries on the proposed scheme the orders had now been placed for the shelter. The councillors were very grateful that David Yorke-Edwards was prepared to fund the total cost of the shelter from his Locality Budget.

11/011 Highways and Footpaths

- a. The councillors were pleased to hear David Yorke-Edwards' report that the equipment was being ordered for the road safety scheme at the A1071 / Stackwood Road junction.

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- b. The councillors were very grateful that SCC is able to undertake repairs on the boggy section of FP8. The councillors asked the Clerk to suggest that a coarse chert / flint based aggregate such as 'crusher run' would be better for the site from both hydrological and aesthetic reasons.
- c. Cllr Baxter asked for the following stiles to be reported to SCC:
 - i. Fp30 @ TL 9965 3799 & TL 9965 3788
 - ii. Fp17 @ TL 9920 3788 (junction of Martens Lane and C729)
 - iii. Fp18 @ TL 9960 3750 (top of private road to Cherry Tree Farm)

11/012 Local Housing Needs Survey

The councillors reviewed the background to the recent Babergh Development Framework consultation in which BDC had identified affordable housing needs in Polstead. The councillors resolved that in order that the current need for affordable housing in Polstead could be determined it will be necessary to have a Local Housing Needs survey undertaken with residents. The Clerk to contact Suffolk ACRE and BDC in order to plan for a survey following the parish council elections in May.

11/013 PPC Risk Register

After reviewing the Risk Register the councillors resolved that a review of major contractor's Method Statement and Risk Assessment be included in the contract process.

11/014 Correspondence Received (Appendix C)

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

11/015 Chairman and Clerk's Reports (Appendix D)

Following a review of the Clerk's Report the councillors' agreed that no further action was required.

11/016 Future Agenda Items

- National Grid consultation response
- Local Housing Needs Survey
- Bus Shelter
- Tree planting in village
- Review of Bus Shelter budget.

11/017 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on the Thursday 24th February 2011 in Polstead Village Hall starting at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 10.14pm.

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

David Yorke-Edwards gave the following report. "Much has been written in the media lately about the future of council services in Suffolk, and our New Strategic Direction. As part of its plans to eliminate the financial deficit, the new Government is radically reducing the amount that it gives to councils to enable them to run their services. Following the Comprehensive Spending Review, the indications are that we are likely to be facing a shortfall of between £110 million and £125 million over the next four years. So, the biggest question facing us at Suffolk County Council has been, how to we continue to improve outcomes for people across the County, while receiving much less money with which to do it. Although we had been very successful in making efficiencies - saving £70 million over the last four years (an average of £330,000 a week) to become one of the two most cost-efficient County Councils in the country - continuing simply to make efficiency savings would no longer be enough.

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We believe that the answer is to find more innovative and effective ways of ensuring vital services continue to be delivered, ways that would give local communities more power and control over which services were delivered, and how. The result was the New Strategic Direction. In September the Council voted in favour of the outline principles, and so now we are pressing ahead with the next vital stage — developing ways to enable the new Council to evolve. I stress that this is not a plan to privatise the council's services. What we are looking to do is to create a much smaller, more flexible, less bureaucratic County Council. At the same time, we are looking to build on the excellent relationships we already have with the voluntary sector, charitable organisations and a whole range of local community groups in Suffolk, and find the best, most effective way of delivering services to meet the needs of individual communities.

We believe that the Council doesn't necessarily know best how to provide services, or even which services should be provided. It is people in their towns and villages who know what's best for them. Most of all, we want to strengthen local communities, to help them become more self-reliant and give them the freedom to take the important decisions for themselves.

Given this freedom, the opportunities are legion. Why shouldn't local people, for example, set up their own community transport scheme? This is what has happened in Leiston, where a dial-a-ride service called CATS (Coastal Accessible Transport Service) has been running for several years now. This is a not-for-profit organisation, set up by local people, and with many of the drivers working simply as volunteers. Whatever the issue, local people are best placed to know where problems are, and what needs to be done. There doesn't need to be a large, central bureaucracy telling them what is best for them. However, I must stress that these changes are not about leaving people to fend for themselves. I am very conscious that there will be people in our communities who depend on the support we currently provide.. We will be working with other organisations and local communities to find the most efficient and effective means of delivering the services on which they depend. So far, we have only agreed the outline principles. From now on, we will be engaging with the voluntary sector, engaging with local groups, engaging with communities across Suffolk to help develop solutions that meet the needs of you and your families. While any significant change can be unsettling, I have to say that, in this instance, I truly believe there is no alternative. Without completely changing the way services are provided, we will simply end up running out of money.

By implementing our New Strategic Direction, we can help shield the people of Suffolk, particularly the most vulnerable, from the worst of the current financial climate, and ensure that we can continue improving outcomes for people despite having less money. I have certainly yet to hear of any viable alternative. This is long-term programme to re-shape the way services are provided, to build the Big Society in Suffolk and give power back to the people. It's about putting local people in charge, giving communities their voice and their freedom, and ensuring the County Council is flexible enough to be able to provide support when it's needed, and to get out of the way, when it's not."

Sue Wigglesworth gave the following report. "The two Councils are working to a very tight schedule to prepare for the Local Poll that is a necessary step towards the possible formation of one Council in 2013. One of the important elements of the proposal, which has to be presented to the Boundary Commission, is a clear plan that will enable Parish Councils to liaise with the new enlarged Council. This plan comes under the heading "Locality Arrangements". Officers from the two councils have held a sequence of Locality Road Shows which were held between 17 Nov and 16 Dec. Unfortunately, the weather made travelling extremely hazardous and, combined with the run up to Christmas, attendance was affected. However, responses have been collated.

It is important for Parish Councils to become involved with the proposals to form "clusters" of Parishes. (It would be very helpful if these arrangements could be worked up in partnership with the County Council and the Police). The combined number of towns and villages in the single council would be about 175 villages and 5 market towns. The number of District Councillors would

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be somewhere between 50 – 55, so each councillor would be covering a very much bigger area than at present. (currently Babergh has 43 and Mid-Suffolk has 40). The clusters would be for specific on-going or time-limited projects provided by, or in partnership with the Council; they would help the flow of information; and they would be an identified area that could benefit from appropriate staffing support. If Polstead/Layham/Raydon/Higham/Shelley feel they have missed out on this consultation please talk it over with me and I will carry forward your concerns or ideas.

Finance

The headlines of the financial benefits of a full merger will be spelt out in the communications that will be widely circulated and the Business Case is on the Babergh website for all to study.

The Poll

It is proposed that the Poll will be in the form of a postal vote with the papers being sent out on 25 March and sent to every elector in Babergh and Mid-Suffolk. The information pack will be included and the question will be straight forward and to the point. Closing date will be 26 April and the result will be announced on 6 May. (ie the same day as the District and Parish elections). The Councils have agreed that there must be a 50% + 1 vote in favour in both Council areas. If the outcome is positive the Boundary Commission will then be asked to start their work on assessing the viability of a merger and their review of the boundaries. The final decision will be taken by the Secretary of State.

Chief Executive Advertisement

The advertisement for the new post is being prepared and will go into motion very soon.”

PCSO Colman reported that

There have been four reported crimes since your last meeting on the 18th November 2010. The theft from a motor vehicle. Bower House Tye 29th -30th Nov. Sometime over night a van has been broken into and stolen tools from within. Finalised as Undetected. The Burglary of a dwelling. Evans Heath 5th Dec. Sometime between 2 pm and 4.30 pm unknown offenders have smashed a glass door and gained entry into a large detached property and stealing a handbag, jewellery, cash and laptops. Ongoing. The Burglary other building. Rockalls Road 16th Dec. Sometime overnight unknown offender has broken into a detached garage and stolen various tools from within. Finalised as Undetected. A Theft Rockalls Road 13th-14th Dec. Sometime overnight unknown offender has stolen a quantity of heating oil. Finalised as Undetected. There are also reports of scrap metal being taken from farms during daylight hours, offenders are driving onto farms and after they have gone farmers are noticing scrap metal missing. Vehicles that have been sighted are an old style/type transit or flatbed truck, no Index marks have been taken.

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**Appendix B RFO Report
Receipts & Payments**

Date	Details	Ref	Power	Receipts	Payments
19/11/10	Glasdon - Grit Bins	101516	LGA 1972 s 111	0.00	530.44
19/11/10	Ben Patrick - Footpath Maint	101517	Highways Act 1980 ss 43, 50	0.00	70.00
06/12/10	Interest 6 Sep to 5 Dec	BS 31		0.41	0.00
23/12/10	R Stiff & Sons - Village Hall Heating Oil	101518	LG (Misc Provs) A 1976 s 19	0.00	892.50
04/01/11	Mr Edmonds Allotment Rent			8.50	0.00
20/01/11	DF Crimmin - Salary & WFHA for 27 Sept to 26 Dec 2010	101519	LGA 1972 s 112	0.00	1,008.25
20/01/11	P&H Landscapes - Grass Cutting	101520	Open Spaces Act 1906 s 10 LGA 1972 s 214	0.00	484.00
20/01/11	Mr & Mrs Bell - Allotment Rent			8.50	0.00

Signed Date.....