

POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20th September 2007 in the Village Hall Polstead.

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

In attendance: Mr David Yorke-Edwards (County Councillor), Mrs Sue Wigglesworth (District Councillor), Mrs Sandra Gray (Clerk) & ten Members of the Public.

1) Apologies for Absence: John Baxter, Mandy Flather; the Councillors consented to these absences. Melissa Gaylean (Suffolk Constabulary).

2) Declarations of Interests: There were none

3) Minutes of the meetings of 19th July and 31st July 2007:

The Minutes of the 19th July 2007 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman. The Minutes of the 31st July 2007 were approved by the Council and signed by the Vice-Chair.

4) Matters Arising:

The Council decided that, in future years, a provisional date would be reserved in August for the Council to meet to discuss planning matters only.

5) Reports:

a. County Councillor:

David Yorke-Edwards confirmed to the Council that Ipswich had acquired unitary status and that he would keep the Parish Councils inform of the progress/status of the changeover.

b. District Councillor:

Sue Wigglesworth reported to the Council that Babergh had acknowledged that, due to the changeover to unitary status, local government in Suffolk could be in a state of flux. However, Sue pointed out that Polstead Village Hall would be the venue for a District Council Seminar regarding the issues influencing planning in relation to climate change. The insulation of the Village hall would be advertised as relevant to the subject of the seminar.

6) Reports & Questions from Councillors:

Richard Kilshaw raised the subject of the dog bins at Dollops Wood not being collected as scheduled. Sue Wigglesworth explained to the Council that the contract for dog refuse collection had changed companies and this was probably an isolated problem. It was agreed for the Clerk to monitor the situation, particularly with respect to the payment of bills.

It was also reported that dog fouling was still continuing on the allotment area. The Council agreed for the Clerk to place another notice in the newsletter.

Michael Hackford raised concerns that new Councillors should be encouraged to attend training courses, particularly in relation to planning. It was agreed by the

Council that training courses should be attended for the benefit of the Parish as a whole and not just for the benefit of the Council. The Clerk will inform Councillors of the courses available when SALC issue their training schedule.

Michael Hackford and Trish Ravensdale reported to the Council that they had attended the Safer Neighbourhood meeting by Suffolk Constabulary and that the Constabulary hoped to hold a meeting every three months.

The question of how the Council informed the Parish of their meetings was discussed and the Council agreed for Anne Macwilson to continue to inform the newsletter as she is doing at present. The Council further agreed that an edited version of the approved Minutes would be sent to Richard Sandford to be published on the Polstead website.

It was reported that cars had been parking on the Green. It was agreed by the Council that the Clerk put a notice in the newsletter stating that parking in this area of Polstead was illegal.

The Chairman closed the meeting.

7) Reports & Questions from Parishioners

Concern was raised by Parishioners about the heavy goods vehicles using the narrow roads around Frog Hall. The Council confirmed that it was not an issue that the Parish Council could assist with.

The Chairman reopened the meeting.

8) Planning Matters:

a. Planning Application No B/07/01407/FUL/GD Part OS 3928 Land east of Stoke Road Polstead Erection of 1 no. agricultural building.

Anne Macwilson reported to the Council that she had attended the District Council site meeting on the 12th September. Concern for the welfare of the cattle was again a major issue as well as the future of the land. The Council fully supported the letter of objection by Mr Mark Westwood and unanimously endorsed a letter of objection drafted by the Chairman to be sent to Babergh.

b. Planning Application No. B/07/01257/FUL/CJTPlot 2 Cedarhurst Stackwood Road Hadleigh Heath Polstead Ipswich IP7. Erection of 1 No. Dwelling(existing dwelling to be demolished) (amended scheme to that approved under P.P.B/06/0118/RES).

The Council raised no objection in relation to CN10 of the Babergh Local Plan.

c. Planning Application No: B/07/00920/FHA/BEL Belgic House, Spring Lane, Polstead, CO10 5JP. Alterations 7 Pitched roof to existing garage (to form garage and sun room).

The Clerk reported to the Council that Planning Permission had been granted.

d. Planning Application No: B/07/01099/LBC/CJT Brewery Farm Bower House Tye Polstead CO6 5BZ. Application for Listed Building Consent- Demolition of existing hay storage, garage, potting shed and lean to at

rear of cottage. Erection of (timber frame construction) single- storey side and rear extensions as amended by Drawings 03A 04A and 06 received 23rd August 2007.

The Clerk reported that Planning Permission had been granted after consultation with the Conservation Officer resulting in small amendments to ensure a more traditional look to the extension.

e. Planning Application No: B/07/01043FUL/CJT Brewery Farm House Bower House Tye Polstead CO6 5BZ. Erection of single –storey side & rear extensions. Erection of barn and detached double garage with store and WC (existing outbuildings to be demolished), as amended by drawing nos. 03A 04A and 06 received 23rd August 2007.

The Clerk reported that Planning Permission had been granted after consultation with the Conservation Officer resulting in small amendments to ensure a more traditional look to the extension.

f. Any Urgent Planning Matters

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.

The above application had been received after the Agenda was published. The Councillors discussed the application and the Chairman read out letters of objection. It was agreed unanimously by the Council to object to this application in relation to HS17 of the Local Babergh Plan and the proposal of overhanging porches restricting vehicular access in an already narrow path.

9) Highways and Footpaths

Councillor Richard Kilshaw outlined his proposals for the upkeep and maintenance of local footpaths including one which falls under Suffolk Highways. The Council believed that a fund to carry out repairs on the latter would result in the appropriate parties being relieved of responsibility and more financial responsibility being placed on the parish Council.

It was agreed that the Footpath Map from Suffolk County Council was no longer showing clear Rights of Way due to alterations over the years. Also, it was noted that a map would be a useful piece of information to sell at the Post Office/Community Shop. The Council agreed for Richard Kilshaw to update and produce a Rights of Way/Footpath map for Polstead with a £100.00 limit on expenditure. Proposed by Nick Brandt, seconded by Anne Macwilson and unanimously carried.

10) Allotments

The Clerk confirmed to the Council that three residents had replied with ideas for the future use of the Allotments.

- a) Wild flower Meadow
- b) Affordable Housing
- c) Benches/seating area
- d) One resident wished to rent an allotment

It was agreed by the Council that obtaining a regular water supply for the allotment area would be costly and not straightforward. However Mr & Mrs Bell expressed a

desire to cultivate an allotment as well as raise the profile of the area to local residents.

In the meantime, the Council were concerned that, if residents in the future wished to have an allotment, the land should be put to such use that it could be returned to cultivation. In order to make the area more pleasant, it was agreed that a public amenity area should be created. Anne Macwilson agreed to work with Richard Kilshaw and the Gardening Club to landscape and plant low maintenance plants. Benches for residents would be placed in the area. Benches would be purchased with the Locality Budget from the County Councillor. Proposed by Trish Ravensdale, seconded by Michael Hackford and unanimously carried.

11) Correspondence Received

The Clerk reported that the following post had been received since the publication of the Agenda:

- Media Release – Teenagers as Critics, Sheltered Housing & Town & District Council Resignation
- Assistance with Graffiti scheme with Babergh. Low cost graffiti removal kit
- Village Green team Newsletter & meeting on 11th October 2007
- The Review of Suffolk County Council's Accommodation for Older People. This questionnaire will be completed by Trish Ravensdale on behalf of the Council.

12) Chairman & Clerks Reports & Correspondence

The Clerk reported to the Council regarding the Budget & Precept training course she had attended at SALC and requested a date to discuss the 2008/9 budget and precept. The Council agreed to have a Budget meeting on Tuesday 6th November 2007 at 19.30 in the Committee Room.

The annual mince pies on the Green at Christmas would be an agenda item for October and the Clerk would contact Mandy Flather to discuss the event.

13) Any Other Business:

The following would be future items on the Agenda

Tennis Court on Playing Field
Ownership of White Street Green
Parish Plan for Polstead
Road signs and road names

16) Date of Next Meeting:

18th October 2007 at 19.45, planning applications and post available from 19.15
Budget meeting on 6th November 2007 at 19.30 in the Committee Room.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 22.00.