

MINUTES OF THE SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE BARLEY ROOM, TITHE BARN, LOWER STREET, SPROUGHTON ON 19TH JANUARY 2011, AT 7.35PM

Councillors present:

Cllr S.Curl (Chairman), Cllr D.Cheeseman, Cllr C.Davis, Cllr V.Durrant, Cllr R.Finbow, Cllr J.Kitson,

Mrs S. Frankis, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

County Cllr, Kathy Pollard

District Cllr, Peter Jones

District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley

PCSO Cooper

Ms A. McCreddie, Suffolk County Council Interim Director of Adult & Community Services

1 member of the public

135 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED

Apologies were received and accepted from -

Cllr M.Everett, absence due to work commitments.

Cllr J.Mardon, absence due to incapacity.

Cllr R.Lavington, absence due to holiday.

Cllr S.Lavington, absence due to holiday.

136 TO ACCEPT MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

137 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2010, having been circulated to all members, were confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

138 REVIEW OF COUNCIL ACTIONS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2010

There were no matters to review.

7.35pm The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from County Cllr, Kathy Pollard, District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr, Peter Jones and PCSO Cooper.

County Cllr, Kathy Pollard advised that she has submitted a request for the grit bins proposed by Sproughton Parish Council. She advised that S.I.T.A. has submitted a planning application for the development of a residual waste treatment facility at Great Blakenham. She advised that she had recently attended an Energy Seminar, in London; it is hoped that new ideas will have come from the event regarding the proposed National Grid Bramford to Twinstead connection project. She referred to the Suffolk County Council press release made on 18th January 2011, regarding the withdrawal of funding for the counties libraries; 15 libraries are being deemed as statutory and the remaining 29 community libraries are scheduled for closure.

District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley referred to the Babergh District Council budget and advised that it is expected there will be a £5million deficit over the next five years. He advised that Babergh District Council has set a 0% decrease / increase in their 2011/2012 council tax budget. He was pleased to announce that the proposed Hadleigh Community Building is expected to proceed.

District Cllr, Peter Jones advised that there is limited grant funding available from the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

PCSO Cooper advised that there had been four reported crimes in Sproughton for December 2010; two reports of theft at Hadleigh Road and Farthing Road, one report of burglary at Sproughton Road and one report of interference with a motor vehicle at Farthing Road.

Cllr V.Durrant asked if the matter of speeding 'Tuffnell' lorries along Hadleigh Road and High Street, Sproughton could be addressed. PCSO Cooper agreed to raise the matter with PC Gary Austin.

7.50pm The meeting was reconvened. PCSO Cooper left the meeting.

139 SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTION - PRESENTATION BY ANNA MCCREADIE, SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL INTERIM DIRECTOR OF ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOLLOWED BY Q & A'S (MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT AND ASK QUESTIONS AS APPROPRIATE)

Ms McCreadie explained that at this time, Suffolk County Council (SCC) is experiencing a short term funding crisis and will endure a 28% budget cut over the next four years. The budget cut for 2011/12 will be £43million, part of an overall saving of £110-£125million. She described how through divesting services, restructuring, streamlining jobs, building on existing resources and looking at the needs of the people of Suffolk, SCC intends to tackle the deficit of funding.

Cllr S.Curl referred to funding and revenue funding generated by council tax. He highlighted the issue that the level of services to be delivered by SCC will decrease yet the council tax payer will not notice a fall in the level of funding allocated to SCC. Subsequently, the provision of any services to be picked up by parish councils will result in them having to increase their precept budgets. Ms McCreadie was unable to provide a satisfactory response and agreed to refer the question to SCC.

Cllr J.Kitson asked if SCC has a timeframe for which parish councils may consider to take on devolved responsibilities. Ms McCreadie advised that SCC is looking for expressions of interest to be flagged within two to three months.

Cllr S.Curl referred to SCC's accountability of public money if it is to be passed on to community interest groups. Ms McCreadie advised that there will need to be a level of procurement.

Sproughton Parish Council requested a portfolio of the services under threat by SCC, highlighting those which are statutory and non statutory for SCC to deliver and those which could be devolved to the Parish Council. Ms McCreadie said that such a list would be created and delivered to the Council.

8.50pm Ms McCreadie left the meeting.

140 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

A list of planning applications and recommendations made by the Planning Committee since the last meeting had been circulated to all Councillors and noted.

141 FINANCE

(i) To Approve Payments and Budget Position

The statement of payments for December 2010 was approved.

(ii) To Consider Grant Requests

A grant request had been received from Suffolk Age Concern. The Council agreed to consider the request at the year end, after expected parish requests for grants had been forthcoming and considered.

(iii) To Agree to Transfer £878.76 from the Green Reserve Account to the Co-op Bank Current Account

The Council agreed to transfer £878.76 from the Green reserve account to the current account.

(iv) To Vire £129.82 to the Precept Heading 'Insurance'

The Council agreed to vire £129.82 from the precept heading 'Tithe Barn Insurance' to the precept heading 'Insurance'.

(v) To Consider Consultation Response to SALC on Audit Regime

Cllr J.Kitson advised that the Government has announced the Audit Commission is to be abolished and that SALC has invited local councils to put forward their views on the future of the audit regime. The Council agreed that any proposed change to the audit system should include a robust and independent audit.

Action: The Clerk is to draft a statement.

142 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE 'GREEN' SPROUGHTON PANEL

No written report had been received from the Green Panel.

143 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT PANEL AND RELATED TRAFFIC ISSUES

A written report of the Transport Panel had been circulated to the Council.

Cllr V.Durrant advised that Suffolk County Council has invited Sproughton Parish Council to be one of the pilot communities to help to develop the 'Lorry Watch' scheme. The Council agreed to give the Transport Panel the remit to work with SCC and to take part in the SCC 'Lorry Watch' scheme.

144 TITHE BARN

(i) To Receive the Report of the Tithe Barn Panel

No written report had been received from the Tithe Barn Panel.

(ii) To Consider Design of Promotional Leaflet

There were no updates to report. The Council noted the excellent design of the leaflet to date. Some minor modifications were suggested.

(iii) To Consider a Discretionary Hire Charge for the Lions Club of Ipswich Art Show Event

The Council had received notification that the present level of hire charge would not make it viable for the Lions Club of Ipswich to hold the 2011 Art Show at the Tithe Barn. The Council considered the importance of the event and agreed to offer a discretionary hire charge of £416.00.

Action: The Clerk is to notify the Lions Club of Ipswich.

145 TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR MEMORIALS AT THE BURIAL GROUND AND RELATED MATTERS

There were no requests to consider.

146 TO CONSIDER THE TERMS OF THE SPROUGHTON COMMUNITY SHOP C.I.C.'S OCCUPATIONAL LICENCE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2011 TO 31ST MARCH 2012

Cllr S.Curl declared an interest and duly signed the register. Cllr S.Curl abstained from the ensuing discussion. Cllr D.Cheeseman and Cllr J.Kitson agreed to consider the matter.

147 TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE OF S106 RECREATION CONTRIBUTIONS HELD BY BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

There were no updates to report.

148 TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE OF THE 2010 BABERGH VILLAGE OF THE YEAR PRIZE FUND

There were no updates to report.

149 STREETLIGHTING

Cllr V.Durrant had circulated a report of the status of the Parish Council maintained street lighting. The Council agreed to the recommended prioritised timetable of works to be undertaken and agreed that the 'G39' street lights should be considered during 2011.

150 TO AGREE THE TIMES, DATES AND VENUE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2011 TO MARCH 2012

The proposed list of dates was approved.

151 TO AGREE THE TIME, DATE AND VENUE OF THE 2011 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish meeting will be held at 7.30pm, on 20th April 2011 at the Tithe Barn, Sproughton.

152 TO AGREE THE TIMES, DATES AND VENUE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2011 TO MARCH 2012

The proposed list of dates was approved.

153 TO AGREE THE TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Sproughton Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30pm, on 9th February 2011 at the Barley Room, Tithe Barn, Lower Street, Sproughton.

154 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr D.Cheeseman and Cllr J.Kitson agreed to consider a response to the Sproughton Community Shop C.I.C. letter of 10th November 2010

Cllr R.Finbow advised that he had mended and returned the tea urn.

Summary of Actions

141 FINANCE

(v) To Consider Consultation Response to SALC on Audit Regime

Action: The Clerk is to draft a statement.

144 TITHE BARN

(iii) To Consider a Discretionary Hire Charge for the Lions Club of Ipswich Art Show Event

Action: The Clerk is to notify the Lions Club of Ipswich.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Chairman : _____

Date: _____

Could the last sentence be revised to read something along the lines "The Council agreed that any proposed change to the audit system should include a robust and independent audit."