

MINUTES OF THE SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE BARLEY ROOM, TITHE BARN, LOWER STREET, SPROUGHTON ON 13TH APRIL 2011, AT 7.30PM

Councillors present:

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

Mrs S. Frankis, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

County Cllr, Kathy Pollard
District Cllr, Peter Jones
District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley
1 member of the public

191 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED

Apologies were received and accepted from -
Cllr M.Everett
Cllr J.Mardon

192 TO ACCEPT MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

193 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9TH MARCH 2011

Re minute no: 10/11 183 Cllr V.Durrant advised that the haulier is Abbey Transport and not Abbeygate. The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2011, were amended, confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

194 REVIEW OF COUNCIL ACTIONS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9TH FEBRUARY 2011

Re. minute no: 184(i) The Council agreed that spreading pea shingle on the Tithe Barn grassed car park area would be ineffective protection method. Cllr B.Askew agreed to explore a non permanent protective surface suitable for use on the grassed car park area.

195 COUNCILLOR MATTERS

(i) Vacancy

The Council noted and recorded the recent resignation of Cllr R.Finbow. Sproughton Parish Council declared a councillor vacancy.

Action: The Clerk is to notify Babergh District Council.

(ii) Nominations for Parish Council Elections

Cllr S.Curl announced the results of the uncontested Election of Parish Councillors for Sproughton on 5th May 2011; Brian Askew, Alison Cronin, Simon Curl, Victor Durrant, John Kitson, Damian Lavington, Gwendolyn Moore and Simon Wood.

(iii) Retiring Parish Councillors

Cllr S.Curl advised that councillors D.Cheeseman, C.Davis, M.Everett, J.Mardon, R.Lavington and S.Lavington had not stood for election at the forthcoming Sproughton Parish Council election. He thanked them all for their contributions, enthusiasm and hard work but particularly Cllr D.Cheeseman as the longest standing member.

Cllr D.Cheeseman advised that he had been a Sproughton Parish Councillor since 1979.

Cllr S.Lavington asked that the following list of his Parish Council related duties be included in the minutes of the meeting;

1. Parish website webmaster
2. Tree Warden; also: contact for Suffolk Traditional Orchards survey; also: link-person for managing the Churchyard County Listed Wildlife Site.

3. Organiser of the Barley Room computers and the IT facilities in the Barley Room, for which the regular software updating is now done by Colin Davis
4. Footpath Warden, jointly with Rosalind
5. Organiser of the Tithe Barn Audio, for which the day-to-day adjustment is now largely handled by John Webb
6. (With Rosalind): SPC's usual representative at SALC meetings.

7.45pm The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from County Cllr, Kathy Pollard and District Cllrs, Peter Jones and Nicholas Ridley

County Cllr, Kathy Pollard advised that the proposed closure of six of the seven Suffolk County Council household waste recycling centres has been postponed until 31st July 2011. She advised that the improvements to the Copdock Mill Interchange are scheduled to commence on 9th May 2011. The works are expected to continue for 12 months; the work will be carried out overnight.

District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley advised the new leader of Suffolk County Council is expected to be announced on 18th April 2011. He anticipates that a review of the NSD will be undertaken. He advised that the new CEO of Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council is Charlotte Adan; her salary will be £111k.

Cllr R.Lavington commented that Mid Suffolk District Council has a considerable debt of £10m whereas Babergh District Council is debt free. District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley responded that the matter would not be a material issue, provided that the debt is being serviced. He anticipates there would be a meeting of council tax between the merging councils; there is currently a difference of £10 between Babergh District Council Band D council tax and that of Mid Suffolk District Council.

7.55pm The meeting was reconvened.

196 TO RECEIVE NOTICE TO ADOPT REVISED STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Council was given notice that revised Standing Order and Financial Regulations are to be adopted.

197 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.

198 FINANCE

(i) To Approve Payments and Budget Position

The statement of payments for March 2011 was approved.

(ii) To Consider Grant Requests

There were no grants to consider.

(iii) To Agree to Renew the SALC 2011/2012 Subscription

The Council unanimously agreed to renew the SALC subscription for 2011/2012.

Action: The Clerk is to forward a cheque to SALC.

(iv) To Agree the Statement of Accounts as at 31st March 2011

The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2010 had been circulated to the Council and agreed.

(v) To Receive the Internal Audit Report for 2010/2011

The matter was deferred.

(vi) To Agree Additional Expenditure for the Printing of the Tithe Barn Promotional Leaflets

Re. minute no: 10/11 106 The Council had agreed to allow an expenditure budget of up to £180.00 for the production of Tithe Barn promotional leaflets. Due to the number of leaflets printed, the final amount charged was £193.00. The Council agreed a retrospective expenditure of an additional £13.00.

(vii) To Agree to Transfer £307.00 from the Green Reserve Account to the Current Account

The Council unanimously agreed to transfer £307.00 from the Green Reserve Account to the current account.

199 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE 'GREEN' SPROUGHTON PANEL AND RELATED MATTERS

No written report had been received from the Green Panel.

Cllr S.Lavington asked that the following be included in the minutes of the meeting.

The Green Panel met on 7th April. Activities planned for the next few months include:

- (a) a Plant Swap in the Tithe Barn on the afternoon of 21st May;
- (b) another tour of the Viridor recycling plant at Great Blakenham for residents;
- (c) an examination of the possibility of acquiring a heavy-duty shredder and setting up a 'community composting unit' so as to offset the negative effects of SCC's plans to close Household Waste Sites;
- (d) seeking information on how residents may get grants towards cavity wall insulation, etc.

In the autumn the Green Panel plans to distribute a simplified Carbon Footprint Survey to all households, for which volunteer help with questionnaire distribution and analysis is requested. Looking further ahead, if the Parish Council decides to carry out another Parish Plan then the Green Panel would like to offer some 'soft questions' for inclusion in the appraisal.

The next Green Panel meeting will be at Jean Mardon's house at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th May.

200 TRANSPORT PANEL

(i) To Receive the Report of the Transport Panel and Related Matters

The report of the Transport Panel had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

Cllr V.Durrant advised it had been agreed to simplify the original Suffolk County Council spreadsheet and report to be used for the recording of information. He advised that a signed, hard copy of each report submitted to the County Council must be retained by the Parish Council. He advised that Mr C.Harris will be the first Sproughton Parish Council Lorry Watch co-ordinator.

(ii) To Consider the Use of a Parish Council Owned Laptop by the Lorry Watch Co-ordinator

Cllr V.Durrant asked if the Council would allow the Sproughton Parish Council Lorry Watch co-ordinator to use a Parish Council owned laptop and to review the matter after two to three months. The Council agreed seven in favour to the principle of the Sproughton Parish Council Lorry Watch co-ordinator using a Parish Council owned laptop to record and store information relevant to the scheme; Cllr S.Lavington abstained from the vote.

201 TITHE BARN

There were no matters to consider.

Cllr D.Cheeseman advised that a catch on a door of the men's toilets was missing.

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

There were no requests to consider.

203 TO RECEIVE THE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr S.Curl circulated a draft copy of the Annual Report of the Council for presentation at the forthcoming Annual Parish meeting.

204 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Cllr S.Curl advised that a letter had been received from the Tithe Barn Carpet Bowls Club requesting free use of the Barn on Thursday mornings. The Council unanimously agreed that regrettably the request could not be granted.

(ii) Cllr S.Curl advised that a request had been received from Sproughton Parochial Church Council to provide a 3D display illustrating a piece from the Bible, to be included in the 'Open the Good Book' exhibition at the church from 28th to 30th May 2011. The Council agreed to take part in the event and to provide a display.

(iii) Cllr R.Lavington advised that the Sproughton Community Shop C.I.C. had intended to write to the Parish Council to ask if the Council would allow the Community Shop C.I.C. to lay a new floor covering.

Cllr S.Curl, Cllr R.Lavington and Cllr S.Lavington declared an interest and duly signed the register.

Cllr S.Curl stepped down as chairman of the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Cllr D.Cheeseman.

The Council unanimously agreed to allow the Community Shop C.I.C. to lay a new floor covering. The Clerk requested Cllr R.Lavington to forward a letter of request to the Council in order that a response and permission could be granted.

Cllr D.Cheeseman stepped down as chairman of the meeting. Cllr S.Curl re-took the chair.

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

There were no updates to report.

206 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 11th May 2011 at the Barley Room, Tithe Barn, Lower Street, Sproughton.

207 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr C.Davis asked if the share of the Village of the Year prize fund of £100.00, as agreed by the Council, had been forwarded to Sproughton Parochial Church Council. The Clerk advised that the Council continues to await a response from the Sproughton Parochial Church Council, informing the Council of how the money would be spent.

Summary of Actions

195 COUNCILLOR MATTERS

(i) Vacancy

Action: The Clerk is to notify Babergh District Council.

198 FINANCE

(iii) To Agree to Renew the SALC 2011/2012 Subscription

Action: The Clerk is to forward a cheque to SALC.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman : _____

Date: _____