

MINUTES OF THE SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE BARLEY ROOM, TITHE BARN, LOWER STREET, SPROUGHTON ON 8TH JUNE 2011, AT 7.30PM

Councillors present:

Cllr S.Curl (Chairman), Cllr B.Askew, Cllr A.Cronin, Cllr V.Durrant, Cllr J.Kitson, Cllr D.Lavington, Cllr G.Moore, Cllr S.Wood

Mrs S. Frankis, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
County Cllr, Kathy Pollard
District Cllr, Peter Jones
District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley
PC Gary Austin and PCSO Ford

Mr J Pateman-Gee

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED

No apologies were received.

20 TO ACCEPT MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

21 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11TH MAY 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2011 had been circulated to all members.

Re. minute no: 11/12 18, Cllr D.Lavington reminded the Council that a question had been raised regarding expenditure for flowers to be presented to a member of the Parish, to commemorate her 100th birthday; the record of this matter had been omitted from the minutes. The Council agreed that the item should have been included in the minutes. The minutes were then confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

22 REVIEW OF COUNCIL ACTIONS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11TH MAY 2011

Re. minute no: 11/12 13

The Clerk advised that a response had been received from Mr M Levett but that she intended to ask him for a clearer understanding of the information that had been forthcoming.

Re. minute no: 11/12 12

Cllr D.Lavington advised that he had spoken to the owner of the van, who had expressed upset that residents had contacted his employer rather than himself, regarding the matter. Cllr D.Lavington advised of his intentions to ask the landlord of The Wild Man public house, if he would grant permission for the van to be parked in his car park. He asked, if in the meanwhile, the Council would write a letter of dispensation to the van driver, allowing him to park on High Street. Cllr S.Curl advised that it would be unwise for the Council to write such a letter.

Re. minute no: 11/12 18

The Clerk advised that as the Council no longer qualified to use the Power of Well Being, the Council as a body would not be able to incur expenditure for an individual. However, the Council had the power to purchase a bench and dedicate to an individual or alternatively, members of the Council could themselves contribute to the purchase of flowers for an individual.

Re. minute no: 11/12 16

Cllr S.Curl suggested that the matter of the storage of Mr S.Lavington's wheelchair be considered at agenda item number 14.

7.50pm The meeting was adjourned to receive a reports from County Cllr, Kathy Pollard, District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr, Peter Jones and Pc Gary Austin.

County Cllr, Kathy Pollard advised that at the last County Council meeting, petitions had been presented relating to the Country Parks, the withdrawal of Explorer Cards and the closure of household waste site. She advised that the third Suffolk Local Transport Plan fell short on the public transport provisions. She

advised of Suffolk County Council's intentions to spend £10million of reserve funds on improving the county's broadband provision. She expressed her concerns regarding reserve funds being spent on such a project at a time when services are being cut; she asked for the Parish Council's comments regarding the proposal. Cllr S.Curl asked who will decide when and where any upgrades would be carried out. County Cllr, Kathy Pollard agreed to establish these details. She advised that Suffolk County Council has changed its policy regarding the proposed pylon works in the County and now supports proposals for any undersea options. She referred to the SnOasis S106 Sproughton mitigation measures and asked if a consultation has been undertaken regarding the position of a pedestrian crossing. Cllr V.Durrant advised that at this time, no consultation has taken place but that he continues to attempt to arrange a meeting with the Sproughton Primary School headmistress and the chair of the school governors to consider the matter.

District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley advised he is no longer the Chair of the Babergh District Council Strategy Committee; he is now the vice Chairman of Babergh District Council. He advised that the combined results of the recent poll regarding the proposed merger of Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council were 50.3% against a merger. He referred to the National Grid proposed Bramford to Twinstead Tee overhead pylon connection project and advised that the proposed route is likely to be announced at the end of June 2011. He advised that Babergh District Council is due to consider the Tesco, Hadleigh application on 6th July 2011. Babergh District Council's Local Plan supports a development on the proposed site.

PC Gary Austin advised there had been five reported crimes to the end of May 2011; two reported crimes of theft and one reported burglary at Farthing Road; a reported theft of copper from a sub-station and a reported theft of a manhole cover from Church Lane. He referred to the earlier discussion of the Council regarding the van parked near to the junction of High Street and Burstall Lane, Sproughton and advised he had spoken to the driver, advising him that if he continues to park at this site, he would be issued with a fine. PC Austin suggested the Parish Council should contact Suffolk County Council Highways department to request linage at the junction. Cllr V.Durrant asked PC Austin to respond to the matters raised by Mr Kettle, of Gipping Way, Sproughton regarding vehicles parking on the footways of Gipping Way and High Street. PC Austin advised he has responded to Mr Kettle on a number of occasions and has informed him of the localised agreement between residents of High Street and the Police Authority; parking on the footways of Gipping Road is not considered to be an on-going issue. Cllr V.Durrant advised PC Austin that vans are parking on the Hadleigh Road footway, outside Mandalay House, causing pedestrians to walk in the road.

8.25pm PC Gary Austin and PCSO Ford left the meeting.

Mr J Pateman-Gee advised he was attending the meeting to observe, as he was considering putting his name forward for co-option to Sproughton Parish Council.

8.30pm The meeting was reconvened.

23 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.

24 FINANCE

(i) To Approve Payments and Budget Position

The statement of payments for May 2011 was approved.

Cllr V.Durrant queried the level of precept budgeted for Tith Barn electricity expenditure and the actual cost of consumption. The Clerk advised that the monthly direct debit amount had been recently reduced which should bring the two figures in-line. Additionally, the consumption amount includes the community shop usage which is reimbursed to the Council but not shown on the precept budget spreadsheet.

(ii) To Consider Grant Requests

There were no requests for grants.

(iii) To Agree to Transfer £106.17 from the Green Reserve Account to the Current Account

The Council agreed to transfer £106.17 from the Green Reserve Account to the Current Account.

(iv) To Agree to Transfer £100.00 from the Village of the Year Prize Fund Reserve Account to the Current Account

The Council agreed to transfer £100.00 from the Village of the Year Prize Fund Reserve Account to the Current Account.

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

This item will be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

A copy of the Internal Audit Report for 2010/2011 had been circulated to all Councillors. The Council will consider the findings at the next Parish Council meeting.

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

A report had been received from the Green Sproughton Panel and circulated to the Council.

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

A written report had been received from the Transport Panel and circulated to the Council.

Sproughton Parish Council expressed thanks to those who have undertaken to be volunteer observers for the Sproughton Lorry Watch scheme.

Cllr S.Curl advised that the Council had received notification of the forthcoming closure of the A1071/C494 junction, for re-surfacing works to be undertaken.

9.00pm County Cllr, Kathy Pollard left the meeting.

27 TO CONSIDER TITHE BARN MATTERS, INCLUDING A REVIEW OF THE HIRE CHARGES

A written report had been received from the Tithe Barn Panel and circulated to the Council.

9.10pm Mr J Pateman-Gee left the meeting.

Action: The Clerk is to circulate a copy of the Tithe Barn hire charges to the Council.

28 REQUESTS FOR MEMORIALS AT THE BURIAL GROUND AND RELATED MATTERS

There were no requests for memorials

29 TO CONSIDER THE LIST OF 'COUNCILLORS WITH SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL DUTIES'

Cllr A.Cronin agreed to take on the duties of the footpath warden. Cllr G.Moore agreed to take on the duties of the Chair of the Green Panel.

30 TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE OF S106 FUNDS HELD BY BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Council is awaiting the Babergh District Council Open Space audit, which is due shortly.

31 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 13th July 2011, at the Barley Room, Tithe Barn, Lower Street, Sproughton.

32 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr J.Kitson advised that he had attended the SALC Area Meeting on 6th June 2011.

Cllr V.Durrant advised that a member of the public had informed him that the A14/Church Lane underpass was to be closed and access would not be permitted in the future.

Cllr B.Askew advised the Sky Ride was due to place in Ipswich on 12th June 2011 and a number of roads would be closed.

Cllr B.Askew advised that he had contacted the probationary services regarding the burial ground hedge trimming. Due to health and safety issues the probationary services are no longer available to undertake the work using mechanical hedge trimmers. He advised that a section of the roadside fence had been damaged.

Cllr B.Askew informed the Council that he had been uncomfortable about the way in which the Council had been asked to consider the removal of a wheelchair from the toilet area of the Tithe Barn and the subsequent decision made by the Council to remove the wheelchair from the Tithe Barn site. The Clerk advised that if the Council wished to re-consider the matter, at least four councillors would be required to pass to her in writing, a clear motion to be included on a future Sproughton Parish Council meeting agenda, at least fourteen days before the meeting. She explained that when the agenda item came to be considered, the first action would be to rescind the previous resolution. This would have to be a unanimous agreement of the Council, if not the resolution would stand and could not be re-considered for a further six months.

Cllr S.Wood asked if there would be an opportunity to submit feedback regarding the recent Beer Festival. Cllr S.Curl advised that it was intended to hold a meeting for matters to be discussed.

Cllr S.Wood asked to view the localised agreement between residents of High Street and the Police Authority, as previously referred to by PC Gary Austin. Cllr V.Durrant advised that he understood the agreement to be a verbal understanding.

Cllr S.Wood asked if the Tithe Barn broadband is security locked and if so, if it could be unlocked and made available as a wi-fi facility to all visitors to the Barn.

Action: The Clerk is to ask SALC if there would be any rules or regulations for the Council to consider or any reasons why the Council shouldn't make broadband freely available to visitors of the Tithe Barn.

Cllr G.Moore offered her apologies as she would not be able to attend the next Sproughton Parish Council meeting.

Cllr A.Cronin advised that she had contacted the sister of the late Mr R Searle, who had accepted Cllr Cronin's offer to attend to Mr R Searle's grave.

Cllr D.Lavington advised he is liaising with Mr A Brobbin regarding the handover of the Apple Mac laptop and associated equipment. He asked Councillors to view the current Parish Council and related websites for their comments.

Cllr S.Curl advised he had received a request that there be an agenda item to make arrangements to review the job description and terms of employment of the Tithe Barn warden at the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr J.Kitson referred to the 2012 Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and asked if it could be for the Parish Council to offer the Tithe Barn as a venue for a village celebration free of charge.

Cllr V.Durrant considered that on a local level of the basis of the "Big Society", the Parish Council needs to concentrate on general issues of concern for the whole community but that there will be times when events need to be facilitated by the Parish Council. Organisation should be through a committee formed by local residents and chaired by a Council member.

Summary of Actions

27 TO CONSIDER TITHE BARN MATTERS, INCLUDING A REVIEW OF THE HIRE CHARGES

Action: The Clerk is to circulate a copy of the Tithe Barn hire charges to the Council.

32 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Action: The Clerk is to ask SALC if there would be any rules or regulations for the Council to consider or any reasons why the Council shouldn't make broadband freely available to visitors of the Tithe Barn.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

