

MINUTES OF THE SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE BARLEY ROOM, TITHE BARN, LOWER STREET, SPROUGHTON ON 11TH JULY 2012, AT 7.30PM

Councillors present:

Cllr S.Curl (Chairman), Cllr B.Askew, Cllr A.Cronin, Cllr H.Davies, Cllr D.Lavington, Cllr G.Moore

Mrs S. Frankis, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr

Mr V Durrant
2 members of the public

35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED

Cllr J.Kitson, due to holiday.
Cllr S.Wood

36 TO ACCEPT MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

37 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6TH JUNE 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2012, having been circulated to all members, were confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

38 REVIEW OF COUNCIL ACTIONS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6TH JUNE 2012

Re. minute no: 12/13 29 The Clerk advised that the Millennium Green Trust had forwarded copies of minutes from their meetings which showed the Parish Council had funded the purchase of the litter bin. However, the documents failed to establish ownership of the bin. The Council agreed to consider the matter at agenda item no: 9(ii).

7.35pm Cllr D.Lavington arrived at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned to receive a report from District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley.

District Cllr Ridley advised that the Babergh District Council Core Strategy and Policies (2011-2031) Submission Draft is in its final stage of public consultation which will end on 24th August 2012. He advised that the document includes a map of the former beet sugar site, which now covers the entire site. He advised that a meeting of County, District and Town Councils had been held to consider the national Grid Bramford to Twinstead Tee project; the Councils continue to insist that the entire route be underground. He advised that Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have completed their level 4 staffing structures.

7.40pm Cllr H.Davies arrived at the meeting.

District Cllr Ridley advised that Babergh District Council is looking to divest a number of their services, in particular the maintenance of Sproughton Churchyard to Sproughton Parish Council. Cllr S.Curl responded by stressing the fact that if services currently funded by the district council element of parishioners council tax are divested, it is highly likely that the Parish Council precept would have to be increased to cover the cost of the divested service.

Cllr B.Askew referred to the meeting of the Parish Council held on 6th June 2012 and the matter raised regarding the failure of Babergh District Council Planning Officer, Deborah Board to respond to the Parish Council and Playing Field Management Committee request for dialogue. District Cllr Ridley agreed to ask District Cllr Jones to provide an update. Cllr B.Askew advised that he had been unable to

contact Mr N.Elliott, of Babergh District Council regarding the S106 funds held. The Clerk suggested Cllr B.Askew contacted Mr M.Tavernor, of Babergh District Council.

7.55pm The meeting was reconvened.

39 TO ADOPT THE SUFFOLK CODE OF CONDUCT

Copies of the Suffolk Code of Conduct and supporting documents, as prepared through a partnership of SALC and the County, District and Borough Monitoring Officers had been circulated to the Council.

Cllr D.Lavington advised that as the register of interests for councillors must be published on the Parish Council website, he was not prepared to sign the register. Cllr D.Lavington left the meeting, leaving his position as a member of the Council unclear.

The Parish Council agreed to 'park' their obligation to adopt the Suffolk Code of Conduct, to allow discussions to be held to further understand the matter. The Council will consider the matter at the Parish Council meeting to be held on 5th September 2012.

The Clerk advised that the Council is required to adopt the Suffolk Code of Conduct with immediate effect and that it will be a criminal offence not to comply.

40 BABERGH DISTRICT CORE STRATEGY & POLICIES (2011-2031) SUBMISSION DRAFT CONSULTATION

The Council agreed to consider the Parish Council's response at a meeting to be held on 16th July 2012, 5.50pm at the Barley Room, Tithe Barn.

41 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT PANEL AND RELATED TRAFFIC MATTERS

Mr V.Durrant advised he has received notification from Suffolk County Council that there is only £1,250 remaining out of the £25k SnOasis housing development S106 money for the development of traffic mitigation measures at the High Street / Lower Street junction. He advised that works can not commence until the £50k S106 payment is forthcoming from the SnOasis housing developer; as Mid Suffolk District Council failed to include a timetable for S106 payments, with their approval of the housing development planning application, it is unclear as to when the money will be forthcoming.

Mr Durrant asked that a piece be included in the next issue of the In Touch magazine, asking for additional volunteers to come forward for the Transport panel.

Mr Durrant advised that he had received a response from the Highways Agency regarding his enquiry about the VMS (electronic signs) on the A14. He had asked who decides what messages are broadcast and by whom and had asked if the signs could be used for more localised notifications. The Highways Agency had advised that the signs are only used for high level messages at this time.

Mr Durrant advised that Suffolk County Council has agreed to install additional structural weight limit signage for Sproughton Bridge, at the Sproughton Road, A14 roundabout and at Sproughton Village Green, by the Wild Man. The Council was asked to agree to the signs being installed, once prior agreement was given by the Parish Council to the size and exact position of the proposed signs.

Mr Durrant advised that the Lorry Watch Scheme can continue as Suffolk County Council has agreed to provide administration support for Mr P. Canfer, of Suffolk County Council Trading Standards. He advised that Sproughton Lorry Watch volunteers will be undertaking a study of the traffic flows coming off the A12 through Washbrook and a Lorry Watch day.

42 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.

Cllr S.Curl advised that a meeting of the SnOasis Community Alliance Group had been held on 26th May 2012. It is the view of the Alliance that whilst it is unlikely that the SnOasis leisure development will be forthcoming, it is expected that an alternative development will come forward. The Alliance has asked members to consult with their councils, to consider how they would like to see the site developed. The Parish Council agreed to consider the matter at the planning committee meeting to be held on 5th September 2012.

8.30pm Mr V.Durrant left the meeting.

- 43 FINANCE
 (i) To Approve Payments and Budget Position
 The statements of payments for May 2012 and June 2012 were approved.
 (ii) To Consider Requests for Grants
 Cllr S.Curl declared an interest and duly signed the register.
 Cllr S.Curl stepped down as chairman of the meeting; the meeting was chaired by Cllr G.Moore.
 The Millennium Green Trust had forwarded copies of minutes from their meetings which showed the Parish Council had funded the purchase of a litter bin. However, the documents failed to establish ownership of the bin. The Council agreed to award a grant of up to £200.00 for the purchase of a replacement litter bin at the Millennium Green.
 Cllr S.Curl re-took the chair.
Action: The Clerk is to advise the Millennium Green Trust of the Parish Councils decision.
 (iii) To Consider Arrangements to Carry Out the Quarterly Credit Card Audit
 Cllr G. Moore agreed to carry out the quarterly credit card audit.
Action: Cllr G.Moore is to carry out the quarterly credit card audit.
 (iv) To Transfer £1,445.67 from the 2011/2012 General Fund to the General Reserve Fund
 The Council agreed to transfer £1,445.67 from the 2011/2012 general fund to the general reserve fund.
- 44 TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR MEMORIALS AT THE BURIAL GROUND AND RELATED MATTERS, INCLUDING A REVIEW OF THE BURIAL CHARGES
 There were no requests to consider.
- 45 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE TITHE BARN PANEL AND RELATED MATTERS
 No written report had been received from the Tithe Barn Panel.
 Cllr S.Curl advised that the Tithe Barn fire panel has now been relocated to the walkway. He advised that Cllr J.Kitson has prepared a Tithe Barn Handbook for adoption by the Parish Council at a future meeting. He advised that Cllr J.Kitson is currently updating the Tithe Barn Fire Risk Assessment. Cllr S.Curl advised that further works are to be undertaken to achieve satisfactory noise levels of amplified music.
- 46 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE 'GREEN' SPROUGHTON PANEL
 No written report had been received from the Green Panel.
- 47 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE PLAYING FIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PARISH COUNCIL TRUSTEES
 No written report had been received from the Playing Field Management Committee Parish Council Trustees.
- 48 TO AGREE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR REPAIR WORKS AT THE CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA
 Re. minute no: 12/13 31. Cllr G.Moore and the Clerk had met with a representative of Playground Supplies Ltd. to ensure clarity of the works to be undertaken. During the meeting, it was proposed that the rubber edging of the wet pour surfaces should be replaced with yellow rubber; yellow edging would enable those with poor sight to distinguish the edge of the surface. The Council agreed that yellow edging should be installed and agreed to the additional expenditure of £195.00.
 Cllr G.Moore advised that Mike Herbert Ltd. is to repair and replace the timber benches at the children's play area and that new information signs are to be erected.
- 49 TO RECEIVE NOTICE TO ADOPT REVISED SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS
 The Council received notice that revised Parish Council Financial Regulations will be adopted at the Parish Council meeting to be held on 5th September 2012.

50 HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2012

The Council agreed that the Tithe Barn would be opened on Friday, 7th September 2012, from 13:00 to 16:00.

Action: Cllr S.Curl is to complete the online registration form.

51 TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE RE. SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE(S)

This matter was deferred.

52 TO AGREE TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF FIDELITY INSURANCE COVER

The Clerk advised that the current level of fidelity insurance was insufficient to cover the amount of funds held at the Parish Council bank accounts. The Council agreed to increase the level of fidelity insurance to £150k.

Action: The Clerk is to arrange for the level of fidelity insurance to be increased to £150k.

53 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 5th September 2012, at the Barley Room, Tithe Barn, Lower Street, Sproughton.

54 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr H.Davies asked if work had begun at the proposed traveller site, Bramford.

Action: The Clerk is to request any development milestones and dates from Mid Suffolk District Council.

Cllr A.Cronin advised she had received a report that the footpath along High Street is overgrown. She agreed to ascertain the footpath number and to notify the Clerk

Cllr A.Cronin advised that the Lower Street footpath, opposite the Tithe Barn, is overgrown. She agreed to ask the workmen, working at Church Close, if they would clear the overgrowth.

The Clerk advised that Zumba would commence at the Tithe Barn on 20th September 2012, for a trial period of 8 weeks, at £3.00 per session.

Summary of Actions

43 FINANCE

(ii) To Consider Requests for Grants

Action: The Clerk is to advise the Millennium Green Trust of the Parish Councils decision.

(iii) To Consider Arrangements to Carry Out the Quarterly Credit Card Audit

Action: Cllr G.Moore is to carry out the quarterly credit card audit.

50 HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2012

Action: Cllr S.Curl is to complete the online registration form.

52 TO AGREE TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF FIDELITY INSURANCE COVER

Action: The Clerk is to arrange for the level of fidelity insurance to be increased to £150k.

54 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Action: The Clerk is to request any development milestones and dates from Mid Suffolk District Council.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm

Chairman : _____

Date: _____

