

MINUTES OF THE SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE BARLEY ROOM, TITHE BARN, LOWER STREET, SPROUGHTON ON 10TH OCTOBER 2012, AT 7.30PM

Councillors present:

Cllr S.Curl (Chairman), Cllr B.Askew, Cllr A.Cronin, Cllr H.Davies, Cllr J.Kitson, Cllr G.Moore, Cllr S.Wood

Mrs S. Frankis, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Kathy Pollard, County Cllr

Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr

Peter Jones, District Cllr

Mr C. Harris

75 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED

Mr V. Durrant

76 TO ACCEPT MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

77 CONSIDERATION FOR DISPENSATIONS FOR A PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no dispensations to consider.

78 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5TH SEPTEMBER 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2012, having been circulated to all members, were confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

79 REVIEW OF COUNCIL ACTIONS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5TH SEPTEMBER 2012

Re. minute no: 12/13 64 (vii) Cllr J.Kitson advised that whilst the Parish Council insurance policy is supposed to have an automatic uplift of values insured, no increase has been applied to the policy by the insurer for the year 2012/2013. He advised that a review of the values insured for should be undertaken or a 3%-4% uplift applied to the current values.

Re. minute no: 12/13 74 The Clerk advised that a Land Registry search has shown that the footpath leading to/from Sproughton Court and Ransome Close is within the curtilage of 58 Sproughton Court.

7.38pm The meeting was adjourned to receive a report from County Cllr, Kathy Pollard and District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley.

County Cllr, Kathy Pollard had circulated a report to the Council prior to the meeting. She advised that she had been contacted by a Sproughton parishioner, whose daughter had been refused a bus pass for the Suffolk One bus and who was concerned for her daughter's safety now that she has to walk along Church Lane and through the A14 underpass to reach the college. Cllr Pollard advised that she had contacted the school transport appeals department and had been concerned to learn that personal safety is not taken into account when issuing school transport permits. Cllr Pollard is to pursue the matter. Mr C.Harris suggested that Suffolk One S106 money could be used for the development of a footpath from Rivers Farm, High Street, Sproughton to the Sproughton Beagle. He asked that the Transport Panel be permitted to again approach the Red House Trust to pursue the matter and to perhaps link their findings with Cllr Pollard's investigations. The Council agreed that the Transport Panel should pursue the matter. District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley advised that National Grid is due to release details of the definitive route for the Bramford to Twinstead Tee project and how much of the route will be undergrounded, at the end of October 2012. He referred to the proposed installation of wind turbines between Pinewood, Bealstead and Wherstead; he advised that attempts are being made to persuade Ipswich Borough Council to withdraw the planning application. He advised that Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council are at the end stages of integrating staff. He advised that Government is to offer principle

authorities a 1% increase on their council tax bills if they do not increase their council tax charges. Government has announced that if principle authorities increase their council tax bills above 2% they will be required to hold a referendum.

Cllr J.Kitson asked for clarification regarding the changes to the payment of council tax benefits by principle authorities and the possibility of any deficits having to be found from general funds, leading to an increase in council tax bills. Cllr Ridley confirmed that if a principle authority finds itself with a budget shortfall, deficits will have to be met by an increase to council tax bills.

8.00pm The meeting was reconvened.

80 TO GIVE NOTICE OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Parish Council declared a vacancy for a parish councillor following the resignation of Cllr D.Lavington. The Council recorded it's thanks to Cllr D.Lavington for the work he had undertaken on behalf of Sproughton Parish Council.

Action: The Clerk is to notify Babergh District Council of Cllr D.Lavington's resignation.

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

No written report was received.

Mr Harris explained that the Suffolk County Council Lorry Watch scheme has now been suspended for over two months; the suspension has been driven by an auditor's opinion that information retrieved from the D.V.L.A. could be misused. County Cllr Pollard agreed to look into the matter. Mr Harris advised that correspondence has been received regarding a feasibility study to be undertaken of structural works to Sproughton bridge. He advised that the Parish Council will be given the opportunity to submit suggestions and concerns as part of the study. Mr Harris advised that advanced weight limit warning signs for Sproughton bridge are to be installed along the B1113 and Sproughton Road. He asked that the Transport Panel page on the Sproughton Parish Council website be updated. Cllr S.Curl advised that the Council is in the process of transferring the administration of the website. Mr Harris presented a detailed presentation of the proposed Great Blakenham residential S106 Sproughton mitigation measures. The Council studied plans which showed a proposed pedestrian crossing at the Wild Man junction. Mr Harris explained the Council could either accept the proposal or, if additional funding could be secured and a delay is permitted, further studies could be undertaken. The Parish Council agreed in principle to the proposed speed restrictions and the 'build-outs'; they agreed that the issue of providing a facility for pedestrians to cross High Street should be considered once further information and costings have been obtained.

8.50pm County Cllr Kathy Pollard and Mr C.Harris left the meeting.

82 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.

83 FINANCE

(i) To Approve Payments and Budget Position

The statement of payments for September 2012 was approved.

(ii) To Consider Requests for Grants

There were two requests to consider.

Folk in the Barn is holding a Medieval Christmas at the Tithe Barn on 7th December 2012. The group that performs the show is to present a matinee performance to the children of Sproughton primary school. The Parish Council agreed to waive the Tithe Barn hiring charge on the afternoon of 7th December 2012.

A request for a grant had been received from Sproughton Senior Citizens' Club. The Council agreed to award a grant of £200.00 to the Sproughton Senior Citizens' Club.

Action: The Clerk is to forward a cheque for £200.00 to the Sproughton Senior Citizens' Club.

(iii) To Agree to Transfer £801.14 from the General Reserve Account to an Election Costs Reserve Account

The Council unanimously agreed to transfer £801.14 from the general reserve account to an election costs reserve account.

(iv) To Consider the Draft 2013/2014 Budget and Precept

A draft of the 2013/2014 precept and budget had been circulated to the Council. The Council will agree the proposed precept and budget at the next Parish Council meeting.

(v) To Agree to Combine the Tithe Barn Development Reserve Accounts

The Council agreed to combine the Tithe Barn, Tithe Barn - bar and Tithe Barn Development reserve accounts and to ringfence the funds; the combined funds will be identified as the Tithe Barn maintenance and development reserve account.

84 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.

85 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE TITHE BARN PANEL AND RELATED MATTERS, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF THE CUSTODIAN FIRE ALARM MONITORING PROVIDER.

A written report had been received from the Tithe Barn Panel.

The Council agreed to seek tenders from AJ Cook Builders, S.J. Whinney Construction Ltd and Moore 2 It Maintenance for the refurbishment of the Tithe Barn toilet and access areas. The contractors will be invited to return their tenders within three weeks with the intention of works being carried out early in the new year.

Action: The Clerk is to invite AJ Cook Builders, S.J. Whinney Construction Ltd and Moore 2 It Maintenance to submit tenders for the works to be undertaken to the Tithe Barn toilet and access areas.

Cllr J.Kitson advised that the Tithe Barn fire alarm system is currently monitored by Firesite. He advised that due to a recent incident, it may be prudent to transfer the monitoring to an alternative provider. The Council agreed to transfer the monitoring of the Tithe Barn fire alarm system to Eastern Fire Ltd.

Action: The Clerk is to arrange to transfer the monitoring of the Tithe Barn fire alarm from Firesite to Eastern Fire Ltd.

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

No written report had been received from the Green Panel.

87 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE ALLOTMENT GARDENS

Cllr S.Wood advised that a number of allotment garden holders had raised concerns regarding the unkempt state of some plots and the effects these were having on their own plots. He advised that a number of allotment garden holders had requested that a replacement gate, at the Burstall Lane entrance to the gardens, be installed but further back from the existing gate.

88 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 7th November 2012, at the Barley Room, Tithe Barn, Lower Street, Sproughton.

89 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr A.Cronin advised that a large amount of rubbish has been left at the Hadleigh Road side of Church Lane, Sproughton.

Action: The Clerk is to notify Babergh District Council Environmental department.

Cllr S.Wood advised that he had received concerns from a resident of Nine Acres, Sproughton regarding the road safety crossing at Hadleigh Road to Chantry Park.

Action: The Clerk is to write to Ipswich Borough Council.

Cllr H.Davies advised that she is to attend a website training course at SALC, on 6th November 2012.

Summary of Actions

80 TO GIVE NOTICE OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Action: The Clerk is to notify Babergh District Council of Cllr D.Lavington's resignation.

83 FINANCE

(ii) To Consider Requests for Grants

Action: The Clerk is to forward a cheque for £200.00 to the Sproughton Senior Citizens' Club.

85 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE TITHE BARN PANEL AND RELATED MATTERS

Action: The Clerk is to invite AJ Cook Builders, S.J. Whinney Construction Ltd and Moore 2 It Maintenance to submit tenders for the works to be undertaken to the Tithe Barn toilet and access areas.

Action: The Clerk is to arrange to transfer the monitoring of the Tithe Barn fire alarm from Firesite to Eastern Fire Ltd.

89 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Action: The Clerk is to notify Babergh District Council Environmental department.

Action: The Clerk is to write to Ipswich Borough Council.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chairman : _____

Date: _____