

MINUTES OF THE SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE BARLEY ROOM, TITHE BARN, LOWER STREET, SPROUGHTON ON 7TH NOVEMBER 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

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

Mr V.Durrant

90 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED

Cllr S.Wood
Kathy Pollard, County Cllr

91 TO ACCEPT MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

92 CONSIDERATION FOR DISPENSATIONS FOR A PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no dispensations to consider.

93 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH OCTOBER 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2012, having been circulated to all members, were confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

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

Re. minute no: 12/13 85 The Clerk advised that the transfer of the Tithe Barn fire alarm monitoring provider could not be performed at this time, as one months notice must be given before the commencement of the next annual contract and this opportunity had passed. She advised that she had diarised the matter to be dealt with in 2013.

7.35pm The meeting was adjourned to receive a report from District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley and District Cllr, Peter Jones.

District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley referred to the letter sent by Sproughton Parish Council, to District Cllr, Peter Jones and himself, regarding the presentation by Mr Knowles, of Building Partnerships, to the Parish Council at the Planning Committee meeting held on 24th October 2012; he offered to discuss the matter rather than responding by letter. He advised that no decision has been made regarding the Bramford to Twinstead Tee pylon route. He advised it will be likely that Babergh District Council will accept Central Governments payment of £50,000 to enable the District Council to balance their council tax budget with a nil% increase. He advised that the refurbished Hadleigh Leisure Centre is now open.

District Cllr, Peter Jones advised that the Babergh District Core Strategy has been accepted by the Council and has been put forward to the Inspectorate. Babergh District Council has made no variations to the document regardless of approximately two hundred submissions having been made following the last public consultation period.

7.50pm The meeting was reconvened.

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

No written report was received.

Mr V.Durrant advised that County Cllr, Kathy Pollard is hoping to make available £11,000 from her locality budget for additional design works for the Sproughton Mitigation Measures. Mr V.Durrant has

asked Mr Andrew Pearce, of Suffolk County Council, for an indication of what would be achieved with the additional spend; to date Mr Pearce has made no response. Mr V.Durrant advised that he has spoken to Mr Phillip Summers, the agent for the Red House Trust, and County Cllr, Kathy Pollard regarding the possibility of a footpath being installed from Rivers Farm, High Street, Sproughton to The Beagle. Mr Summers had expressed his dissatisfaction with Sproughton Parish Council as the Council was unable to agree to support his proposal to apply for a variation to his planning application for the development at Rivers Farm, in exchange for the installation of a footpath. Mr Summers had indicated that he would be willing to enter negotiations to 'provide only' the land for a footpath. Mr V.Durrant is to ask County Cllr, Kathy Pollard if the Suffolk ONE S106 funds would be available to fund the project. Mr V.Durrant advised that he continues to pursue Mr Steve Merry, of Suffolk County Council for the installation of the pre-warning, weight restriction signage for Sproughton bridge. Mr V.Durrant advised that he had received an email from PCSO Melissa Cohen, regarding a complaint received from a Sproughton resident regarding traffic speeding along High Street, Sproughton and the subsequent damage caused to parked vehicles. Mr V.Durrant had offered to address the matter with the resident but to date had been unable to contact her. Re. min. no: 12/13 89 Mr V.Durrant advised it is his understanding that it would be extremely unlikely a pedestrian crossing would be installed at Hadleigh Road to Chantry Park. He advised that at his request, PCSO Cohen now monitors the speed of vehicles in the area. He advised that he has previously raised the matter with Pc Gary Austin and County Cllr, Kathy Pollard. Mr V.Durrant advised that the Lorry Watch Scheme now continues.

8.05pm Mr V.Durrant left the meeting.

96 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.

District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley referred to the letter sent by Sproughton Parish Council, to District Cllr, Peter Jones and himself, regarding the presentation by Mr Knowles, of Building Partnerships. He asked under what circumstances the Parish Council had thought that Mr Knowles was working on behalf of Babergh District Council? The Clerk advised that she had been contacted by Mr Knowles of Building Partnerships, with a request that he be permitted to make a presentation to the Parish Council. He had advised that he was working with Babergh District Council to formulate the core strategy policy for the development of land near Poplar Lane, Sproughton; he had made no indication to the Clerk that Building Partnerships was the developer with an option to develop the site. District Cllr Nicholas Ridley advised that it was not unusual for a district council to consult with a developer or land owner when developing a core strategy policy. Cllr J.Kitson advised that when Mr Knowles had attended the Babergh District Workshop, 19th March 2012, to consider the proposed development of the Poplar Lane, Sproughton area, Mr Knowles' position had not been known, and it had been assumed that he had been part of the Babergh District Council team; his anonymous presence could have had a bearing on the discussions that had taken place at the workshop. District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley assured the Parish Council that a developer would not have the sanction of Babergh District Council to make representations regarding a proposed development. The Parish Council requested that its concerns be raised with Babergh District Council. District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley agreed to ask Mr Rich Cooke, of Babergh District Council to respond to the Parish Council.

97 FINANCE

(i) To Approve Payments and Budget Position

The statement of payments for October 2012 was approved.

(ii) To Consider Requests for Grants

The Clerk advised that she had been asked, by a parishioner, if the Parish Council would be offering a donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal this year. The Council unanimously agreed to offer a donation of £50.00 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Action: The Clerk is to forward a cheque for £50.00 to the Royal British Legion.

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

The Parish Council had recently received a NALC Executive Briefing which advised that no precept should be formally approved until after the publication of the Draft Report by Central Government,

expected early December 2012. The Briefing also advised that councils should wait until the tax base figures have been issued by the Billing Authorities on 1st December 2012. Subsequently the formal setting of Precept can not be ratified until January 2013.

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

The Council agreed to ringfence the Burial Ground Reserve and Tithe Barn Thatch funds.

98 TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR MEMORIALS AT THE BURIAL GROUND AND RELATED MATTERS, INCLUDING A REVIEW OF THE BURIAL CHARGES

The request for a memorial to be erected in memory of the late Susan Diane Washford was granted.

99 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 invitations to submit tenders for the refurbishment of the Tithe Barn toilet and access areas had been sent to three contractors. No tenders had been returned; one contractor had not realised there was a submission deadline, one contractor had never received the invitation and the third contractor has not been contactable.

Cllr S.Curl advised that the Tithe Barn electricity contract with E.on terminates on 25th January 2013. If the Council wishes to switch providers, without penalty, E.on must be notified by 13th November 2012. Cllr S.Curl advised that he has contacted 'U-Switch for Business' who has provided details of alternative energy providers whereby savings could be made of up to £700.00 per annum. The Council agreed to notify E.on that the Council is minded to enter a contract with an alternative energy provider and will not renew the existing E.on contract.

Cllr S.Curl advised that he had received a report of water backing up in the Tithe Barn courtyard drain. The Council agreed that costs should be sought for a camera survey of the drain to be undertaken.

Action: The Clerk is to seek costs for a camera survey of the Tithe Barn courtyard drain to be undertaken.

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

No written report had been received from the Green Panel.

101 PARISH COUNCIL AND TITHE BARN INSURANCE

Cllr J.Kitson advised that the 2012 Risk Management Audit had raised a number of questions about the Council's insurance arrangements. To address the matter, Cllr J.Kitson and the Clerk undertook a review of the Council's insurance arrangements during October 2012 and obtained specialist advice / assistance from the Insurance Manager of Suffolk ACRE who arrange the insurances. A report of the Findings of the review had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting. A supplementary report with details of the Policy Covers is to be circulated to the Council for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

102 TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR

Following the fiasco caused by Heelis & Lodge with the March 2012 year end accounts and the Audit Return, the Clerk asked the Council to consider the appointment of SALC as the internal auditor for SproUGHTON Parish Council. The Council unanimously agreed to appoint SALC as the internal auditor for SproUGHTON Parish Council

103 TO AGREE EXPENDITURE FOR A REPLACEMENT GATE AT THE ALLOTMENT GARDENS

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

104 CHURCH LANE / A14 UNDERPASS

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

105 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 12th December 2012, at the Barley Room, Tithe Barn, Lower Street, SproUGHTON.

106 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr H.Davies advised that she had attended a website management training course at SALC. She asked Council members to consider suggestions for alterations to the website.

Cllr B.Askew advised that the Playing Field Management Committee has approached Babergh District Council for S106 funds, in order to purchase adult exercise equipment.

The Clerk advised that, following the resignation of Cllr D.Lavington, no election is to be called and that Babergh District Council has notified Sproughton Parish Council the vacancy can be filled by co-option.

Summary of Actions

97 FINANCE

(ii) To Consider Requests for Grants

Action: The Clerk is to forward a cheque for £50.00 to the Royal British Legion.

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

Action: The Clerk is to seek costs for a camera survey of the Tithe Barn courtyard drain to be undertaken.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman : _____

Date: _____