

MINUTES OF THE SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE BARLEY ROOM, TITHE BARN, LOWER STREET, SPROUGHTON ON 12TH DECEMBER 2012, AT 7.30PM

Councillors present:

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

Mrs S. Frankis, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Kathy Pollard, County Cllr
Peter Jones, District Cllr
PCSO Melissa Cohen
Mr V.Durrant

- 107 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED
Cllr H.Davies, absence due to personal commitments.
Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr
- 108 TO ACCEPT MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST
No declarations of interest were received.
- 109 TO DELEGATE THE FUNCTION OF GRANTING DISPENSATION REQUESTS TO THE CLERK, THE PROPER OFFICER OF THE COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO S.101(1) OF THE 1972 ACT
The Council unanimously agreed to delegate the function of granting dispensation requests to the Clerk, the Proper Officer of Sproughton Parish Council, pursuant to S.101(1) of the 1972 Act.
- 110 CONSIDERATION FOR DISPENSATIONS FOR A PECUNIARY INTEREST
All members present applied for a dispensation in order to consider the 2013/2014 precept. The Clerk granted the applications. Completed dispensation request forms were received by the Clerk from Cllr B.Askew, Cllr A.Cronin, Cllr S.Curl, Cllr J.Kitson and Cllr S.Wood.
- 111 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7TH NOVEMBER 2012
The minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2012, having been circulated to all members, were confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 112 REVIEW OF COUNCIL ACTIONS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7TH NOVEMBER 2012
Re. minute no: 12/13 99 Due to the potential urgency of the matter, the Clerk had engaged the services of Blockagebegone, who had undertaken a survey of the Tithe Barn courtyard drain, at a cost of £70.00. The result of the survey had shown that drainage water is carried to a soakaway at a nearby property. The Clerk is to obtain a report and CCTV records of the investigation from Blockagebegone. The Tithe Barn Panel is to consider possible necessary actions required to prevent the drains from becoming blocked.
Action: The Clerk is to obtain a report and CCTV records of the investigation from Blockagebegone.
- 7.40pm The meeting was adjourned to receive a report from County Cllr, Kathy Pollard, District Cllr, Peter Jones and PCSO Cohen.
PCSO Cohen advised that PC Gary Austin has been moved on and it is likely that following his current assignment, he will leave the Babergh District Council area; PC Tyrell 379 has replaced Pc Austin. Cllr S.Curl expressed regret, on behalf of the Parish Council, regarding PC Gary Austin's removal from post. He stated that PC Austin was a valued and important member of the community and that it was poor practice for such a member to be removed with no prior notice or warning. He asked PCSO Cohen to convey these considerations to her Police Chief Constable.
Action: The Clerk is to send a message of goodwill to PC Gary Austin.
PCSO Cohen presented a comprehensive report of crimes reported during November 2012;

1st November 2012 Burstall Lane, Sproughton - assault

2nd November 2012 Sproughton Road, Sproughton - theft of a motor vehicle

3rd/4th November 2012 Church Crescent, Sproughton - interference with a motor vehicle

6th November 2012 Hadleigh Road, Sproughton - burglary from other building

17th November 2012 Church Lane, Sproughton - possession of Class b drugs and driving whilst unfit

20th/21st November 2012 - theft of a broken down vehicle from the A14

26th/27th November 2012 - Church Lane, Sproughton - burglary from other building

PCSO Cohen highlighted an increase in the number of thefts from insecure motor vehicles whilst parked at owner's properties, especially in the Elton Park area. She explained that these crimes are not shown on the Sproughton crime report as they are included in the report for Ipswich. Cllr S.Curl requested that, as these properties are within the parish boundaries of Sproughton, they be included within the Sproughton crime report.

PCSO Cohen asked if the Parish Council had considered joining the Community Speed Watch scheme.

Mr V.Durrant explained that the Council had previously looked into the scheme.

PCSO Cohen advised that an unlocked barrier had been installed at the Anglian Water site, Church Lane, Sproughton, with the proviso that it may be locked, if necessary, in the future. She advised that she had arranged for the Church Lane / A14 underpass to be cleared of graffiti however Suffolk County Council Highways dept. will only erase offensive material. She asked for the Council's view regarding the possibility of local residents and the primary school being involved in a project to paint controlled positive art on the walls of the underpass. The Council agreed that such a project could only improve the area.

8.10pm PCSO Cohen left the meeting.

County Cllr, Kathy Pollard advised that budget savings have to be made but that the specific areas of savings have yet to be identified. She advised that County Farms are to be retained but as they become available for re-letting, young people are to be encouraged to take them on. She advised that the highways contracts are to be let to Balfour Beatty. She advised that the Scrutiny Committee had upheld concerns regarding the concessionary fares issue but that the County Council continues to maintain the revised usage restrictions. She advised that the Park & Ride scheme will be free to use on Saturday 15th December 2012 and 22nd December 2012.

Re. minute no: 12/13 95 Mr V.Durrant asked if County Cllr, Kathy Pollard had been able to establish if £11k of funding would be available from her Quality of Life budget for additional design works for the Sproughton Mitigation Measures and if Suffolk ONE S106 funds would be available for the installation of a footpath from Rivers Farm, High Street, Sproughton to The Beagle. She agreed to look into the matter.

District Cllr, Peter Jones advised that the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council integration of level 5 staff had commenced; the process would lead to staff redundancies and losses. He advised that Babergh District Council is aiming for a 0% increase in the 2013/2014 Council Tax but that they need to save £1.4m at the same time.

8.20pm The meeting was reconvened.

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

No written report was received.

Mr V.Durrant advised that he is aiming to arrange a meeting on 8th January 2013 with Mr Andrew Pearce, of Suffolk County Council to discuss the Sproughton Mitigation Measures and the viability of a pedestrian crossing at the Lower Street / High Street, Sproughton junction. He advised that he has an ongoing exchange of emails with Babergh District Council regarding the Babergh District Council Core Strategy consultation. He considers it implausible that when only 26 respondents made submissions to the consultation, Babergh District Council could not feedback to those respondents individually.

114 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.

115 FINANCE

(i) To Approve Payments and Budget Position

The statement of payments for November 2012 was approved.

The Council expressed its thanks to those allotment holders who undertook the extension of the water pipe works at the Sproughton Allotment Gardens.

8.30pm County Cllr, Kathy Pollard left the meeting.

The Clerk advised that the Tithe Barn water usage has increased and that the Council had under-budgeted for the annual cost of the water rates.

Action: The Clerk is to check the Tithe Barn water usage.

(ii) To Consider Requests for Grants

A request for a grant had been received from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS). The Council agreed to establish if there are SARS volunteer workers work in the IP8 area.

Action: The Clerk is to establish if there are SARS volunteer workers work in the IP8 area.

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

The Parish Council continues to await the publication of the Draft Report by Central Government, expected early December 2012 and notification from Babergh District Council regarding the tax base figures, expected on 1st December 2012, in order to formally approve the precept. Consequently the formal setting of Precept can not be ratified until January 2013.

(iv) To Agree to Carry Out the Quarterly Credit Card Payments Audit

Cllr S.Wood agreed to carry out the quarterly credit card payments audit.

Action: Cllr S.Wood is to carry out the quarterly credit card payments audit.

(v) To Agree to Carry Out the Mid Year Parish Council Accounts Ledger Audit

Cllr B.Askew and Cllr G.Moore agreed to carry out the mid year Parish Council accounts ledger audit in the New Year.

Action: Cllr B.Askew and Cllr G.Moore are to carry out the mid year Parish Council accounts ledger audit.

116 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.

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

No written report had been received from the Tithe Barn Panel.

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

No written report had been received from the Green Panel.

119 TO AGREE REVISED INSURANCE SCHEDULES FOR PARISH COUNCIL AND TITHE BARN INSURANCE, INCLUDING REVISED SUMS ASSURED

Cllr J.Kitson agreed to draft a renewal schedule, including revised sums assured, for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

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

Cllr S.Wood advised that it is necessary to replace the access gate to the Sproughton allotment gardens, at Burstall Lane, Sproughton. He advised that the allotment holders had requested the gate be relocated back from its current position with a splay to allow vehicular access. The Council unanimously agreed to a maximum expenditure of £350.00 to replace the gate as it is; if the allotment holders insist that a replacement gate be relocated, a drawn plan will be required in order that the Parish Council can consider the matter in detail and any necessary permissions sought.

8.55pm Mr V.Durrant left the meeting.

- 121 CHURCH LANE / A14 UNDERPASS
The Council formally agreed to the principle of the Church Lane / A14 underpass being environmentally improved as per the intentions of the project that PCSO Cohen described earlier in the meeting.
- 122 COMMUNITY FUN DAY
Cllr S.Curl advised that Rev. Annette Shannon has called together representatives of Sproughton village organisations to consider presenting a 2013 community fun day. The Council agreed that it would support the principle.
- 123 TO AGREE TO CHANGE THE DATE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 6TH FEBRUARY 2013 TO 13TH FEBRUARY 2013
The Council agreed to change the date of the Parish Council meeting scheduled for 6th February 2013 to 13th February 2013.
- 124 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 9th January 2013, at the Barley Room, Tithe Barn, Lower Street, Sproughton.
- 125 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS
Cllr B.Askew advised he has received notification that the Community Payback Scheme has introduced charges for their services.
Cllr B.Askew advised he has carried out a visual inspection of the Sproughton Parish Council streetlights. He considers the job should be carried out by properly qualified engineers with specialist equipment.
Action: The Clerk is to establish what maintenance inspections are currently included in the annual fee paid to Suffolk County Council and the cost of a full inspection.
Cllr S.Wood advised he has been made aware that staff from the Sproughton Jigsaw pre-school are obstructing Church Lane, Sproughton properties with their parked vehicles.
Cllr S.Curl advised that the Parish Council has received notification from the Tithe Barn Carpet Bowls Club that they will no longer be hiring the Tithe Barn, as they will be relocating to Sproughton Church Hall; the loss will be over £900.00 per annum of income revenue to the Parish Council.

Summary of Actions

Action: The Clerk is to send a message of goodwill to PC Gary Austin.

112 REVIEW OF COUNCIL ACTIONS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7TH NOVEMBER 2012

Action: The Clerk is to obtain a report and CCTV records of the investigation from Blockagebegone.

115 FINANCE

(i) To Approve Payments and Budget Position

Action: The Clerk is to check the Tithe Barn water usage.

(ii) To Consider Requests for Grants

Action: The Clerk is to establish if there are SARS volunteer workers in the IP8 area.

(iv) To Agree to Carry out the Quarterly Credit Card Payments Audit

Action: Cllr S.Wood is to carry out the quarterly credit card payments audit.

(v) To Agree to Carry Out the Mid Year Parish Council Accounts Ledger Audit

Action: Cllr B.Askew and Cllr G.Moore are to carry out the mid year Parish Council accounts ledger audit.

125 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Action: The Clerk is to establish what maintenance inspections are currently included in the annual fee paid to Suffolk County Council and the cost of a full inspection.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman : _____

Date: _____