

MINUTES OF THE SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE BARLEY ROOM, TITHE BARN, LOWER STREET, SPROUGHTON ON 9TH JANUARY 2013, 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

Peter Jones, District Cllr

Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr

Pc 379 Tyrell and colleague

Mr V.Durrant

126 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED

PCSO Cohen

127 TO ACCEPT MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

128 CONSIDERATION FOR DISPENSATIONS FOR A PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr H.Davies applied for a dispensation in order to consider the 2013/2014 precept. The Clerk granted the application. A completed dispensation request form was received by the Clerk from Cllr H.Davies. The Clerk reminded Cllr G.Moore that she had not returned her completed dispensation form, as granted at the Parish Council meeting held on 12th December 2012.

129 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH DECEMBER 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2012, having been circulated to all members, were confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

130 REVIEW OF COUNCIL ACTIONS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH DECEMBER 2012

Re. minute no: 12/13 112 The Clerk advised there were no CCTV records available from the survey of the Tithe Barn courtyard drain, recently undertaken. The advice received from Blockagebegone, the contractor who had undertaken the survey, was that an additional soakaway should be installed.

Re. minute no: 12/13 115(i) The Clerk had researched the Tithe Barn water usage; the results showed a considerable increase in usage over the last twelve months.

Action: The Tithe Barn Panel is to consider the increase in water usage.

Action: The Clerk is to request Anglian Water check the accuracy of the Tithe Barn water meter.

7.40pm Pc 379 Tyrell and colleague arrived at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned to receive a report from Kathy Pollard, County Cllr, Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr, Peter Jones, District Cllr and Pc 379 Tyrell.

A written report had been received from Kathy Pollard, County Cllr and circulated to the Council prior to the meeting.

Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr advised that the Babergh District Council 2013/2014 budget is to go to the Strategy Committee next week. A balanced budget has been achieved by accepting the Governments grant offer. He advised that a public exhibition regarding the proposed wind turbine development is to be held at the Belstead Brook Hotel on 28th January 2013. He referred to the National Grid proposed Bramford to Twinstead Tee pylon route and advised that 'route 2A' could be re-introduced for

consideration. He advised that the Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council planning policies continue to be integrated.

Pc 379 Tyrell advised there had been ten reported crimes in Sproughton, during December 2012.

3rd/5th December 2012 Hadleigh Road - burglary of metal theft

7th December 2012 Hadleigh Road - theft from a motor vehicle

13th December 2012 Church Lane - burglary

22nd/23rd December 2012 High Street - criminal damage to a motor vehicle

22nd/23rd December 2012 High Street - criminal damage to a motor vehicle

24th December 2012 Farthing Road - theft

24th December 2012 A14, Sproughton - causing danger to road users

25th December 2012 - A14, Sproughton - driving a vehicle with excess alcohol

26th December 2012 Burstall Lane - theft of hay

29th December 2012 Hadleigh Road - in charge of a motor vehicle with excess alcohol

Pc Tyrell advised that following the fatal road accident at Sproughton, on 24th December 2012, horses had been removed from the former beet sugar site on 26th December 2012. Cllr S.Curl asked under what power the removal had been authorised. Pc Tyrell advised that at the request of the landowners for the horses to be removed, a notice had been served to the horse owners; this was prior to the accident and the removal had to have been by 2nd January 2013. Pc Tyrell advised that under S.155 of the Highways Act 1980, the Police Authority were able to bring forward the date for removal of the horses. Cllr A.Cronin expressed strong concerns that reports had been submitted to the Police Authority and the RSPCA on numerous occasions, prior to 24th December 2012, regarding the welfare of the horses and the safety of road users and walkers, yet it appeared that no action had been taken by either organisation. Cllr A.Cronin advised that she had reported horses from the former sugar beet site had escaped the site, to the Police Authority, at 4.15pm on 24th December 2012.

Cllr S.Curl asked if the increase in the number of reported crimes for December 2012 was acceptable. Pc Tyrell's colleague advised that crime increase is expected during December, especially in rural areas.

Cllr G.Moore asked for confirmation that the Police Authority was only able to get involved with the removal of the horses, kept at the former beet sugar site, once the animals had moved onto the highway.

Pc Tyrell confirmed that under S.155 of the Highways Act 1980, the Police Authority had the power to become involved.

8.00pm Kathy Pollard, County Cllr, Pc Tyrell and her colleague left the meeting.

The meeting was reconvened.

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

No written report was received.

Mr V.Durrant advised that a meeting had taken place of the Transport Panel with members of Suffolk County Council Highways department, on 8th January 2013. He expressed concerns regarding the progress of the Sproughton Mitigation Measures. He advised that during the meeting, it became apparent that Suffolk County Council has not carried out a Safety Audit on any of the elements of the currently proposed scheme, (it would appear that a Safety Audit was carried out on an initial 'build-out design', specifically the Northern one, in 2010, but the Northern 'build-out' was then re sited). As Suffolk County Council now looks at the proposals, they are questioning the efficacy of the various elements of the proposed scheme, either due to concerns over safety or due to recent information. Suffolk County Council has spent approximately two years and £24k of the £25k budget on the scheme, and it now appears that there is no viable scheme to proceed with. Mr V.Durrant advised that the 'pre-warning' signs for Sproughton Gipping bridge have still not been ordered by Suffolk County Council. Mr Merry, of Suffolk County Council advised that the signs would be ordered this week. The Council agreed to write to Lucy Robinson, of Suffolk County Council, to express concerns and disappointment regarding the Sproughton Mitigation Measures.

Action: The Clerk is to forward a letter to Lucy Robinson, of Suffolk County Council.

Mr V.Durrant advised that Mr Merry, of Suffolk County Council, is to contact Mr Phillip Summers, the agent for the Red House Trust, regarding the availability of land for a footway from High Street, Sproughton to The Beagle, Sproughton.

8.20pm Mr V.Durrant left the meeting.

132 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.

133 FINANCE

(i) To Approve Payments and Budget Position

The statement of payments for December 2012 was approved.

(ii) To Consider Requests for Grants

The Council unanimously agreed to award a grant of £50.00 to Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.

Action: The Clerk is to forward a cheque for £50.00 to Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.

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

The Council agreed to set the 2012/2013 precept at £46,540.00; a zero % increase. Babergh District Council has today advised the Parish Council of its intentions to offset a grant of £1,579, awarded by the Government to the District Council, against the Parish Precept. This amount, when divided by the new taxbase of 534.58, calculates the Band D Council Tax for 2013/14 will be £84.11. It is on these figures that the Parish Council has set its 2013/14 precept budget.

Action: The Clerk is to notify Babergh District Council.

(iv) To Receive the Findings of the Quarterly Credit Card Payments Audit

Cllr S.Wood advised that he had carried out a quarterly audit of the Parish Council credit card payments. There were no matters to report.

134 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 Leonard Robert Airey was granted

135 TITHE BARN

(i) To Receive the Report of the Tithe Barn Panel and Related Matters

No report had been received from the Tithe Barn Panel.

(ii) To Consider Quotes Received for the Refurbishment of the Tithe Barn Toilet Area and to appoint a Contractor

The Council had previously issued invitations to three companies to submit quotes for the works to be undertaken. The Clerk advised that only one company had submitted a quote. On this basis, the Council unanimously agreed to issue invitations to two additional contractors; Needhams and a company recommended by Cllr H.Davies (details to be passed to the Clerk).

Action: The Clerk is to issue invitations to quote for the refurbishment of the Tithe Barn toilet area to two additional contractors.

(iii) To Appoint the Tithe Barn Energy Provider

The Council unanimously agreed to undertake the cheapest tariff offered by E.on.

Action: The Clerk is to arrange the transfer of the Tithe Barn energy tariff.

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

No report had been received from the Green Panel.

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

Cllr J.Kitson had circulated a draft schedule of covers, sums insured and an asset/insurance register to the Council prior to the meeting. The Council unanimously agreed to (i) combine the Parish Council and Tithe Barn insurance policies into the Zurich SELECT policy (ii) insure all street lighting on an 'impact

only' basis (iii) to adopt the covers and sums insured as proposed (iv) to enter into a five year long term undertaking.

Action: The Clerk is to arrange revised insurance cover with Suffolk ACRE.

8.45pm Peter Jones, District Cllr left the meeting.

138 TO AGREE EXPENDITURE FOR A REPLACEMENT GATE AT THE ALLOTMENT GARDENS
Cllr S.Wood advised that he continues to advance the matter.

139 STREETLIGHTING

Re. minute no: 12/13 125 The Clerk advised that as part of the general maintenance contract with Suffolk County Council, all street lighting equipment has a visual inspection once every six years; the inspection is currently being undertaken and should be completed by 31st March 2013. At this stage of the inspection, no urgent matters have been determined. The Council agreed to obtain a definitive guide from Suffolk County Council regarding what structural condition inspections the Parish Council should be undertaking.

Action: The Clerk is to obtain a definitive guide from Suffolk County Council regarding structural condition inspections.

140 TO CONSIDER THE TERMS OF THE SPROUGHTON COMMUNITY SHOP C.I.C.'S OCCUPATIONAL LICENCE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2013 TO 31ST MARCH 2014

Cllr S. Curl declared an interest and duly signed the register. Cllr S.Curl abstained from the ensuing discussion. Cllr B.Askew and Cllr J.Kitson agreed to consider the matter.

141 TO AGREE THE TIMES, DATES AND VENUES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2013 TO MARCH 2014

The list of proposed dates was approved.

142 TO AGREE THE TIME, DATE AND VENUE OF THE 2013 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish meeting will be held at the Tithe Barn, on 1st May 2013, at 7.30pm.

143 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 February 2013, at the Barley Room, Tithe Barn, Lower Street, Sproughton.

144 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr H.Davies advised that she has been updating the Parish Council website and is currently uploading agendas and minutes of past meetings.

The Clerk advised that an email notification has been received from Sproughton Community Shop C.I.C. advising that Sproughton Parochial Church Council intend to take over the running of the senior citizen lunch club. The event is to be held at Sproughton Church Hall and will no longer be held at the Barley Room, Tithe Barn.

Summary of Actions

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Action: The Clerk is to notify Babergh District Council.

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Action: The Clerk is to issue invitations to quote for the refurbishment of the Tithe Barn toilet area to two additional contractors.

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Action: The Clerk is to arrange the transfer of the Tithe Barn energy tariff.

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Action: The Clerk is to arrange revised insurance cover with Suffolk ACRE.

139 STREETLIGHTING

Action: The Clerk is to obtain a definitive guide from Suffolk County Council regarding structural condition inspections.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman : _____

Date: _____