

MINUTES OF THE SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE BARLEY ROOM, TITHE BARN, LOWER STREET, SPROUGHTON ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2014, AT 7.35PM

Councillors present:

Cllr, K.Barwick, Cllr H.Davies, Cllr V.Durrant, Cllr J.Kitson

Mrs S. Frankis, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr

Peter Jones, District Cllr

David Busby, County Cllr

The meeting was chaired by Cllr J.Kitson

164 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED

The Council resolved to approve the apologies received from Cllr S.Curl, for his absence due to illness and Cllr G.Moore, for her absence due to a personal engagement.

165 TO ACCEPT MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

166 CONSIDERATION FOR DISPENSATIONS FOR A PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no requests for dispensations to consider.

167 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH JANUARY 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2014, having been circulated to all members, were confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

168 REVIEW OF COUNCIL ACTIONS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH JANUARY 2014

The Clerk advised the annual charge for the emptying of a waste bin would be £30.88+VAT. She had contacted Babergh District Council for advice regarding the purchase of a suitable litter bin but had received no response. The Council agreed to consider the matter as an agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting.

Re. minute no: 13/14 148 The Clerk confirmed the letter had been circulated to the Council.

Re. minute no: 13/14 150(ii) The Clerk confirmed cheques for £500.00 and £236.17 had been forwarded to the Playing Field Management Committee.

Re. minute no: 13/14 150(v) The Clerk confirmed the 2014/2015 precept demand had been forwarded to Babergh District Council. The Parish Council had queried the District Council's notification that the demand would show a 0.01% increase on Council Tax demands; Babergh District Council agreed to recognise the calculation used by the Parish Council and to amend the Council Tax demand to show a zero% increase.

Re. minute no: 13/14 157 The Clerk confirmed a replacement noticeboard had been ordered from Grippit UK.

Re. minute no: 13/14 158 The Clerk confirmed that Mrs Walne had been notified of the Parish Council's decision to charge a concessionary hire rate for the kitchen and Barley Room, for the Lunch Club.

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

A report of the Transport Panel for January 2014 had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting.

Cllr V.Durrant advised a response had been received from Cllr Graham Newman, regarding the Parish Council's letter of support for the proposal by Claydon & Whitton Parish Council for the re-introduction of an evening bus service to run from Claydon to Ipswich, which would take in Bramford and Sproughton. Cllr Graham Newman advised the option had already been examined and that Suffolk County Council was currently unable to consider the matter.

170 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.

171 FINANCE

(i) To Approve Payments and Budget Position

The statements of payments for December 2013 and January 2014 were approved.

(ii) To Consider Requests for Grants

Cllr J.Kitson declared a non pecuniary interest.

The Council unanimously agreed to award a grant of £234.00 to the 1st Sproughton Brownies.

Action: The Clerk is to forward a cheque for £234.00 to the 1st Sproughton Brownies.

(iii) To Consider Alternative Financial Provider

Cllr H.Davies had circulated a comparison of the Cambridge & Counties Bank and the Unity Trust Bank to the Council prior to the meeting.

Action: The Clerk is to consider the suitability of the Unity Trust Bank.

(iv) To Agree to Transfer £265.00 from the Notice Board Reserve Account to the General Fund

The Council unanimously agreed to transfer £265.00 from the Notice Board reserve account to the General Fund.

(v) To Receive the Annual Review of Internal Audit and Systems of Internal Control

The review had been undertaken by the Clerk and the findings presented to the Council. The Council unanimously agreed to accept the findings of the review as follows;

1. to distribute the Council's financial assets across four financial institution
2. to continue to monitor and update the Risk Management Report

172 TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR MEMORIALS AT THE BURIAL GROUND AND RELATED MATTERS

There were no matters to consider.

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

Cllr H.Davies circulated the minutes of the Tithe Barn Panel meeting held on 13th January 2014 and a Book of Work to the Council.

The Council unanimously agreed to accept the quote of £170.00 including materials, received from Mike Herbert Ltd to decorate the Tithe Barn kitchen.

Action: The Clerk is to accept the quote received from Mike Herbert Ltd.

174 TO CONSIDER A REVISED ALLOTMENT HOLDERS AGREEMENT

Cllr K.Barwick considers the current allotment holders agreement covers all possible issues. The Council agreed it would be responsible to issue 'use of bonfire' guidelines to allotment holders with the annual rent demands.

Action: Cllr K.Barwick is to draft a use of bonfire guideline document.

175 STREET LIGHTING

Cllr V.Durrant referred to the outstanding order placed with Suffolk County Council for the installation of ILS units to the Parish Council lighting stock, and the delay of the installation of the units.

Action: The Clerk is to write to Karen Smith, of Suffolk County Council to request an update on the status of the order placed by the Parish Council.

176 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

Cllr H.Davies advised she is to raise the issue of there being barbed wire fencing near to the children's play area with Mr D.Lavington, of the P.F.M.C.. She was aware that he had previously removed barbed wire from the same area and that it appears more has been put in place. The P.F.M.C. is currently investigating ownership of the playing field boundaries. Cllr H.Davies agreed to ask the P.F.M.C. who it considers owns the fencing.

Cllr V.Durrant advised he and Cllr G.Moore are to consider any necessary works to be undertaken to the tractor.

177 PFMC ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION, INCLUDING PFMC SPC REPRESENTATIVE MEMBER

Cllr H.Davies had circulated notes to the Parish Council, prior to the meeting, of the Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC) meeting she had attended in January 2014.

She advised the installation of the new gym equipment had been completed. She advised there is a plan for the P.F.M.C. to open up the Sports & Social Club bar once a month to non-members, who live in Sproughton, in order to raise funds for the P.F.M.C.; the intended start date is 8th March 2014.

178 TO CONSIDER A SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL GRANT PAYMENT POLICY

The Council unanimously agreed to only consider one grant application per organisation each financial year.

179 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr J.Kitson advised he had attended the Neighbourhood Planning & Your Community event, held on 3rd February 2014, at Lavenham Village Hall. He suggested the Parish Council should hold a meeting, dedicated to considering the need for a Neighbourhood Plan, in order the Council can demonstrate the matter had been properly considered.

180 TO CONSIDER THE TERMS OF THE SPROUGHTON COMMUNITY SHOP C.I.C.'S OCCUPATIONAL LICENCE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2014 TO 31ST MARCH 2015

Cllr H.Davies had circulated a draft of the occupational licence for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 to the Council, prior to the meeting.

Cllr J.Kitson suggested the Community Shop C.I.C. should be invited to consider a variation to its licence to overcome the recent breach of the licence agreement regarding the sign.

Cllr H.Davies and Cllr J.Kitson agreed to arrange to meet with Mrs R.Lavington to consider the details of the renewal licence.

8.30pm Cllr K.Barwick left the meeting.

As the meeting was no longer quorate, the meeting was closed at 8.30pm.

Summary of Actions

171 FINANCE

(ii) To Consider Requests for Grants

Action: The Clerk is to forward a cheque for £234.00 to the 1st Sproughton Brownies.

(iii) To Consider Alternative Financial Provider

Action: The Clerk is to consider the suitability of the Unity Trust Bank.

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

Action: The Clerk is to accept the quote received from Mike Herbert Ltd.

174 TO CONSIDER A REVISED ALLOTMENT HOLDERS AGREEMENT

Cllr K.Barwick considers the current allotment holders agreement covers all possible issues. The Council agreed it would be responsible to issue 'use of bonfire' guidelines to allotment holders with the annual rent demands.

Action: Cllr K.Barwick is to draft a use of bonfire guideline document.

175 STREET LIGHTING

Action: The Clerk is to write to Karen Smith, of Suffolk County Council to request an update on the status of the order placed by the Parish Council.

Chairman : _____

Date: _____

REPORTS OF THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A report from David Busby, County Cllr for February 2014, had been received and circulated to the Council, prior to the meeting.

David Busby, County Cllr advised the County Council is aware of flooding issues on the Sproughton Road bend, near to the R.Gipping bridge. He advised the application for the 30mph speed extension on the B1113 has been forwarded to the legal department for publication; it is expected to take effect in April 2014. He referred to the proposed greenhouse development at Gt. Blakenham and advised it has been suggested that HGVs be directed to turn left out of the site, to avoid them violating the weight restrictions in Sproughton. He advised a meeting of Mid Suffolk District Council, the Homes & Community Agency and the developer of the SnOasis housing developer, is to be held on 6th February 2014, regarding the associated S106 payment that is due.

Action: The Clerk is to forward a copy of the letter received from Lucy Robinson, of Suffolk County Council, dated 12th March 2013, to County Cllr, David Busby.

Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr advised Babergh District Council will maintain their element of the council tax at the 2013/2014 rate, by accepting the Governments 1% incentive payment. He advised he believes the single turbine application will be approved and that the planning application for the proposed development of The Ganges site has been upheld. He advised the Local Plan is to be adopted. Cllr V.Durrant asked if there were updates available for the future of the former Beet Sugar site. Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr advised discussions are ongoing regarding the future of the site and considers there could be movement regarding a mixed use.