

MINUTES OF THE SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE BARLEY ROOM, TITHE BARN, LOWER STREET, SPROUGHTON ON 5TH MARCH 2014, AT 7.30PM

Councillors present:

Cllr S.Curl (Chairman), Cllr K.Barwick, Cllr H.Davies, Cllr V.Durrant, Cllr G.Moore

Mrs S. Frankis, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr

Peter Jones, District Cllr

David Busby, County Cllr

181 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED

The Council resolved to approve the apologies received from Cllr J.Kitson, for his absence due to a personal engagement.

182 TO ACCEPT MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

183 CONSIDERATION FOR DISPENSATIONS FOR A PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no requests for dispensations to consider.

184 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2014, having been circulated to all members, were confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

185 REVIEW OF COUNCIL ACTIONS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2014

There were no matters to consider that would not otherwise be dealt with as an agenda item.

7.34p.m. The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from David Busby, County Cllr and Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr.

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

David Busby, County Cllr advised the recent Ofsted report had not portrayed Suffolk County Council in a favourable way and that the administration is keen to address the issues raised in the report. Cllr S.Curl asked if there were fundamental reasons behind the poor findings of the report. David Busby, County Cllr considered, in his view, the County Council was not focussing on the right areas.

Cllr V.Durrant asked if a meeting had been arranged for Lucy Robinson, of Suffolk County Council to meet with the Sproughton Parish Council Transport Panel, as previously agreed. David Busby, County Cllr agreed to pursue the matter.

Cllr V.Durrant asked for an update regarding the application for the 30mph speed limit extension on the B1113. David Busby, County Cllr advised the matter was progressing through the Suffolk County Council legal system. He understood the matter had been advertised, as is legally required however, the Parish Council is aware that parishioners have not received the due notification. Cllr V.Durrant expressed his disappointment and concerns regarding the lack of response from Suffolk County Council to varying matters raised by the Parish Council.

Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr advised the District Council had followed the directive recently issued by Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and recorded the analysis

of the budget vote, at a meeting held eight days ago. He advised the Babergh District Council Core Strategy was adopted at the meeting. He advised the single turbine application is still to be determined. Cllr V.Durrant asked what interest has been shown regarding the future development of the former beet sugar site. Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr, advised he was aware there had only been interest from one party, at this time. Cllr V.Durrant asked if there would be the possibility of Babergh District Council reversing its no housing development policy for the site. Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr advised the Local Plan continues to allocate the site for business development only.

The Parish Council noted that shipping containers are currently being stored at the Saunders site, Sproughton Road.

Action: The Clerk is to contact Babergh District Council planning department to enquire if an application for a change of use should be required for storing shipping containers at the site.

7.47p.m. The meeting was reconvened.

186 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT PANEL AND RELATED TRAFFIC MATTERS
Cllr V.Durrant advised there were no matters to report. He advised he continues to await a meeting with Lucy Robinson, of Suffolk County Council, regarding the Sproughton Mitigation Measures related to the Great Blakenham Residential S106 Deed and her commitment that further design costs would be met by Suffolk County Council.

187 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.

188 FINANCE

(i) To Approve Payments and Budget Position

The Clerk advised the February 2014 bank statements had not been received and so the accounts as at 28th February 2014 could not be prepared for consideration at the meeting.

(ii) To Consider Requests for Grants

The Council unanimously agreed to award a grant of £100.00 to Magpas Helimedix, subject to the S137 budget balance.

Action: The Clerk is to forward a cheque for £100.00 to Magpas Helimedix.

(iii) To Consider Alternative Financial Provider

The Council unanimously agreed to open an account with the Unity Trust Bank and to make an initial deposit of £46,940.06. The Council agreed to add a third signatory to all accounts held.

Action: The Clerk is to open an account with the Unity Trust Bank.

(iv) To Agree to Transfer £1,457.91 from the Children's Play Area Reserve Fund to the General Fund

The Council unanimously agreed to transfer £1,457.91 from the Children's Play Area reserve fund to the General Fund.

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

There were no matters to consider.

190 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE TITHE BARN PANEL AND RELATED MATTERS, INCLUDING THE TITHE BARN FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllr H.Davies advised the Tithe Barn warden had notified her that some of the Barn lighting needed attention; Cllr H.Davies is to arrange for an electrician to advise on the issues. Cllr H.Davies advised she had received an email from Mr S.Lavington regarding improvement of the Tithe Barn signage; the Tithe Barn Panel will consider the matter.

Cllr S.Curl and Cllr J.Kitson had undertaken a review of the Tithe Barn Fire Risk Assessment, dated 18th June 2012. The findings of the review were received by the Council.

Cllr S.Curl referred to the power cut at the Tithe Barn at the end of October 2013. The Parish Council had lost hiring income and Sproughton Community Shop had lost stock and income revenue due to the power cut. The Clerk had submitted a claim for compensation for the loss of power and cheque for

£54.00 had been forthcoming from UKPN. Sproughton Community Shop C.I.C. had tried to register a claim but had been unsuccessful as the energy account is not in their name but the Council's. The Council unanimously agreed to pass on the compensation payment of £54.00 to Sproughton Community Shop C.I.C. as their loss had been greater than the Council's.

Action: The Clerk is to forward a cheque for £54.00 to Sproughton Community Shop C.I.C..

191 TO CONSIDER A REVISED ALLOTMENT HOLDERS AGREEMENT

Cllr K.Barwick advised he continues to work on a revised Allotment Holders Agreement.

192 STREET LIGHTING

Cllr V.Durrant advised the ILS units are now being installed, as recently observed by the Clerk. He expressed his dismay regarding the lack of updates of the Parish Council's order for the work to be undertaken by Karen Smith, of Suffolk County Council. Cllr V.Durrant requested clarification of the workings of the ILS units from Suffolk County Council, following reports received by the Clerk from the engineers carrying out the works.

193 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

Cllr H.Davies advised the P.F.M.C. had confirmed the barbed wire fencing, adjacent to the children's play area, had not been installed by them. It is assumed the barbed wire fencing had been installed by a neighbouring property. She advised the P.F.M.C. continues to establish ownership of the playing field boundaries.

Cllr V.Durrant referred to the corrosion of the tractor unit. The Council viewed pictures taken of the condition of the unit by Cllr G.Moore.

Action: Cllr G.Moore is to forward the pictures of the tractor unit to Fenland Leisure and to ask for their advice on how to proceed.

194 PFMC ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION, INCLUDING PFMC SPC REPRESENTATIVE MEMBER

Cllr H.Davies advised an opening ceremony of the new equipment, at the playing fields, is to be held on Saturday, 15th March 2014 and the first open evening of the new Saturday club will be held at the Sports & Social Club that evening.

195 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A meeting of the Council will be held on 19th March 2014, at 7.30p.m., in order the Council can demonstrate the matter had been properly considered.

196 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 S.Curl declared a non pecuniary interest.

The Council unanimously agreed to incorporate the amendments as suggested in the document dated 3rd March 2014, circulated by Cllr J.Kitson prior to the meeting.

Action: The Clerk is to incorporate the proposed amendments as agreed by the Council, and issue an occupational licence for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015, to Sproughton Community Shop C.I.C..

Sproughton Community Shop C.I.C. currently shares use of waste bins at the Tithe Barn with the Parish Council. The Community Shop C.I.C. has been asked to decide if it wishes to continue to share use of the bins and to therefore share the charges or to introduce their own waste bins. The Council continues to await their decision. As the deadline for the requirement form to be returned to Babergh District Council is approaching, the Council unanimously agreed to complete and forward the paperwork to Babergh District Council at this time.

Action: The Clerk is to complete and forward the requirement form to Babergh District Council.

Cllr H.Davies advised the Community Shop C.I.C. had raised issues regarding the signage at the Tithe Barn grassed car park area and the confusion the signs create with users of the shop. The Clerk advised the Parish Council has a licence for hirers of the Barn only to use the area for parking; the licence does not allow users of the shop to use the area. The Clerk advised the Parish Council had attempted to deter

users of the shop using the car park area in the past, by closing the wooden barrier, but this had not worked.

197 INTRODUCTION OF BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL CHARGES FOR WASTE COLLECTIONS FROM PREMISES USED FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS

This matter was dealt with under agenda item no. 16.

198 TO CONSIDER SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The Council unanimously agreed not to renew the Suffolk Preservation Society membership.

199 TO ADOPT A SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

A draft investment strategy had been circulated to the Parish Council, prior to the meeting. The Council unanimously agreed to adopt the investment strategy.

200 TO AGREE TO UNDERWRITE THE 2014 SPROUGHTON BEER FESTIVAL

Cllr S.Curl circulated a finance plan spreadsheet for the 2014 Sproughton Beer Festival to the Council. The Council unanimously agreed to underwrite the event by £5,295.00.

201 TO CONSIDER PURCHASE OF A LITTER BIN

David Busby, County Cllr kindly offered to fund the purchase of a litter bin, at a cost of £288.88, to be sited at the A1071/The Beagle roundabout bus stop. The Council agreed to fund the annual emptying service charge of £30.88 +VAT.

202 TO AGREE THE TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The next Sproughton Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30pm, on 16th April 2014, at the Barley Room, Tithe Barn, Lower Street, Sproughton.

203 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr S.Curl referred to the email received from Mr R.Earey, and circulated to the Council, wherein an invitation was extended to village organisations to meet to consider a single grass cutting contract. Cllr S.Curl advised he had attended a meeting on 3rd March 2014; it had become apparent that it would not be viable for the Parish Council to enter into a group contract. He advised Mr D.Lavington has expressed an interest in using the Parish Council's ride on mower, for use at the playing fields.

Action: The Clerk is to establish if the Parish Council's ride on lawn mower is taxed and insured for use on the public highway.

Cllr H.Davies advised Mr D.Lavington has expressed an interest in the Parish Council's portable lager dispenser, for use by the P.F.M.C.. The Parish Council agreed to gift its portable lager dispenser to the P.F.M.C. to aid with their fund raising activities.

The Clerk advised Thompson & Morgan had gifted two grit bins to the Parish Council, for installation on Poplar Lane, Sproughton.

Action: The Clerk is to write a letter of thanks to Thompson & Morgan.

Summary of Actions

Action: The Clerk is to contact Babergh District Council planning department to enquire if an application for a change of use should be required for storing shipping containers at the site.

188 FINANCE

(ii) To Consider Requests for Grants

Action: The Clerk is to forward a cheque for £100.00 to Magpas Helimedix.

(iii) To Consider Alternative Financial Provider

Action: The Clerk is to open an account with the Unity Trust Bank.

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Action: The Clerk is to forward a cheque for £54.00 to Sproughton Community Shop C.I.C..

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Action: Cllr G.Moore is to forward the pictures of the tractor unit to Fenland Leisure and to ask for their advice on how to proceed.

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Action: The Clerk is to complete and forward the requirement form to Babergh District Council.

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Action: The Clerk is to establish if the Parish Council's ride on lawn mower is taxed and insured for use on the public highway.

Action: The Clerk is to write a letter of thanks to Thompson & Morgan.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chairman : _____

Date: _____