

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE TITHE BARN, LOWER STREET,
SPROUGHTON ON WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY 2016**

Mr S.Curl - Chairman of Sproughton Parish Council
Mrs S.Frankis - Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

11 members of the public attended the meeting, 4 of whom were Sproughton Parish Councillors
David Busby, County Cllr
Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr
Barry Gasper, District Cllr

Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr & Mrs Earey
Sproughton Parish Cllr, Iain Selby

1 WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Simon Curl opened the meeting at 7.30pm, introducing himself, Mrs Sue Frankis, the Parish Clerk and welcoming all of those present.

2 TO READ, CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 13TH MAY 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Re. minute no. 15/3

Cllr S.Curl advised the Parish Council will consider the purchase and installation of a defibrillator unit at the Annual Parish Council meeting to be held on 11th May 2016; it is expected the Council will resolve to fund the purchase.

Re. minute no. 15/4

Ipswich Borough Council has advised the former sugar beet site will be a mixed employment site. The Parish Council has requested that it be included in the development of the Masterplan, as stakeholders.

Re. minute no. 15/4

In response to accusations that the Parish Council "... projects a remoteness" and "...fails to meet the needs of the Parish..." Cllr S.Curl advised that the Parish Council takes all efforts to engage with the community and parishioners; the Parish Council website is regularly updated, a Facebook page has been created and important updates are issued via email. When there are particular issues of concern, the community engages fully with the Parish Council, as was evident with the recent proposed Wolsey Grange development issues when meetings were attended by 120 and 75 respectively; it has become apparent over the years that parishioners are less concerned with general 'day to day' issues.

4 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

The Annual Report of the Parish Council was made as a Power Point presentation. Cllr S.Curl advised the level of councillor vacancies remains a concern and is a limiting factor in what issues and tasks the Council can undertake at any one time. He thanked all Councillors and the Clerk for their continued work and support in serving the community.

5 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

A written report of the District Cllrs was presented.

Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr congratulated Mr R.Earey and the volunteers of the Sproughton Community Shop C.I.C. for their Babergh District Council Community Achievement Awards. He advised that following a recent election held at East Bergholt, two Conservative district councillors have formed their own group – ‘Alternative Conservatives’. He advised that the Babergh District Council & Mid Suffolk District Council CEO, Ms Charlie Adan will be leaving her post and that the Councils are expected to be without a CEO for 4/5 months. He expressed surprise that Babergh District Council has not yet issued a decision notice regarding the proposed Wolsey Grange development.

A written report of the County Cllr, David Busby was presented.

Mr R. Howard asked why there is a need for additional housing in the area. Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr advised there is a substantial demand for housing and there have been very few new builds in recent years. David Busby, County Cllr advised there is a need to reduce housing prices in order that young, local people can afford them; this can be achieved by increasing the availability of small flats and houses, and providing affordable housing.

Cllr S.Curl referred to the approximate one thousand dwellings that have been granted planning permission, by Babergh District Council, but that have not yet been built. Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr advised that developers cannot be forced to commence a development once a S106/CIL agreement has been signed.

6 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

Mr R.Howard presented a synopsis of the history and set up of the Sproughton Community Shop C.I.C.

Cllr S.Curl asked how the directors of the Community Shop C.I.C. distribute grants; are requests received or are they awarded at the discretion of the directors? Mr R.Howard advised that to date, the directors have chosen who to offer the grants to as they think are needed.

7 TO RECEIVE THE PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

The annual accounts of Sproughton Parish Council, for the year ended 31st March 2016, were presented. The accounts had been approved at the Parish Council meeting held on 13th April 2016.

David Busby, County Cllr suggested an ‘aim figure’ be included on the reserve accounts.

8 TO RECEIVE THE READING ROOM & CARETAKERS HOUSE CHARITY ACCOUNTS AND THE SPROUGHTON ALMSHOUSE AND RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY ACCOUNTS

The annual accounts of the Reading Room & Caretakers House Charity, Sproughton and the Sproughton Almshouse and Relief in Need Charity Accounts were presented.

9 PRESENTATION OF THE 2016 LOCAL HERO AWARD(S)

Cllr S.Curl presented awards to Mr J. Foster and Mr C.Harris in recognition of their assistance to the Parish, with the works they had undertaken in association with the proposed planning developments within Sproughton.

10 MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS

Ms D. Bradbury advised she had been the Village Recorder since the 1970's and considered there was a need for an 'apprentice'. Cllr S.Curl suggested an event be held at the Tithe Barn showcasing all of her records, to encourage visitors and to raise the profile, in order to find an assistant.

Mr C.Harris expressed disappointment there had been no mitigation measures forthcoming from Suffolk County Council, (SCC), regarding the SnOasis and associated housing development. He had received correspondence from the Ombudsman that they had been advised by SCC they were working with the Parish Council to bring forward a scheme. Mr C.Harris asked the Parish Council to provide evidence to support the SCC statement. David Busby, County Cllr, Cllr Simon Curl and the Clerk all advised there had been no related correspondence with SCC over the last 12 months.

Mr R.Howard expressed concern regarding the amount of litter along Sproughton Road. Nicholas Ridley, District Cllr suggested a litter pick be organised.

There being no further business to consider, the Chairman thanked those present for attending and duly closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm