

MINUTES OF THE SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE BARLEY ROOM, TITHE BARN, LOWER STREET, SPROUGHTON ON 11TH JANUARY 2017, AT 7.30PM

Councillors present

Cllr S. Curl (Chairman), Cllr K. Barwick, Cllr P. Powell, Cllr I. Selby

Mrs S. Frankis, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

County Cllr, Dave Busby

District Cllr, Nicholas Ridley

157 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED

The Council resolved to receive the apologies from Cllr H.Davies for her absence, due to a family commitment.

Apologies were received from District Cllr, Barry Gasper.

158 TO ACCEPT MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr S.Curl, Cllr. K.Barwick, Cllr P.Powell and Cllr I.Selby advised they had been granted dispensations which allowed them to participate, or participate further, in any discussion relating to the anticipated mixed development by Taylor Wimpey at Chantry Vale (the land bordered by A1071, A1214 and A14), and to participate in any vote, or further vote, taken on that business by that body.

Cllr P.Powell advised he had been granted a dispensation which permitted him to take part in any discussions and decisions relating to the anticipated development by Ipswich Borough Council of the former British Sugar site (Sugar Beet Factory).

159 CONSIDERATION FOR DISPENSATIONS FOR A PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were none to consider.

160 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14TH DECEMBER 2016

The version of the minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2016, to be published, having been circulated to all members, were confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

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161 REVIEW OF COUNCIL ACTIONS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14TH DECEMBER 2016

Re. min. no: 16/17/147 (iii) The Clerk advised that Babergh District Council had confirmed the 2017/2018 precept demand had been received; the precept of £50,139 would equate to a parish Council Tax Band D decrease of -0.07% on 2016/2017.

162 TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION TO FILL SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

This matter will be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

163 PUBLIC FORUM/PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr, Dave Busby referred to the recent reports of the pressures on the NHS and advised he had been asked to stress that people should be encouraged to either telephone '111' or to visit their own doctor rather than going to A&E.

District Cllr Nicholas Ridley advised;

The Babergh District Council Planning department staff have made an interim move to the Mid Suffolk District Council office at Needham Market; the reason being given is that the necessary training on the new IT platform, required for the team, is only available at Needham Market.

Babergh District Council will go to 'Leader and Cabinet' as from May 2017; it is likely to be an all Conservative cabinet. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are the only Suffolk councils not to operate in this way.

The Babergh District Council Strategy Committee will be asked to approve the 2017/2018 Council Tax budget on 12th January 2017; Council Tax Band D is likely to increase to £153.86.

Cllr S.Curl again raised concerns regarding the proposed move by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils to Endeavour House, Ipswich and the potential loss of local contact for parishioners. He asked if using places such as the Barley Room, Tithe Barn, as weekly or monthly drop-in surgeries could be considered. District Cllr Ridley thought it unlikely.

164 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.

165 FINANCE

(i) To Approve Payments and Budget Position

The statement of payments for December 2016 was approved.

The Clerk advised that Cllr K.Barwick had verified the Parish Council bank and building society balances, as reported within the monthly Financial Summary reports, with the bank statements and passbook balances.

(ii) To Consider Requests for Grants

There were no requests to consider.

(iii) Quarterly Credit Card Audit and Mid-Year Accounts Ledger Audit

Cllr S.Curl agreed to undertake the quarterly credit card audit and mid-year accounts ledger audit.

Action: Cllr S.Curl is to undertake the quarterly credit card audit and mid-year accounts ledger audit.

(iv) To Adopt Revised Parish Council Financial Regulations

The Clerk had circulated draft revised Financial Regulations to the Council, prior to the meeting. The Council unanimously agreed to adopt the revised version.

166 TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR MEMORIALS AT THE BURIAL GROUND AND RELATED MATTERS, INCLUDING REVIEW OF CHARGES AND RULES & REGULATIONS

There were no requests to consider.

The Clerk agreed to undertake a review of the Burial Ground charges and the Rules & Regulations.

Action: The Clerk is to undertake a review of the Burial Ground charges and the Rules & Regulations.

167 TITHE BARN MATTERS, INCLUDING COURTYARD FLOOD PROTECTION, EXTERNAL BRICK REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENT OF BAR AREA FLOORING

Cllr K.Barwick advised he had received quotes for new drains to be installed and connected in the Tithe Barn courtyard area, and for repairs to the Tithe Barn brickwork; the Council agreed that further quotes would be required.

Cllr S.Curl advised that the flooring in the bar area needed to be replaced with a suitable safety flooring. One quote had been received and two further quotes were being sought. The Council unanimously agreed to set a budget of £660.00 for the flooring to be replaced, and to mandate Cllr S.Curl and the Clerk to accept a quote.

168 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

Cllr P.Powell advised that he and Cllr H.Davies are due to meet with the P.F.M.C. to discuss the handover of the Play Area; it is hoped the meeting will be held during January 2017.

169 P.F.M.C. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION, INCLUDING PFMC SPC REPRESENTATIVE MEMBER

There were no updates.

Cllr S.Curl advised that having received the planning application for the stationing of a storage container at the playing fields, from Babergh District Council, it was disappointing that the P.F.M.C. hadn't mentioned the matter to the Parish Council.

170 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SHOP LIAISON COUNCILLOR AND RELATED MATTERS, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF THE RENEWAL OF THE OCCUPATIONAL LICENCE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2017 TO 31ST MARCH 2018

Cllr P.Powell advised no meeting had been held.

The Clerk referred to the Sroughton Community Shop article, published in the January 2017 issue of the In Touch magazine. The piece suggested that shop "volunteers have" given up time to "facilitate the beer festival". The Clerk asked for it be recorded that any volunteers helping at the beer festival do so independently of any other village organisations, or groups they may be associated with, or be members of.

In response to the shop's notification of their intention to extend their regular opening hours in order to trade during the 2017 Sroughton Beer Festival, the Council asked Cllr P.Powell to pass on the following statement: "Sroughton Parish Council accepts that the shop has decided to open and trade during Beer Festival hours and would therefore not expect you to sell any item that would be eaten or drunk within the curtilage of our event".

The Council was advised that the funds raised at the annual beer festival, which go towards the upkeep of the Tithe Barn, equate to an 8% Band 'D' Council Tax saving to every parish household each year.

Cllr S.Curl asked that the renewal of the Occupational Licence, for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 be finalised in a timely manner, as compared to the current years Licence. The Council agreed that should the opening of the shop for trading during the 2017 Beer Festival have an effect on the profits for the event, the permitted opening hours, as set in Occupational Licence, may have to be re-considered.

171 REVIEW OF BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL STREET NAME AND NUMBERING SERVICE

The Clerk had drafted a list of names taken from part of the Tithe Map of 1838, Parish of Sroughton, and circulated it to the Council, prior to the meeting. The Council agreed to forward the draft list to Babergh District Council, to be held on file for future use by developers.

Action: The Clerk is to forward the draft list to Babergh District Council.

172 BAPTC MEMBERSHIP

To be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

173 DEVOLUTION

There were no updates to report.

174 'BATTLE'S OVER' – A NATION'S TRIBUTE 11TH NOVEMBER 2018

In commemoration and remembrance of the end of World War I, a chain of 1,000 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories at 7pm on the 11th November 2018. Sroughton Parish Council agreed to participate in the commemoration.

Action: The Clerk is to register the Parish Council's involvement.

175 TO AGREE THE TIMES, DATES AND VENUES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS, THE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2017 TO MARCH 2018, AND THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The draft lists of proposed meeting dates, as circulated to the Council prior to the meeting, were agreed.

176 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 Wednesday, 8th February 2017, at the Barley Room, Tithe Barn, Lower Street, Sproughton.

177 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr K.Barwick advised that an allotment holder had requested that an additional tap be installed, closer to his plot.

The Clerk advised that an audit of the area of each allotment plot had recently been undertaken, following a query from an allotment holder. All was found to be in order.

Summary of Actions

165 FINANCE

(iii) Quarterly Credit Card Audit and Mid-Year Accounts Ledger Audit

Cllr S.Curl agreed to undertake the quarterly credit card audit and mid-year accounts ledger audit.

166 TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR MEMORIALS AT THE BURIAL GROUND AND RELATED MATTERS, INCLUDING REVIEW OF CHARGES AND RULES & REGULATIONS

Action: The Clerk is to undertake a review of the Burial Ground charges and the Rules & Regulations.

171 REVIEW OF BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL STREET NAME AND NUMBERING SERVICE

Action: The Clerk is to forward the draft list to Babergh District Council.

174 'BATTLE'S OVER' – A NATION'S TRIBUTE 11TH NOVEMBER 2018

Action: The Clerk is to register the Parish Council's involvement.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman : _____

Date: _____