

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Little Bealings Parish held at Bealings Village Hall  
on Monday, 15 April 2013 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Mrs F Rogers, Mrs T Cornish, Dr C Rowe, Mr B Rufford, and Mrs M Wilson (all Parish Councillors), Mr P Bellfield (County Councillor), Mr T Fryatt (District Councillor), PCSO Justin Moss and 25 parishioners

**In attendance:** Mrs C Ramsden, Clerk to the Parish Council

Mrs Rogers, as Chairman of the Parish Council, took the chair and welcomed those present.

**Apologies:** Mr D Wilson (Parish Councillor) and Mrs J Cook (Tree and Footpath Warden)

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5 March 2012** A resident enquired if these were available on-line as he had not had the opportunity to read them. He was advised that only approved minutes were published on-line, but he did not then request time to read the minutes. The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes:** None.

**Chairman's Report:** The Chairman advised that the meeting would be followed by a Village Review, and welcomed Gillian Benjamin's team from Community Action Suffolk who would lead the event. She introduced the Councillors, including Mrs Cornish who had been co-opted during the last year in place of Miss Williams, who had resigned, and advised that the Vice Chairman, Peter Carr has also recently resigned. Mr Carr and Miss Williams were thanked for their contribution to the Council. The Chairman also introduced Mr Bellfield, Mr Tony Fryatt and PCSO Moss and explained the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting. She thanked Councillors, employees (the Clerk and Mr Ball (handyman)) and volunteers (Mrs Cook and Mrs Shaw (webmaster)) for their work for the Council and the parish over the last year.

During the year the Council had considered various planning applications, including the proposed cabling route for the East Anglian Offshore Windfarm (EAOW) which passed through the parish. Consultation with the SCC had resulted in some traffic calming measures in Playford Road, although there were still some concerns about speeding in Martlesham Road and about the Hall Road crossroads.

The Council had responded to SCDC's consultation on modifications to the LDF and objected to changes which looked to diminish protection for the countryside. Two major concerns of the last year had been the closure of the Admiral's Head public house and the EAOW cabling.

The Council had registered the Admiral's Head as a Community Asset, ensuring that the community was given the opportunity to bid should its sale be proposed by the owners. The creation of a Working Group for this was anticipated, informed by the outcome of the Village Review.

The Council would continue to object to the EAOW cabling route, preferring a route to the north which did not involve drilling under Lodge Road or disturbance to any community.

The Council's Walks Leaflet was still available to residents. The Council continued its membership of SALC and the Suffolk Preservation Society. The Chairman thanked residents for attending and hoped they would stay for refreshments and the Village Review.

### **Other Reports**

**Footpaths:** In Mrs Cook's absence, the Chairman reported that the footpaths were well used, especially the Fynn Valley walk. Mr Ball was meticulous in keeping the routes clear, notwithstanding the current time and funding restraints, and that some were some distance from roadside parking. SCC provided funding for the cutting programme and Mr Ball and the Clerk were thanked for their work to ensure the routes were maintained.

**Women's Institute:** In Mrs Cook's absence, the Chairman reported that the group had celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> year in 2012. Members had also enjoyed an Italian evening, visits to Beth Chatto's garden, Hyde Hall, Durahm and Beamish, and local lunch trips. Redundant tools had been collected for TWAM and other items for Oxfam, the Salvation Army and the British Humanitarian Aid. Boules and rambles had also taken place.

**County Councillor's Report:** Mr Bellfield congratulated the parish on the high turnout for the meeting. He reported:

Leaders of the Council: Mark Bee, the political leader, and CEO Deborah Cadman had had a successful year; the Council had been nominated for 'most improved Council'.

Budget: SCC was likely to achieve its savings target for the last year, with another £25m savings intended this year. The adverse impact on front line services had only been minor.

Council Tax: For the third year running this would remain unchanged – and would do so for the next four years if the Conservative administration was returned in the May elections.

Libraries: All 44 libraries were now managed by an Industrial and Provident Society, as were mobile, prison and school libraries. About £3m had been saved.

Education: 'Raising the bar' had been launched to improve standards in schools as the county had fallen behind nationally. Nearly 95% of pupils had been offered their first choice of secondary school.

Residential Care Homes: The 16 SCC residential homes had been transferred to Care UK, which was investing in new homes, including specialist dementia beds.

Broadband: SCC had joined with BT to deliver superfast coverage to 85% of Suffolk by 2015. Over £11m had been invested in the partnership.

Energy from Waste: Construction of a new waste facility, to generate energy and avoid waste going to landfill, had started in May.

Fire and Rescue Service: A merger with Cambridgeshire would not go ahead for financial reasons, although a joint control room would continue.

Back Office Requirements: the current partnership of SCC/MSDC/BT, which provided ICT, finance and HR, would not be extended beyond 2014 and alternative means of delivering these functions were being investigated.

Records and Heritage: A merger of the three Suffolk Records Offices was likely in a reorganisation of these functions.

Major Construction Sites Proposed: Mr Bellfield had taken an active interest in proposals likely to affect his ward: the EAOW cabling, Ipswich Northern Fringe development and Sizewell C power station. He was concerned at the adverse impact on the inadequate highways structure.

Highways: Extra funding had been provided to deal with potholes after the severe winter.

He had been pleased to have assisted with several local projects, including funding for the Bealings Village Hall car park. He would be pleased to assist any parishioner who contacted him.

**District Councillor's Report:** Mr Fryatt reported:

Quality of Life: Despite the current economic gloom, the Suffolk Coastal district had featured in a list of the top rural areas for quality of life. Local employment was also highly rated.

Number of Councillors: SCDC intended to reduce the number of councillors from 55 to 43 and consultations were being carried out.

Neighbourhood Planning: SCDC intended to allocate £100k to this, to ensure support for local initiatives.

EAOW Cabling: The responses to the Planning Inspectorate were being analysed. An extra consultation on traffic issues was being carried out until 12 May, but there were no details from SCDC on how to respond.

Reduction of Empty Homes: SCDC had allocated £100k to reduce the number of empty homes in the district, with some funding from the New Homes Bonus scheme.

**Police:** PSCO Moss reported that he covered the Little Bealings area with two colleagues, Rachel Cable and Sally Thomas. There had been 10 crimes in the parish in the last year, including daytime burglaries at secured and alarmed properties, a decrease from 14 in each of the previous two years. Residents were encouraged to keep property secured and valuables out of sight and the parish was considered not to be an easy target. Residents were asked to report any suspicious activity and the police would visit.

In answer to a resident's questions PSCO Moss said that none of the crimes had been detected, but that scene of crime officers were always sent to every incident with a view to collecting forensic evidence. It was thought that the criminals were organised, targeting large properties which were not overlooked, but the low crime rate meant it likely that the parish was not considered an easy target. Reporting anything untoward, with whatever details were available, was important, to reinforce the message that suspicious behaviour in the parish would be challenged.

**Any Other Business:** There were no matters raised.

The Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 7.42pm.