

**Minutes of Little Bealings Parish Council meeting held at Bealings Village Hall at 7.15pm
on Monday 2 November 2015**

Present: Mrs M Wilson (Chairman), Mrs T Cornish, Ms D Head, Mr C Hopkins, Mr D Hunter and Ms J Shaw

Also present: Four residents for part of the meeting.

In attendance: Mrs C Ramsden, Clerk to the Council

**Councillor
Actions**

1 Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

Apologies were received from Mr B Rufford due to a family commitment. It was **RESOLVED:**

- To accept the apologies.

District Councillor Colin Hedgley had also sent apologies that he was unable to attend, and the other local Councillors were not available.

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

2 Public Participation Session

Two residents raised strong concerns about the activities at Sinks Pit as follows:

- There had been implementation of planning permission before required conditions had been met
- SCDC had taken too long to respond; issues had first been raised in July. Development at the site had now resulted in block paving, storage bins and HGV parking at the far eastern end of the site, an area which was required to be landscaped
- The SCDC enforcement references were incorrect and referred to another site in Westerfield.

Residents asked that the Council press SCDC to take appropriate action to resolve the situation. They were advised that SCDC officers had been invited to the meeting, but had declined on the grounds that it was not appropriate to do so at this time in their investigations. It was noted that no District Councillor was able to attend the meeting either.

It was agreed to re-order the Agenda to consider a planning application.

3 Planning Application

DC/15/4066/FUL Replacement of existing outbuilding/shed by a larger outbuilding shed: Honeybees, Sandy Lane

Mr Hopkins reported that one neighbour had expressed support for the development to him, and he was aware that it would be partially obscured by hedging. It was **RESOLVED:**

- That there was no objection to the application.

4 Minutes of the Meetings Held on 14 September and 2 October 2015

It was **RESOLVED**:

- to amend and then approve the minutes of these meetings.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Development of Buildings at Grove Farm

No further response had been received from the developer, but if he wished to discuss the matter again, all of the neighbouring residents would be advised and a public meeting arranged.

Councillor Training on 23 September 2015

Councillors agreed that the training had been useful and timely, but a more interactive session would have been appreciated.

Community Action Suffolk AGM

The Chairman reported that she had not attended this on 8 October as she had been unwell.

6 Planning

Applications

Sinks Pit, Main Road, Kesgrave

Ms Head asked if it was possible to view the site and Mr Hunter advised that this was possible from the public footpath. A visit would show the development at the western end, including a pile of material which he estimated to be about 20 metres in height well in excess of the 6 metres AOD (ie, in practice, above ground level).

Mr Hunter advised that eight residents had complained to him about construction noise, construction/development at the site and vehicle numbers. SCC had now addressed noise issues arising from the mineral extraction planning permission, but he was aware of breaches of the SCDC permissions and that the number of vehicles on the site was more than allowed for by the VOSA licence.

It was noted that SCDC officers had refused to attend the Council meeting and after discussion it was **RESOLVED**:

To make formal complaint to SCDC as follows:

- in respect of its dilatory response to complaints from residents since July 2015
- to request that immediate action be taken to stop work at the site until the planning permission conditions were met by the applicant
- to invite officers and local District Councillors, including the Chairman of the Planning Committee, to a meeting to explain the situation to the Council and residents
- to advise that if the matter was not dealt with promptly complaint to the Ombudsman would follow
- to copy the letter to Dr Poulter, local MP, as well as local District Councillors and the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

DC/15/3746/FUL Refurbishment of the existing 4 bedroomed

residential property and the addition of 3 extensions and associated landscaping. Removal of dilapidated garages attached to the house. To infill a pond and create a new pond in a new location. Garden alterations including change of use: Fynn Bridge Barn, The Street

The views of Gt Bealings Parish Council on the development were noted and it was **RESOLVED**:

- that there was no objection to this development.

DC/15/3667/FUL: Demolition of High Rigg dwelling. Replacement with a new six bedroom country house, new driveway and highway access: High Rigg, Martlesham Road

It was noted that SCDC had granted permission for this development, with many conditions, including approval of all materials to be used, protection of trees and approval of landscaping, archaeological investigations, approval of any external lighting and restriction of future permitted development.

DC/15/2115/FUL Single storey extension to form breakfast room and link to playroom. Reposition velux light: The Old Stables, The Street

It was noted that SCDC had approved this application.

EAOW3

The applicant had advised that only the existing vehicular access location in Holly Lane would be used to access the cable corridor, as requested by the Council.

SCDC Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies Development Plan Consultation Document

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That, as there was no development proposed in the parish, there was no response to be made to the consultation.

SCDC Changes to the Scheme of Delegation

The Chairman and Clerk reported on their attendance at an SCDC presentation on the impact of replacing three Development Control Committees with one Planning Committee. In order to reduce the amount of business considered by the one Committee, in future the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee would consider whether some applications should be considered by the Committee. In summary this would mean that where the Council's view on a planning application was contrary to the inclination of the planning officer, the Council would be invited to set out its reasons why the matter should be considered by the Committee. A period of 5 days would be allowed for this, with response to a specific Committee email address.

It was noted that the period was considered too short by many parish councils attending the event, but that one way to address the need to respond so quickly would be to consider this issue at the time a planning application was being considered by the Council. A response indicating why the Council wished the application to be considered by the Planning Committee could then be sent immediately, albeit SCDC had said that it did not want to receive emails until it had sent a request.

SCDC World of Planning Event

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that the Chairman would attend this event on 12 November 2015 on behalf of the Council.

Ipswich Garden Suburb Highways Infrastructure

A further letter sent on behalf of Tuddenham St Martin, Westerfield, and Gt and Lt Bealings Parish Councils had been circulated to Councillors. It requested confirmation that there would be accurate monitoring of the current level of traffic on the surrounding roads, by the use of traffic monitoring strips.

7 Highways

20mph Speed Limit for The Street

It was noted that SCC had confirmed the cost of the design to be £5074.72, with construction fees to be determined and a total cost estimate of £8,000 to £9,000. County Councillor Peter Bellfield had confirmed he had allocated £5,000 to the project, and District Councillor Colin Hedgley had secured £3,000 SCDC funding. However, no response had been received from the School or residents to a request that they consider raising the outstanding £1,000.

In addition SCC had advised that a contingency figure of 25-50% should be allowed, making a total budget of up to £14,000. It was noted that some other funding sources could be explored and Mr Bellfield had been asked if he could assist with the contingency funding from his 2016/17 budget. It was **RESOLVED** that:

- Ms Head would approach the School to discuss parent/resident fundraising, including applications for grants which could be made by community groups, such as the High Sherriff's Fund and SCDC's Capital and Revenue Grants. **DH**
- Once fund raising was set up, it would be publicised via the Benefice Magazine and the enewsgroup.

Parking at Hall Road Crossroads

SCC had advised that no funding was available.

Footpath Cutting

Following an enquiry by a resident, Mr Ball had inspected a part of Footpath 3, but it was considered to be appropriate for use as a rural footpath.

Sand Spreading

Mr Finch had confirmed that he would spread sand on the approaches to the level crossing over the winter.

SAVID

Ms Head reported that a further meeting had been held on 23 October but she had been unable to attend. However, the group was arranging to purchase a 'VAS' sign to inform motorists of their speed. The police would also be encouraged to do more speed monitoring and enforcement.

8 District and County Councillors' Reports

The Chairman explained that this would be a new regular item on meeting Agendas, to enable reports to be received. Mr Hedgley's report had

previously been circulated to Councillors.

9 Police

Mrs Cornish reported that she had attended the 12PT AGM on 20 October, at which it was announced that Lt Bealings and Gt Bealings were no longer a part of the group, having been moved to the Woodbridge SNT to realign groups with electoral boundaries. She was aware that the Woodbridge SNT did not hold equivalent meetings or PCEM events for residents.

It was noted that a welcome email had been received from the Woodbridge SNT, giving contact details for a PC and PCSO, but no report had been sent for the meeting. It was thought unlikely that any officer would attend Council meetings in future.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That Mrs Cornish would attend the Suffolk Local Policing Information Evening on 10 December. **TC**

10 Finance

Income and Expenditure

Income:

£3013.90 had been received from SCDC, the second half of the precept, and £34.50 from Hasketon Parish Council, its share of the cost of Councillor Training

Expenditure:

It was **RESOLVED** that the following expenditure be incurred:

- Clerk's Salary for November and expenses (including purchase of Chairman's Gavel for £10.40): £268.26
- Clerk's Salary for December: £256.24
- PAYE cheque for Clerk's Salary for November: £64.00
- PAYE cheque for Clerk's Salary for December: £64.00

A schedule of the above payments was signed by the Chairman, and cheques were signed by Mr Hopkins and Ms Head.

After the above the bank account balance would be £2001.41.

Risk Assessment to March 2016

This had previously been circulated to Councillors and it was **RESOLVED**:

- To approve the risk assessment for the current year.

Budget for 2016/17

This had previously been circulated to Councillors and it was **RESOLVED**:

- To approve the budget, including, if it was necessary on the date on which the amount of the precept required for the year had to be confirmed to SCDC, an increase in the precept of £1,000 to meet the outstanding amount required to fund the 20mph speed limit in The Street (excluding the contingency figure).

- To ask the local County and District Councillors if their contributions to the 20mph funding could each be increased by £250 as an alternative means of addressing the shortfall.

11 Matters Arising from Circulated Items (2015/05 and by email)

Mr Hunter raised circulation E16 October from SALC, concerning a proposed right for Parish Councils to appeal planning decisions. It was **RESOLVED**:

- That the Council would sign the petition supporting this and the link sent to Councillors to enable them to do so individually. **ALL**

Mr Hopkins raised circulation E10 October from SALC, regarding celebrations for HM The Queen's 90th birthday on 10 June 2016, and whether an event could be organised by the Grove Farm Residents Association, Bealings School and All Saints Church, with Bealings Village Hall. It was **RESOLVED**:

- That the Council would support an event and it would be publicised in the Benefice Magazine to a gauge interest.

12 Correspondence

Items received were noted. It was **RESOLVED** that:

- the following items would be circulated to Councillors:
 - Suffolk View
 - Clerks and Councils Direct
 - The Ipswich Society Newsletter
 - CAS Annual Review

In response to a question from Ms Shaw, the Chairman confirmed that she had written to Mr Bellfield offering the Council's condolences on the death of his wife.

13 Date of Next Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- the next scheduled meeting would be held on 4 January 2016.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.05pm.