

**Minutes of Little Bealings Parish Council meeting held at Bealings Village Hall at 7.30pm
on Monday 5 January 2015**

Present: Mrs F Rogers (Chairman), Mr D Hunter and Mrs M Wilson

Also present: Mr P Bellfield (Suffolk County Councillor), Mr T Fryatt (Suffolk Coastal District Councillor) and PCSOs Krista Robertson and Jeanette Pither (all for part of the meeting)

In attendance: Mrs C Ramsden, Clerk to the Council

1 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Mr B Rufford, Dr C Rowe and Mr D Wilson.

2 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 3 November 2104

It was **RESOLVED:**

- to amend and then approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2014.

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4 Police

PCSO Robertson advised that she had recently been transferred to the local area. No crime had been reported in the parish since the previous Council meeting on 3 November.

School Parking

In respect of last term's school parking problems PCSO Robertson said that she was aware of recent complaints about parent parking between the Church and Holly Lane, which forced walkers to the middle of the road and vehicles travelling away from the village to the right hand side of the road as they approached the blind summit at the Holly Lane junction. There had also been concerns about parking in a resident's driveway and in the Church entrance (which had previously been designated for 'drop-off' only).

PCSO Sally Thomas had suggested a walking bus, some additional signage and provision of a pavement. The Clerk had advised her that a pavement had been previously considered by SCC but was prohibitively expensive. It was unclear whether parking on the white line (which had been put in place by SCC a few years ago specifically to improve safety) was now considered an offence, but PCSO Robertson would consider this further with PCSO Thomas. They would also try and visit to advise on parking at school times. Mrs Wilson advised that Tuesday afternoons were the busiest time, as the Village Hall Car Park was used then by hirers of the Hall.

It was noted that PCSO Thomas would be visiting the school in January and a walking bus could be raised with the school then. PCSO Thomas had been sent a copy of the Newsletter, produced by a Working Group when road safety had been an issue a few years ago by the Clerk, which

could be updated and issued to parents by the school.

20 mph Speed Limit for The Street

The Council was waiting to hear from SCC as to whether it met the criteria for this, but, although there were new policies in place for 30, 40, and 50 limits the criteria were unchanged. It was uncertain if SCC officers had been invited to attend the meeting held by residents/school representatives on 14 November to discuss establishing a '20 is Plenty' zone. Mrs Rogers had attended this meeting on behalf of the Council and reported that the meeting was investigating speed stickers for wheelie bins, a petition and joining Speedwatch. Councillors Bellfield and Fryatt advised that Speedwatch needed a new co-ordinator and faster implementation to remain effective.

40 mph Speed Limit for Rural Traffic

Councillor Bellfield reported that he had asked the SCC Cabinet member for roads, transport and planning for consideration of a 40 mph speed limit in the area bounded by the A1214 Woodbridge/Ipswich Road, the A12 to the east, the A1120 to the north and the A140 to the west, in places where the limit was currently more than 30 mph. He had also asked for Speedwatch members to be able to monitor 40 mph limits, as well as the existing 30 mph limits. It was **RESOLVED**:

- that Mrs Rogers would advise the resident arranging the next residents/school meeting on '20 is Plenty' (which was due to take place on 28 January) of this proposal. FR

12PT and SAVID Meetings

It was noted that no one was available to attend the 12PT meeting on 21 January. Attending SAVID meetings would be considered again when the vacancy on the Parish Council had been filled.

5 Highways

Flooding on Martlesham Road and The Street

There had been no further information regarding flooding affecting a property in Martlesham Road. In respect of The Street, SCC had advised that it did undertake gully and ditch clearing and requested further details such as the dates and times of flooding incidents, how long water took to drain away and the extent of road flooded, to match this to records of rainfall. It was noted that recently, when there had been flooding elsewhere locally, The Street had not been affected. The Environment Agency had advised that it had inspected recently and was not aware of any problems with the watercourse at present.

(Mr Bellfield also reported that:

- SCC now had 39 gritting lorries and could grit all priority 1 routes in 2.5 hours
- Generation of energy from the County Council's waste plant had started on time and within budget
- SCC continued to push for better mobile phone coverage in rural areas
- A youth employment centre opened in Ipswich to offer advice on CVs, interviews etc, was proving very popular.)

Footpaths

The subsidence on FP3, a route used by school children, had been repaired very quickly by SCC. The route was not as clear as in previous years as there was less daily use, but was passable. Mr Bellfield advised that no cutting was carried out by SCC at this time of year.

Trees in The Street

SCC had dealt with two leaning trees in The Street very quickly, including leaving the Clerk a message that it would be arranging a road closure to do so.

6 Planning

Policy

SCDC Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies: Issues and Options Consultation

It was noted that:

- as previously advised by SCDC, all of four sites in the parish proposed to SCDC for housing allocation, had been rejected
- there were no new housing requirements identified in the parish for the period 2010 - 2017
- although the parish was included in the 'Indicative Housing Provision Eastern Ipswich Housing Market Sub-Area 2010-2027', no new housing was proposed to be allocated to the parish in this context
- the revised physical limit boundary for the parish was as previously considered with SCDC, excluding the area around the junction of Holly Lane and The Street on the grounds that this is already designated as An Area to be Protected from Development

Details of the consultation had been displayed on the three Council notice boards. It was **RESOLVED**:

- that the proposals were acceptable and there was therefore no need to respond to the consultation.

Mr Fryatt also drew attention to the development of Martlesham Heath as a retail centre, and to the possibility of obtaining planning permission for Affordable Housing on sites where development would not otherwise be permitted.

Applications

C/12/2483 Finches Hill, The Street: Certificate of Lawful Use of Existing Development for a swimming pool enclosure built under permitted development law previously attached to dwelling but since 02/12/12 not attached

C13/0393: Stables opposite Brimar, The Street: Change of Use to Riding Establishment

It was noted that no replies had been received from SCDC in response to

requests for updates and determination of these applications. Mr Fryatt also advised that he had complained to SCDC about a lack of enforcement action.

Sinks Pit

A resident had advised the Council that the site still seemed to be operating outside the permitted times. SCC (as the minerals planning authority) had advised that it required details of the dates, times and nature of the noise to enable it to take action. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to publicise the need to collect full details of any breaches of the permitted operating hours in the Benefice Magazine.

DC/14/3615/AGO Firecrest Nursery, Hall Road: Erection of a tractor and implement store

It was noted that SCDC had advised of receipt of plans for this development which, as agricultural/forestry development, did not require planning permission.

Works to Protected Trees

It was noted that SCDC had received applications as follows:

Finches Hill, The Street: To cut back branches to two oak trees on western boundary

The Oak Walk, Martlesham Road: Acacia tree: 20%-30% crown reduction to reduce crown away from house. All oak trees: removal of deadwood and hanging branches, minor crown reduction as required for safety reasons

Suncroft, Martlesham Road: T1: Sweet Chestnut: reduce and shape by top by up to 5m, to reduce storm risk. T2: Sweet Chestnut: fell, now tree leaning towards property.

7 Finance

Asset Management

It was noted that the wooden village sign, jointly owned with Gt Bealings Parish Council and erected on the parish boundary, was regularly inspected by Gt Bealings Parish Council and maintained by that Council as necessary.

Income and Expenditure

It was noted that Mr Hunter had confirmed the calculated pay rise due to the Clerk as a result of the agreement reached by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services for a 2014-2016 National Salary Award. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the following expenditure be incurred:

- Clerk's Salary for January 2015 and including non-consolidated payment due 1 December 2014 (£269.26)
- HMRC: PAYE for Clerk's salary (January) (£67.20)
- Clerk's Salary for February 2015 (£256.24)
- HMRC: PAYE for Clerk's salary (February): (£64.00)

A schedule of the above payments was signed by the Chairman, and cheques were signed accordingly.

Internal and External Audit for 2014/15

It was noted that:

- Mr Gardiner had confirmed that he was available to carry out the audit for 2014/15, but that he would not be available in future years as he was moving away from the area
- The need for an external audit was proposed to be replaced by a Transparency Code, under which the Council would be required to publish financial information. Details were not yet finalised but would be distributed by SALC in due course.

Appeals for Donations

It was noted that appeals had been received from the Disability Advice Service (DAS) (which stated that it needed to raise £161 to cover the cost of providing its service in 'the Little Bealings area') and Headway Suffolk. The latter had been asked it was assisting residents in the parish at present. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to establish if 'the Little Bealings area' referred to by DAS was for services in the parish
- to circulate both requests to Councillors prior to further consideration at the next meeting.

8 Parish Councillor Vacancy

It was noted that the resident who had expressed interest in becoming a councillor was unable to make the commitment required and there had been no enquiries as a result of advertising the vacancy in the Benefice Magazine. However, Mrs Cornish had advised that she was now in a position to return to the Council. It was **RESOLVED**:

- To co-opt Mrs Toni Cornish to the vacancy on the Parish Council.

9 Matters Arising from Circulated Items (2014/06 and by email)

Dr Rowe had requested consideration of whether a Community Emergency Plan should be prepared. It was noted that the Village Hall was already designated a local emergency centre by SCC/SCDC and that a 'Good Neighbour Scheme' also operated in the benefice for those with mobility problems who may need help with occasional lifts, minor domestic repairs, etc. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to circulate a copy of a pro forma Plan to Councillors, prior to further consideration at the next Council meeting.

10 Correspondence

Item received were noted, including:

- Woodbridge Lions had been advised on one resident who may appreciate receiving a Christmas Parcel
- The Chairman had been contacted by a prospective resident asking about flooding in The Street.
- The Chairman of Gt Bealings Parish Council had contacted the farmer with a view to improving signing for the permissive path between the parishes as walkers strayed from the route and walked

along the riverbank.

- SCDC advising of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and that 27 January is National Holocaust Memorial Day.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that the following item be circulated to Councillors:
 - The Local Councillor (which included an item about the filming of meetings).

11 Dates of Meetings in 2015/16

It was noted that the Village Hall Committee Room was available on these days and so **RESOLVED** that:

- the Council would meet at 7.30pm in the Committee Room on 2 March, 11 May (Annual Parish Council meeting), 6 July, 7 September, 2 November 2015 and on 4 January and 7 March 2016.
- in view of local elections to be held on 7 May, the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) would be held on the same evening as the Annual Parish Council meeting and there would be further consideration of a theme for the APM at the Council meeting to be held on 2 March.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.40pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday 2 March 2015.