

**Minutes of Little Bealings Parish Council meeting held at Bealings Village Hall at 7.15pm
on Tuesday 26 April 2016**

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

Also present: Mr C Hudson (Suffolk County Councillor) Mr C Hedgley (Suffolk Coastal District Councillor) and eight residents for all/part of the meeting

In attendance: Mrs C Ramsden, Clerk to the Council

A minute's silence was held at the beginning of the meeting in memory of Mr Peter Bellfield, Suffolk County Councillor.

**Councillor
Actions**

1 Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

Apologies were received from Mr B Rufford due to a work commitment. There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations. It was **RESOLVED:**

- To accept the apology for absence.

The Chairman advised of the resignation of Ms J Shaw as a Parish Councillor due to work commitments.

2 Public Participation Session

Residents raised concerns and objections in respect of planning application SCC\0086\16: Laying of block paved hard standing (retrospective), erection of flood lighting and temporary stockpiling of aggregate material to assist in reorganisation of stockpiling at Kesgrave Quarry, as follows:

- The previous application for this development (C/16/0404) had included bunding which would have protected many houses from noise and light pollution. The application had been withdrawn as a result of the SCC's objection to the bund, but this was unacceptable in view of the impact on residents.
- At times the noise was so bad as to make use of gardens impossible.
- A compromise to protect residents must be found. Use of the site was now more intensive than under previous ownership and SCC must recognise that the bund was essential.
- The applicant's willingness to build the bund should have been encouraged by SCC in view of the protection it would provide.
- SCC's advice that the previous application had been withdrawn, not refused, was juvenile given that the reason for withdrawal had been SCC's objection to the bund. It was very disappointing that SCC was not proactively seeking a solution to the matter.

- SCC did not maintain its land adjoining the site, for example, it had not dealt with a fallen tree and it allowed ragwort to grow.
- Without the bund the floodlights were unacceptable and would result in light pollution.

Mr Hudson read a briefing note which had been prepared for him to explain SCC's position and the background to the current use of the site. The bund included in planning application C/16/0404 had been partly proposed on SCC land and objection by SCC, in its capacity as Waste Disposal Authority, had been made on engineering grounds, as there was concern that it would be unstable and would affect SCC's monitoring of the gas burner on its land. However, Mr Hudson stressed that he understood the impact the site had on residents, as a result of crushing operations and vehicle noise and that this was severe at times, partly dependent upon the wind direction.

The briefing note stated that it was unlikely that a stable bund could ever be constructed, beyond the small bund already on site, and in any event it was unproven that it would decrease noise pollution, although it would have a visual impact.

Residents commented that they were unaware of any existing bund.

Mr Hudson stated that he understood the applicant was trying to propose a solution which would protect residents and he would make representations to SCC officers to encourage a compromise. It was unacceptable that residents were not included in discussions and he would work on residents' behalf to achieve a meeting attended by representative of the Parish Council, residents, the applicant and SCC officers.

Residents commented further that:

- They had held a meeting with the applicant last year and believed that he wished to find a solution for them. There were currently problems with lorry beepers, but this was thought to be from road construction traffic, not quarry operations and residents should email the applicant on this point.
- The applicant should be encouraged in his willingness to provide a solution; other operators of the site might be less helpful. SCC should not be blocking the way forward.

3 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 16 March 2016

It was **RESOLVED**:

- to approve the minutes of this meeting.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Celebration of HM The Queen's 90th Birthday in June 2016

It was understood that arrangements were now in hand for a joint event with Great Bealings.

Village Review

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- In view of attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting there was no

mandate for a Village Review to be undertaken.

5 Planning

Application

SCC\0086\16: Laying of block paved hard standing (retrospective), erection of flood lighting and temporary stockpiling of aggregate material to assist in reorganisation of stockpiling: Kesgrave Quarry

It was noted that the agent for the application had advised that they were unable to attend. The views of one resident had been circulated to Councillors.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that there was objection to the application as it no longer included bunding to protect residents' amenity
- that SCC's stance in respect of application C/16/0404 was objectionable and SCC must seek an integrated solution to the matter
- that a meeting between representatives of the Parish Council and residents with the applicant and SCC representatives was welcomed as the most expedient way forward
- that SCC be advised that it was inappropriate for the application to be determined before the meeting had taken place.

Policy

Heritage Planning Training

Mrs Cornish and Mr Hopkins would attend this free training provided by the Suffolk Preservation Society, on behalf of the Council.

6 Highways

20mph Speed Limit for The Street

Mr Hedgley advised that he was awaiting confirmation of Locality Budget allocations, but now intended that he and the other local District Councillors would provide a minimum total of £5,000 for the project. He agreed that the allocation by Mr Bellfield of £5,000 during 2015/26 was secure, but that, it was likely that funding from the 2016/17 budget was now frozen until a new Councillor had been elected. However, he was of the view that Mr Bellfield did intend give further funding for the project and that he had made a verbal commitment of this to the Council. It was **RESOLVED**:

- To confirm the amount requested from SCDC for 2016/17 as a minimum of £5,000
- To ask SCC whether Mr Bellfield's intentions with regard to an allocation of £5,000 for 2016/17 could be honoured.

Parish Paths Partnership Footpath Cutting

SCC had recently provided a purchase order for this year's cutting and confirmation was awaited from Mr Fear that he had appropriate insurance and health and safety knowledge to undertake the work in accordance with SCC's terms of contract.

Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way

A working copy of the new Definitive Map and Statement for the parish had been received from SCC. A pdf copy had been requested for the Council's website but Ordnance Survey copyright needed to be resolved before it was published. It was **RESOLVED**:

- That the new Map and Statement be circulated to Councillors
- That the accuracy of the parish boundary on the Map be checked

Works on Martlesham Road

It was noted that the current road closure appeared to be for works to address the damage being caused to trees at The Pines, Martlesham Road.

7 District Councillors' Report

The report had previously been circulated to Councillors. It drew attention to an increase in Council Tax for 2016/17, the possible merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils, publication of the East Suffolk Business Plan, proposed devolution of power to East Anglia, proposed SCDC funded affordable homes, the sale of the Melton Hill offices, building of new offices and SCDC Customer Services in local libraries, a new SCDC website, the continuation of a free brown bin collection, the installation of 'intelligent' street and footpath lighting, the development of Sizewell C and communities supported by the local district councillors through the Community Enabling Budgets during 2015/16.

8 Police

No officer was available to attend the meeting but information had been received about a new way of partnership working with the Anti-Social Behaviour team at SCDC.

A report advised that there had been two reported crimes in the parish: an attempt to steal oil from a tank in Playford Road and overnight entry to a vehicle, although nothing had been taken.

9 Finance

Internal Audit

Completion of this by Mr Fieldsend was awaited.

Funding for Benefice Magazine

Notes of the meeting held on 31 March to consider the future content and funding of the Magazine had been circulated to Councillors. It was noted that they were incorrect in recording Mr Hopkins as an attendee. It was **RESOLVED**:

- That the Council was sympathetic to providing financial support for the Magazine to enable it to continue to be distributed free to every household in the Parish, if the current shortfall was not addressed by a change to the printing arrangements
- That the proposed change to the content and editorial responsibility for the Magazine meant that it was currently unclear where responsibility would fall in future, so that confirmation of the new governance structure was required before any increase in the Council's annual donation to the Magazine was agreed.

Income and Expenditure

Income:

Nil

It was noted that the interest rate on the Council's NSI account would decrease from 0.75% to 0.45% on 1 July 2016.

Expenditure:

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

- Clerk's Salary for April and expenses: £270.24
- PAYE cheque for Clerk's Salary for April: £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 £397.44.

Donation to East Anglian Air Ambulance

Mrs Cornish proposed that the Council give a donation to this charity in memory of Andrew Keep of Great Bealings and it was **RESOLVED**:

- That the annual donations to be made at the Annual Parish Council meeting to be held on 23 May 2016 include a donation of £25 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance in memory of Andrew Keep of Great Bealings

Community Action Suffolk Membership Renewal

It was noted that this charity was offering free membership during 2016/17 but had proposed that a voluntary donation be given instead. It was **RESOLVED**:

- That the annual membership fee for 2016/17 of £30 be given as a donation to Community Action Suffolk

10 Matters Arising from Circulated Items (2016/02 and by email)

Circulation 2016/02 had not reached all Councillors, but there were no matters arising.

11 Correspondence

A letter received from Colin Noble, the Leader of SCC, had offered support and provided contact details for other Councillors in view of Mr Bellfield's incapacity. The letter had been sent before Mr Bellfield died.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That leaflets received from UK Power networks which enabled vulnerable residents to sign up for priority service during power cuts would be distributed to residents by Councillors and via the Noticeboards.
- To circulate Suffolk View to Councillors

13 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be the Annual Parish Council Meeting to be held on 23 May 2016.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.30pm.