

**Minutes of Little Bealings Parish Council meeting held at Bealings Village Hall at 7.15pm
on Monday 4 January 2016**

Present: Mrs M Wilson (Chairman), Mrs T Cornish, Ms D Head, Mr C Hopkins, Mr D Hunter (for part of the meeting) Mr B Rufford and Ms J Shaw

Also present: Mr C Hedgley (Suffolk Coastal District Councillor), Mr J Tate as agent for the planning application to be considered and four residents, all for part of the meeting.

In attendance: Mrs C Ramsden, Clerk to the Council

**Councillor
Actions**

1 Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

There were no apologies, declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

2 Public Participation Session

Residents raised questions and concerns about planning applications DC/15/4908/FUL: Erection of new headquarters building for vehicular hire operator comprising workshop, office, associated parking, drainage infrastructure and landscaping to allow for the hire, storage, workshop and sales of machinery (revised scheme to DC/15/2107/FUL and DC/14/4251/FUL) at Kesgrave Quarry, and DC/15/5055/FUL: Change of use in Kesgrave Quarry from mineral use to associated parking and access routes for adjacent Trucks R Us headquarters, as follows:

- It was not possible to discern or understand the changes made; existing block paving was not shown and a required tree belt was also omitted. This raised concerns about what else had been omitted
- The applicant had not provided a clear strategy for the whole site and the applicant's agent did not have this information, or information on when minerals work may cease, to hand
- The Council should have pressed harder for a masterplan to be required by SCDC
- The sorting, crushing and manoeuvring of concrete and minerals at the site caused residents great problems due to the noise and dust generated
- The additional parking now being proposed would mean an increase in the amount of tarmacked area within the site and the increased numbers were unclear
- The proposed extra parking for workers and visitors at the site may result in the end to minerals operations, as they would not tolerate the noise and dust – although this was uncertain as there had been a lot of investment in these operations

Mr Tate advised that he was only appointed in respect of the current planning application and could not answer questions about other operations at the site or the future intentions of the applicant, regarding either the implementation of the Fork Rent planning permission or for the rest of the site. He responded to questions as follows:

- The main change to the application, in comparison with the existing

- planning permission, was to move the building 10 metres to the south
- The required tree belt was not shown as it was not required to be, but it was a condition of the approved planning permission and would still have to be provided; the site boundary be amended as necessary to accommodate it
- The block paved area was not shown as this was not a part of the current application. It is shown within an application to SCC, as minerals planning authority, as the area relates to minerals operations
- If it was necessary to do so the block paved area would have to be ripped up to provide the tree belt
- The changes to parking provision were as follows, and resulted in an increase in the size of the total parking area:
 - An increase of 36, to provide 60 car parking spaces for staff and visitors
 - A decrease of 10, to provide 40 van spaces
 - A decrease of 17, to provided 20 lorry spaces
- The landscaping plan had not been provided to the meeting as it was very expensive to print, but the Council was welcome to keep the copies of the other plans he had brought to the meeting.

It was also noted that:

- Kesgrave Town Council had supported the previous applications at the site; the traffic impact in Kesgrave was low
- The Fork Rent permission could still be implemented, although sub-letting by the site owner was considered unlikely
- The application to SCC in respect of mineral operations on the block paved area would be a matter for future consideration by the Council
- Mr Hedgley had been unable to assist the Council in its complaint to SCDC over the way in which it had dealt with the site and was unable to pursue the matter other than within proper procedures. He recommended residents seek a personal interview with the Head of Planning, Philip Ridley if they were dissatisfied.

3 Minutes of the Meetings Held on 2 November and 25 November 2015

It was **RESOLVED**:

- to approve the minutes of these meetings.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

No response had been received from anyone in the parish wishing to organise an event. It was noted that Great Bealings was planning a celebration and hoped that there could be a joint event held by the two parishes.

SCDC Annual Town and Parish Liaison Meeting on 16 November 2015

Ms Head said that she had mistaken the date for this and had not attended.

5 Planning

Applications

DC/15/4908/FUL: Erection of new headquarters building for vehicular hire operator comprising workshop, office, associated parking, drainage infrastructure and landscaping to allow for the hire, storage, workshop and sales of machinery (revised scheme to DC/15/2107/FUL and DC/14/4251/FUL) at Kesgrave Quarry

In response to a request from Councillors for more information about the changes made Mr Tate advised:

The building would be the same size and orientation, the intention being to give more room for the wash area and to move closer to the access gate. There was also a change to the colour of the cladding and additional information covering some of the previous permissions' pre-commencement conditions had been included. Drainage had changed as a result of changes to the site layout.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- while there remained concerns about the lack of a masterplan for the site and at the noise and dust which continued to disturb residents, there was no objection to the application.

DC/15/5055/FUL: Change of use in Kesgrave Quarry from mineral use to associated parking and access routes for adjacent Trucks R Us headquarters

In response to questions from Councillors Mr Tate advised that implementation of this change of use proposal would mean that concrete crushing at the site would cease and that the bays for the scheme had already been built. A new traffic assessment had shown that the impact of this scheme was about the same as for the previous applications: there would be an impact which would result in an increase of about one minute in travel time along the A1214 during the rush hour. This was due to the extra number of staff travelling to and from the site.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- while there remained concerns about the lack of a masterplan for the site and at the noise and dust which continued to disturb residents, there was no objection to the application.

SCDC Response to Complaint regarding Enforcement Action at Sinks Pit

A reply had been received from SCDC stating that SCDC had only been aware of enforcement complaints from residents since October 2015 and not since July 2015 as stated by the Council. As this was known to be incorrect, in view of exchanges between SCDC and a resident, it was **RESOLVED**:

- to write again to SCDC and point out that the Council's quoted timescale was correct.

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

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

It was noted that SCDC had granted permission for these developments.

Policy

Ipswich Local Plan: Supplementary Planning Document Consultation and Development Plan Document Examination

These consultations were noted.

6 Highways

20mph Speed Limit for The Street

Ms Head reported that she raised the funding shortfall with the head of Bealings School, but that, as there was no interest in the matter, she would be raising it with the Friends Of Bealings School. It was noted that Mr Bellfield was not able to respond to the Council's request for extra funding at present, leaving a shortfall of up to £6,000 if the maximum amount of contingency funding was required.

Mr Hedgley advised that he was unsure if he would be able to secure further funding for the same project from his 2016/17 budget, or whether the allocated funding for 2015/16 would be lost if not spent or transferred to the Council.

The alternatives of raising money locally, including from those who used the school but did not live in the parish, and of raising some of the shortfall by an increase in the precept for 2016/17 were considered. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that:

- The Council would apply for the funding allocated for 2015/16 by District and County Councillors to ensure it was not lost
- The precept for 2016/17 would not be increased
- Ms Head would approach Friends of Bealings School to discuss alternative 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

Parish Paths Partnership Footpath Cutting

Mr Ball had advised that he was retiring and so would not undertake the cutting for future seasons. He suggested either finding a replacement to undertake the cutting as he had, or leaving the scheme and requesting SCC to take over the cutting. If the latter was chosen he would be happy to undertake extra cutting as needed, as a volunteer, and subject to there being appropriate insurance in place.

Mr Hopkins was aware of a possible replacement for Mr Ball, who already undertook similar work locally, and it was **RESOLVED**:

- that Mr Hopkins would discuss the work with the prospective candidate and advise the Clerk of the outcome.
- that Mr Ball should be sent a letter of thanks for his work cutting the footpaths

CH

SAVID

Ms Head reported that she had received an email from SAVID asking if the parish wished to join in the purchase of a 'VAS' sign to inform motorists of their speed. The sign would be a shared asset to be operated by the parishes in turn. It was **RESOLVED** that:

- in view of the proposed 20mph speed limit the Council would not join in the purchase of a sign at present.

The meeting was adjourned briefly at 8.30pm.

7 District and County Councillors' Reports

Mr Hedgley's report had previously been circulated to Councillors. He drew attention to the possibility of a rise in Council Tax in 2015/16.

8 Police

Mrs Cornish reported that she and Mr Hedgley had attended the Suffolk Local Policing Information Evening on 10 December. This had advised of major changes, including the possible loss of the Kesgrave SNT and that the police would no longer undertake speeding and parking enforcement work. It was unlikely that any police presence or report would be available to Council meetings. However, since the meeting the police funding settlement had been published, which had altered the position significantly.

Correspondence had also been received asking if the Council wished to contribute funding for a PCSO for the parish, the total cost of which was in the region of £30,000.

It was **RESOLVED** to await further information regarding police funding and activities in the parish.

9 Finance

Income and Expenditure

Income: £34.50 from Playford Parish Council, its share of the cost of Councillor Training

Expenditure:

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

- Homestart Donation: £25
- SCDC Election Fees for May 2015: £346.80
- Clerk's Salary for January and expenses: £256.64
- Clerk's Salary for February: £256.24
- PAYE cheque for Clerk's Salary for January: £64.00
- PAYE cheque for Clerk's Salary for February: £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 £1021.23.

External Audit

It was noted that with effect from the financial year 2017/18 Councils could choose to procure their own external auditor, or have an auditor appointed for them by a new 'sector-led body'. It was **RESOLVED**:

- To participate in the new sector led body audit procurement arrangements.

Internal Audit

The Council's internal auditor had moved away and was unable to undertake future audits. It was **RESOLVED**:

- To approach three local residents who had appropriate qualifications and experience to ask if one of them would undertake this role
- To continue to make a gift of £25 to the internal auditor upon completion of the audit each year

10 Matters Arising from Circulated Items (2015/07 and by email)

There were no matters arising.

11 Correspondence

It was noted that:

- Gt Bealings Parish Council was pursuing the installation of a defibrillator at the Village Hall
- The latest full Electoral Register for the parish had been received by the Clerk
- Woodbridge and District Lions Club had asked for nominations of worthy recipients of Christmas food parcels, but the deadline had not made it possible to nominate any recipients
- Residents had responded to the Environment Agency's request for any information relevant to the appeal against Anglian Water's decision not to provide a mains sewer for part of The Street

13 Dates of Meetings Until March 2017 and Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- the Council would meet on 14 March (also the Annual Parish Meeting), 23 May (the Annual Parish Council meeting) 4 July, 5 September and 7 November during 2016, and on 9 January and 6 March (also the Annual Parish Meeting) 2017
- the Annual Parish Meeting would take the form of a 'Village Review' and, subject to availability, be held in the main Village Hall, and aimed at identifying any new ideas residents had for the village and any opportunities that may exist for improving aspects of village life, and that:
 - Community Action Suffolk would be invited to run the event
 - Community Groups would be invited to participate
 - Refreshments would be served

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.00pm.