

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Little Bealings held at Bealings Village Hall
on Monday, 6 March 2018 at 7.55pm**

Present: Ms Denise Head and Mrs Margaret Wilson (Parish Councillors), Mr Robin Vickery (County Councillor), Mr Colin Hedgley (District Councillor) and 26 residents/members of the public

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

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

Apologies: Mrs Toni Cornish, Dr Colin Hopkins, Mr Douglas Hunter, Mr Barnaby Rufford and Mr Ian Ransome (Parish Councillors).

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6 March 2017: The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

Matters Arising from the Minutes: None.

Parish Council Chairman's Report The Chairman reported a very busy year with 14 Council meetings, eight of which considered planning applications, including applications for two new houses outside the village envelope. SCDC had granted permission for the demolition of two adjoining houses in The Street to be replaced by the erection of four detached houses on the same site. An application for the Admiral's Head public house to be converted to a private dwelling had been refused. Its listing as a Community Asset had been renewed, allowing time for a bid to purchase to be made by the community if it was placed for sale. Noise and activity at Sinks Pit remained to be resolved and a 'watching brief' had been kept on the installation of the Wind Farm cabling as it proceeded.

The Parish Council had three significant successes during the year: a 20mph speed limit in the village, joining SCC's rota for 'Vehicular Activated Signs' in Martlesham and Playford Road, and winning an appeal against Anglia Water's refusal to install a sewer in part of The Street.

The Parish Council remained a member of the Suffolk Preservation Society, the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, Community Action Suffolk and SAVID (a Safer Village Driving Group), and Councillors had attended SAVID, local police 'anti-social behaviour' management meetings and a policy planning meeting with SCDC on behalf of the Council.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk and other Councillors for their support, Mr Fear for maintaining the footpaths and especially Mrs Jenny Shaw for her work as Webmaster.

Other Reports

County Councillor's Report

Mr Vickery reported that he had been re-elected as County Councillor for the Carlford Ward, and had many Councillor appointments and responsibilities to fit in with visits to the 26 parishes he represented. He was aware that most Parish Councils had highways concerns: potholes, speeding, hedge cutting, footpath and signage. He had no local highways budget this year to assist with local problems, but his locality budget had contributed to various projects, including defibrillators and village hall improvements. The economic climate continued to be very difficult, leaving County Councillors with difficult decisions on funding.

Mr Bob Tate, on behalf of All Saints' Church

Mr Tate reported, as a member of the PCC, that a faculty had been granted by the Diocese for the re-ordering of the Church. This would enable a community centre and café to be provided, which would be open to everyone, including from outside the parish. Services would still be held but the building would provide an 'open place' and would be used by Bealings School and other groups. It was an inspiring way to use the building, which had a falling congregation and was struggling financially; it was empty apart from two services a month. The work would be grant funded and would stop the Church from having to close; it needed new heating, re-wiring and had no running water at present. There had been objections as well as support for the project and the decision by the Lord Chancellor on the application was lengthy and addressed the issues raised. A copy was available at the Church. The next step was to apply for funding, with the Rev Cook in charge of the project, supported by a Café Hub Sub-Committee. The PCC had realised that it could not support two community buildings and had decided to sell the Angela Cobbold Hall, once the re-ordering was complete and community activities moved from there to the Church.

A question was asked regarding parking. Mr Tate explained that it was intended to make a layby at the front of the Church for disabled parking and there was agreement with the Village Hall for use of the car park when it was available. It was suggested to Mr Tate that parking could be provided by demolishing the Angela

Cobbold Hall, but he answered that it would be better to sell the building and use the funds to support the Church. The Cobbold family had no objection to this.

District Councillor's Report

Mr Hedgley introduced himself as one of three District Councillors who represented the Woodbridge Ward, and the one who usually represented the rural parishes therein. He was a member of six SCDC Committees. He had shared his community funding budget of £6,500 among the Ward parishes, including contributing to the 20mph speed limit costs. His full report would be available on the parish website, but he highlighted that the merger of SCDC with Waveney District Council would create the largest district in the country. There would be a reduction in the number of Councillors as a result and further savings could be made by the larger body when negotiating with suppliers. He was aware that fly tipping and bin collections were local concerns, especially the need to introduce an annual charge for garden waste collections. He would be pleased to answer any questions if anyone wished to speak with him.

Bealings Village Hall Trust Report

Mrs Wilson, as Secretary of the Trust, reported that the Hall continued to be well used by regular hirers and for one-off bookings. A current project was replacement windows for the main hall, committee room, snooker room and toilets, which should decrease heating bills. The Parish Council had funded the planning application and a grant of £4,000 could be secured from Tesco's if enough votes in their 'Bags of Help' scheme were secured. It was also hoped to resurface the car park. An online booking system had been introduced for the Hall. It was intended to extend this to the Sports Court and it was hoped that this would see an increase in bookings. Gt Bealings Parish Council and District Councillor Hedgley had funded the installation of a defibrillator. The Trustees were grateful for the funding support received from Gt and Lt Bealings Parish Councils.

Any Other Business:

20mph Signpost: A resident said that a speed signpost had been demolished six or seven weeks ago and not been replaced. It was laying across the footpath and was a trip hazard. It was confirmed that the signpost had been reported but it was not known when SCC would reinstate it.

Village Review and Future Development: A resident asked what would happen to the information gathered by SCDC at the Village Review which had preceded the meeting, and was advised that a report would be published which would guide the Parish Council in future planning decisions, and in matters residents wanted taken forward. A resident said that the options relating to development of the redundant Grove Farm buildings were misleading as they did not allow for a 'no development' preference. SCDC would be asked if this was a part of their Review or if it was within the proposals displayed separately by the developer for the site. The resident was concerned that if there was support for housing development at this location it would set a precedent for the approval of housing on other sites outside the village envelope, and that the rural quality of the parish would be under threat. There was already the likelihood of more traffic - especially with the proposed Bell Lane and Adastral developments. It was noted that the village envelope, within which development was in principle permitted, was limited and one resident said that in the past this limited him regarding an extension to his property.

A resident pointed out that an application for five houses at the Grove Farm site had been refused in 2007 but that the current proposals were for nine. If the village was to have new housing it should look to provide housing young professional couples could buy, to attract new younger people to the village. However, building smaller houses did not produce so much profit and so it was unlikely that affordable houses would be proposed. It was noted that there was only one other current proposal for a new house outside the village envelope and that this was for an extremely large house. There was concern that the approval of development by SCDC could overrule the local view, and that this would lead to many more applications. It was noted that development could be limited by the fact that Bealings School was full. In fact there were young families in the village – although it was acknowledged that for many years only about a third of children attending Bealings School lived in the village. Although it was full, spaces were found for local children.

20mph Speed Limit in The Street

A resident commented that the speed limit was not being adhered to and asked how it could be enforced. It was noted that chicanes and speed bumps could slow or stop traffic, but they also caused an increase in traffic pollution. Ms Head advised that the police would not enforce the 20mph limit and she understood that Playford Road was also now considered too dangerous a site for speed enforcement work. More Traffic Vehicle Activated Signs, could be the way forward.

Vandalism in Sandy Lane

A resident reported that some two weeks ago new solar lights had been taken from her front garden, broken and left by the Admiral's Head. Another resident said that a traffic warning mirror in The Street had been damaged on the same evening, and wind farm roadworks signs moved. The first resident was keen to establish where the culprits had come from and suggested a nearby location. This caused offence to another resident, but she refused to withdraw the comment. It was noted that the culprits may have been visitors to the village and that the matter had been reported to the police.

Sinks Pit

A resident asked if there was any likely resolution to the noise problems from the site. He was advised that the County Council had required such a high level of indemnity if proposed works to increase the height of bunding on its landfill site were carried out, that the owner of the site had decided not to proceed with bunding. It was understood that a new Director had been appointed by the owner and the Parish Council intended to ask to meet with him in May. It was pointed out that specific noise complaints should be made to SCDC who had visited as a result recently; every incident should be reported or SCDC would assume the issue was resolved.

Ipswich Northern Bypass

A resident asked if the Parish Council had any information on a proposed route but was advised that the only information on the options was that published in the press or available on SCC's website, where a feasibility report was published.

Bealings Station

A resident asked if it was likely that it would be re-opened, with parking perhaps provided on land which formed part of the site of a replacement house on the other side of the railway line to the Station building. He was advised that this was not likely, given that works would be needed to the line and platform, it was unlikely the landowner would agree and that pursuing it would be detrimental to the village. It must be assumed that it would attract users and traffic from Kesgrave and Martlesham.

Traffic on Playford and Martlesham Road

A resident said that when Orwell Bridge had been closed recently he had seen Playford Road being used by Trucks R Us vehicles avoiding congestion on the main Kesgrave Road. Another resident advised that he contact the owner of the Trucks R Us directly about this, as he would be keen to help resolve it. It was noted that the Parish Council had obtained a restriction on the weight of traffic which was allowed to access Martlesham Road at the Red Lion junction a few ago, but a resident said that it was not signed. The signing would be checked and raised with SCC if appropriate.

There were no other matters raised. The Chairman thanked those present for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.