

Minutes of Little Bealings Parish Council meeting held at Bealings Village Hall at 7.40pm on Monday 15 November 2010

Present: Mrs F Evans Rogers, Mr K Beaumont, Mrs F Hopkins, Dr C Rowe, Miss D Williams and Mrs M Wilson

Also Present for part of the Meeting: PCSO Justin Moss

In attendance: Mrs C Ramsden, Clerk to the Council

School Parking

Before the meeting Councillors discussed school parking and road safety with a concerned parent from Bealings School, Mr Alasair McEwan. He reported that a representative from FOBS had joined the VHMC and it was hoped that relationships with parents and the School would improve. FOBS were planning to help mark out the VH car park to encourage more sensible parking by parents. It was important that FOBS, the School governors and parents took a lead in resolving the ongoing problems of traffic and road safety. It was hoped to update the School Travel Plan in the next few months and propose some new actions. Another newsletter to parents was planned. He was looking again at the proposed high level footpath between Holly Lane and the Church, and would discuss it with the neighbouring property owners. Parking elsewhere in The Street would also be explored. In a few months he hoped to be in a position to bring firm proposals to another meeting of the Bealings Road Safety Group.

Councillors welcomed the initiative and asked to be kept informed of progress.

Suffolk County Council

Also before the meeting County Councillor Peter Bellfield advised that the County Council had to find major budget savings and a New Strategic Direction was proposed. This would involve diversification in the delivery of services and a Working Party had been set up to consider how to bring this about.

**Councillor
Actions**

1 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Mr P Carr. It was noted that Mr Jowers was unable to attend.

Mrs Hopkins declared a personal interest in item 6 Planning Applications in respect of Leawood House as owner of a neighbouring property.

2 Minutes of the Meetings held on 13 September 2010

These were signed as a true record.

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Open Weekend in Suffolk

It was noted that the grant of £100 made to the Council by SCC towards the Bealings Challenge Cup had now been received.

Tree Planting at Village Hall and Playing Field

There was no information from SCDC on this.

4 Highways

Bealings School Parking

It was noted that the School had advised the Parish Council that it would try to update the Travel Plan before Mr McEwan has become involved in the matter and this was welcomed.

Signs for VH Playing Field

The VH had advised that the annual RoSPA inspection had taken place and had again raised the lack of 'Children Playing' warning signs near the Playing Field. The County Council had costed the installation of two signs at a cost of £325.28p, but had no budget. The VH had suggested that the signs be 50% funded by the VH and the Parish Council.

It was noted that one of the proposed locations for the signs was between Holly Lane and the Church entrance. It was **RESOLVED**:

- that funding should be provided as proposed but that, before the project proceeded, the County Council be asked to audit the existing School signs and install signs that were appropriate for both the School and the Playing Field

Maintenance

The Holly Lane name sign was missing near the VH and had been reported for replacement.

The damaged bollards on the verge footpath by Brimar had been repaired.

The works to the Church and Playing Field footpaths had been carried out by SCC. The PCC had thanked the PC for its assistance in the matter. However, there was concern, including from the Council's Footpath Warden, that the works to the Playing Field path were not satisfactory, both in respect of the surface and SCC's wish to remove the barrier at the junction with the road. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to ask SCC to consider further works to improve the safety of the footpath at the entrance to the VH Playing Field.

SCC had not responded to the PC's request that the poor quality resurfacing works for Playford Road be remedied. However, Mr Bellfield had advised that SCC did agree that further works were needed. These could not be carried out during cold weather and would therefore have to wait until the Spring.

Traffic in Playford Road

A resident of Playford Road had raised the issue of the volume and speed of traffic using Playford Road again. PCSO Justin Moss agreed to contact the resident and also to visit the site with PC Richard Wright and see where it would be possible to carry out some speed checks.

PCSO Moss also agreed to chase SCC to provide the statistics from the monitoring the County Council was currently carrying out on the road.

The options of white lining pinch points, humps or platforms were discussed but there had been difficulties previously in installing white lining which would bring the road below the minimum required width. It was also likely that installing a hump or platform would require lighting and may not be popular with all residents.

Grit Bins

In response to a request SCC had been advised of the location of the three grit/sand bins in the parish: at the Church, the level crossing and the Hall Road crossroads. There was only one volunteer who would spread sand and it had previously been agreed he could purchase a shovel for this.

5 Police

PCSO Moss reported that there had been two crimes in the area since the last PC meeting: theft of copper from a back garden and an injury from a dangerous dog. The next PCEM meeting would be on 9 December in Rushmere.

The minutes of the 12PT meetings for September and October had been circulated. PC Hammond of the SNT had asked about holding a PCEM in the village in May 2011, but before 18 May. It was noted that Parish Council elections would take place on 5 May and that it would be possible to alter the agreed dates for meetings in March and May to accommodate the PCEM on the day of the Annual Parish Meeting as follows:

14 March 2011: Parish Council meeting
 9 May 2011: Annual Parish Council meeting
 16 May 2011: Annual Parish Meeting

It was **RESOLVED**:

- To ask the SNT if it wished to hold the PCEM before the APM on 16 May and if the event could be expanded to include, for example, cycle security marking.

6 Planning

SCDC Town and Parish Planning Forum

Mr Beaumont reported on his attendance at the Forum with Mr Carr, but that the event had not been very impressive. Scrutiny of the planning service had resulted in various changes which should result in improved communication with parish councils, eg by better use of IT and post. Parish Councils were asked to include reasons why they objected to or supported an application when responding to a consultation.

The removal of regional targets for house building and the introduction of a community right to build would bring changes to the system. There was no application from BT for the building of many new homes at Martlesham and so SCDC was not consulting on the matter. Other major issues were a further nuclear reactor at Sizewell and sea defence work.

IBC LDF Core Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document: Proposed Focused Changes to the Submission Schedule

IBC had published the above, with a consultation period until 17 January 2011. It was **RESOLVED**:

- To circulate the papers to Councillors and consider at a further PC meeting if necessary

Network Rail Mast

Following concerns from some residents Network Rail had been asked for information about the mast which had been installed by the railway line and

was visible from Sandy Lane.

Network Rail had responded that the mast was a part of a new railway radio communications system to improve safety, punctuality and efficiency. Network Rail had used permitted development rights to install the mast, but had also carried out consultations with SCDC, Michael Lord MP, County Councillor Peter Bellfield, District Councillor Ivan Jowers and any residents in close proximity or with a view of the mast.

Network Rail had been asked if consultations had included any residents in Sandy Lane from where the mast was visible, and what responses it had received. It had been asked why consultations had not included the PC and if the mast could be painted to blend in more. No further reply had been received.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- to ask Network Rail if the mast could also be offered to mobile phone companies to use, bearing in mind poor signal reception in the area
- to ask Network Rail if it had community budget funding which could be used to fund improvements in the parish and would compensate for the inconvenience of the level crossing and regular road closures and the visual impact of the mast.

Applications

C10/2781: Leewood House, Sandy Lane

Insertion of roof lanterns and solar panels on flat roof and raised terrace

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that there was no objection to this application, which was ecologically sound.

7 Finance

SCDC Budget Review Meeting

Mrs Hopkins reported on her attendance at the meeting with Mrs Wilson. The public sector budget cut of 28% over four years for Suffolk, would affect services provided by SCC, SCDC and the police significantly. There would be a considerable reduction in services and it would be up to individual parishes to provide the services they required, for example verge cutting, by raising the precept and employing staff or contractors. This would have a major impact on the role of parish councils, with there being much more flexibility and use of powers.

Funding for Parish Plan Actions 7 and 11

The AMG had advised that the Parish Plan survey data had been collected before SCDC had introduced the current recycling services and it was not therefore possible to deduce any preference for glass recycling or lighting. A further survey could be carried out if required and the VH had suggested it could survey its users.

It was noted that the views of Gt Bealings PC were not known in respect of its preference for recycling or lighting. In addition the view of SCDC was awaited in respect of the need for planning permission.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that, as glass recycling facilities were available elsewhere, there were concerns about broken glass in the car park and the need for improved lighting was clear, the funds should be used for the installation of a security light as proposed by the VH.
- that the AMG be asked to release the funds to the PC which would then work with the VH over the installation of the light.

Income and Expenditure

The Chairman reported the following income and expenditure:

Income:

- £7.85 from Gt Bealings PC for 50% of the cost of the wooden village sign insurance
- £152.25 from SCC for P3 cutting for 2010
- £100 from SCC for Open Weekend Grant
- £2875 from SCDC: second half of the precept for 2010/11

Expenditure:

Cheques were signed as follows:

- Clerk's salary and expenses: £877.58
- Bealings VH Trust: £100 (Open Weekend Grant)
- A replacement cheque for Mr G Ball: P3 Cutting: £152.25, the original having been lost in the post.

It was noted that the current account balance was £2472.41.

Budget for 2011/2012

The Council considered a draft budget for 2011/12. It was noted that:

- SCDC had advised that parish council election expenses of up to £485.78 should be allowed.
- Despite an anticipated nil increase in council tax and parish precepts, SALC had increased its subscription charge by 3%.
- VAT would rise to 20% in January, although most VAT was recoverable by the PC.
- There was no information about SCC funding for P3 footpath cutting for 2011/12.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- The quarterly dates for payment to the Clerk be amended to reflect the financial year as follows:

Work Period January – March: payment at March meeting
 Work period April - June: payment at July meeting
 Work period July – September: payment at November meeting
 Work period October – December: payment at January meeting

- There were no projects in the Parish Plan which required funding for

2011/12, although shared funding for VH Playing Field signs would be provided from the 2010/11 budget.

- In the event that SCC did not provide funding for footpath cutting in 2011/12 the PC would meet the cost from reserves.
- the precept for 2011/12 be maintained at £5750
- that the following donations be made during 2011/12:

Village Hall	£250
Playing Field	£500
Benefice Newsletter	£100
SORR	£15

resulting in budget summaries as follows:

2010/11: Year End Revised Outcome

Total receipts	£6274
Total payments	£6791
Reserves to carry forward to 2010/2011	£1348

2011/12: Estimates

Total receipts	£5801*
Total expenditure	£6190**

Reserves to carry forward to 2012/13	£958
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*Assumes no P3 funding received

**Assumes P3 cutting funded by PC and PC election expenses incurred.

Matters Arising from Circulated Items

8

Circulation 2010/06 had been returned to the Clerk. There were no matters arising from this. Of the items circulated by email it was **RESOLVED**:

- that information from the 'Be a Councillor' campaign should be publicised.
- that the survey from SCC included in 'the New Strategic Direction Explained' was more properly completed by members of the public
- that Mr Bellfield be asked for his views on whether further electricity pylons were planned for the county.

9 Correspondence

It was noted that:

- Appeals for funds had been received from Victim Support, Leiston, Saxmundham and District Citizens Advice Bureau and Ipswich and East Suffolk Headway
- the Clerk would attend Kesgrave Town Council Annual Reception on 3 December if possible

- No one had been available to attend the Suffolk Coastal LSP Annual Forum on 12 November
- Woodbridge and District Lions Club would be advised of one possible recipient for Christmas Parcels

It was **RESOLVED:**

- that the following correspondence would be circulated to Councillors:
 - SALC AGM papers
 - Suffolk ACRE Update Issue 7
 - Local Councils Update Issue 132
 - Clerks and Councils Direct issue 72
 - Came and company Parish Matters Autumn 2010

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be on 17 January 2011

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.40pm.