

**Minutes of Little Bealings Parish Council meeting held at Bealings Village Hall at
7.30pm on Monday 7 November 2011**

Present: Mr P Carr, Dr C Rowe, Mr B Rufford, Miss D Williams, Mr D Wilson and Mrs M Wilson

In attendance: Mr T Fryatt, District Councillor, and PC Richard Wright (both for part of the meeting), and Mrs C Ramsden, Clerk to the Council

Also present: Mr G Onuoha and Mr A Reynolds, Suffolk Coastal District Council officers, and a resident (all for part of the meeting) and Mrs J Shaw, Council webmaster and Chairman of Bealings Village Hall Management Committee

During the period of public participation before the meeting the following matters were discussed:

Sinks Pit Closed Landfill Site: Notification of Determination by SCDC of Contaminated Land
Mr Onuoha and Mr Reynolds from SCDC advised the Council and a resident of the background to the recent designation by SCDC of Sinks Pit as Contaminated Land under S78A(2)(a) of Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

It was noted that SCDC has the responsibility of determining and quantifying the risk posed by the site resulting from its use as a landfill site for domestic waste by SCDC and IBC before its closure in 1974. The site is currently owned by SCC and that authority has undertaken surveying and testing which have shown the presence of landfill gas (methane) and leachate. The chemistry of decaying landfill is such that disturbing the site poses a risk of explosion.

This risk needs to be fully identified, followed by the establishment and implementation of agreed monitoring and mitigation measures by SCDC and SCC.

The impact on nearby properties and residents needs to be fully assessed. The designation restricts development.

SCDC is to meet with SCC shortly. The officers advised that the current position is complex and unpredictable. The situation can change and the designation may then be altered accordingly: changes in the water table level, weather and air pressure and excavations elsewhere can all alter levels of gas and leachate detected at a site. The type of waste deposited and the character of the ground are also variables which make it impossible to predict the timespan during which bacterial activity in the ground will continue to produce methane and leachate.

SCDC and SCC have to determine how to monitor the site effectively to measure levels, for which grant funding is available from Defra. The Environment Agency is also responsible for monitoring water quality: there are understood to be 30 locations at which leachate is currently being measured.

The officers were advised that as well as domestic waste, industrial waste had been taken to the site when it was operative. A local resident had been involved in the analysis of organic laboratory waste which was deposited in the site in sealed containers. The officers were given contact details to enable them to obtain further information about the deposited material. They were also advised that four properties lay within 30 metres of the site, not three as they had identified. They agreed that they would contact the other residents.

The officers intended to obtain the results of the gas and leachate monitoring and would then advise the Council further. SCC could be required to release the information by a Freedom of Information Act request if necessary. In the meantime any resident with concerns was asked to contact the officers directly.

In response to a question about a proposed route for the East Anglian One Offshore Windfarm through the site, the officers advised that disturbing the site for the cabling was not appropriate and could be dangerous. The disturbance could 'remobilise' contaminants and the impact on nearby residents needed to be considered. However, there was also the potential for the cabling to accelerate the remediation of the site. This would be an expensive option, but if the cabling did need to pass through the site, could bring a long term benefit to the area.

The SCDC officers and a resident then left the meeting.

Parish Council Representative to Bealings Village Hall Management Committee

Mrs Shaw reminded the Council that, following Mrs Hopkins resignation as a Councillor, a new representative to the Village Hall Management Committee needed to be appointed.

Councillor Actions

1 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Mrs F Evans Rogers, who was attending the SALC AGM on behalf of the Council. Mr Carr, as Vice Chairman, chaired the meeting in her absence.

Mr Carr welcomed Mr Rufford, who had signed the declaration of acceptance of office of Parish Councillor, to his first meeting. He had also completed the register of member's interest form, which would be sent to SCDC.

It was noted that Mr P Bellfield, County Councillor has also sent his apologies and was unable to attend.

Mrs Wilson declared an interest in items concerning Bealings Village Hall and the proposed route of the East Anglian One Offshore Windfarm cabling.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that Mr P Carr be appointed the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC).

2 Minutes of the Meetings held on 5 September and 12 October 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September were signed as a true record. The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October were amended in respect of the need to appoint a new VHMC representative and then signed as a true record.

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Aldeburgh Food and Drink Festival

A cheque had been received as requested, refunding the Council £1.22 for underpaid postage.

Buses

It had been confirmed by Mr Bellfield that an extra bus to Woodbridge had been provided, leaving from the Admiral's Head at 09.10am and reaching Woodbridge at 09.20am, on Mondays to Saturdays.

Lighting at Martlesham Park and Ride

Mr Bellfield had advised that reductions were still under consideration.

Community Wind Turbine for Bealings Village Hall

Information from the VHMC had been circulated to Councillors, but it was noted that the matter had not yet been considered by the VHMC. It was noted that the scheme would be expensive with no proven benefits, especially with the recent government reduction in feed-in tariff payments. Installing cabling would be a major disturbance. It was also noted that there was no mandate in the Parish Plan to pursue a wind turbine. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to advise the VHMC that there is no support for a community wind turbine from the Council, that the Council is aware of the data contained in the Parish Plan and that it does not therefore intend to pursue the matter any further.

Review of Road Names by SCDC

It was confirmed that SCDC had been advised of the lane known locally as Hall Road Lane as a part of the Council's comments on the review, but also that no address changes should be made without SCDC first consulting directly with residents.

It was **RESOLVED** that the order of the Agenda be amended to consider Police as the next item.

4 Police

PC Wright reported that there had been two reported crimes in the parish during October: thefts of heating oil. The police were dealing with rogue traders and the theft of metal, especially copper wire. Theft of roof lead was also an issue. He asked that suspicious vans be reported. He also drew attention to the Suffolk Trading Standard website and the availability of 'no cold calling' posters which could be put up to establish a no cold calling zone.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- to investigate the establishment of a 'no cold calling zone' and publicise the availability of posters as appropriate.

Community Speed Watch Scheme

PC Wright explained that the scheme operated by the use of a speed gun to record traffic speeds and vehicle details which were then passed to the police. It was not therefore a parish enforcement scheme. The police considered the scheme to be good, but it did involve financial outlay to purchase the speed gun and reflective clothing. The police offered health and safety training, but how and where traffic monitoring was carried out was up to the community. Teams of at least two were required to use the gun and record number plates. It was possible for checks to be carried out anywhere as volunteers were not restricted to their own parish.

SID data from SCC has been circulated to Councillors showing the results of speed monitoring in Playford Road, but it was noted that recent resident concern had been about traffic speed in Martlesham Road, including the junctions with Beacon Lane, and at the Hall Road crossroads. A recent accident had occurred at the crossroads and the restricted vision was noted.

Councillors were advised of a letter from another resident concerned about speed, the narrowness of Martlesham Road and the need to pull into driveways to allow traffic to pass.

It was noted that Mr Bellfield was a supporter of the Community Speed Watch Scheme and there was the possibility of Locality budget funding being available next year to pay for equipment. However, there was no need to purchase equipment if it was possible to join an existing scheme.

PC Wright confirmed that the police had visited both of the residents who had contacted them and the Council about speed and enforcement in Martlesham Road and Hall Road. They had explained that it was not possible to use private drives for enforcement.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- to request SID data from SCC in respect of Martlesham Road and to consider the Community Speed Watch Scheme again thereafter.

SNT Meetings

Miss Williams reported on her attendance at SNT meetings, where the issue of metal thefts had also been raised. A new telephone number was available to contact the police (101) but there was concern it was an expensive service. It had been suggested that Parish Councils may be asked to contribute to SNT costs, but agreed that funding was not yet an issue and that in any event SCC would be approached first, via Locality budgets.

5 Highways

Playford Road

It was noted that arrangements had been made for the installation of the high friction surface overnight on 8 November and residents had been advised accordingly by the contractors.

Footpaths

SCC had passed on a complaint they had received about growth on a route included in the P3 scheme, FP18 between the railway line and the old piggeries. It had been confirmed that two cuts had been carried out, but Mr Ball had carried out an hour's extra work to clear the route. SCC had agreed that, assuming P3 funding was maintained, the cost could be added to the cutting schedule for 2012.

The Street

SCC had been advised of a concern raised by the Footpath and Tree Warden about the erosion of the bank between the Church and Holly Lane and the exposure of tree roots. The problem was considered to be the result of the steepness of the bank, weather erosion and use of the bank by school children passing to and from Bealings School and Bealings Village Hall car park.

Winter Gritting and Snow Clearance Advice

Information from SCC about its gritting operations and advice to volunteers had been sent out to residents via the enewsgroup and to the Council's volunteer, Norman Finch. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to also publicise the information via the Benefice Magazine.

6 Planning

Policy: Parish Plan and Neighbourhood Planning

Councillor Fryatt advised that it was now known that SCDC's LDF and its policies would be in place before any proposed National Planning Policy Framework was operative.

As regards the respective merits of Parish Planning and Neighbourhood Planning he advised that the latter would be subject to scrutiny by an Inspector and would then become planning policy. It was therefore a relevant document for the determination of future planning applications in the parish.

Dr Rowe pointed out the potential for the parish as a 'green lung' for Ipswich, so long as it was preserved with its current amenity value: it was part of a green corridor from the town to the countryside.

The cost implication of producing a Neighbourhood Plan was noted, together with information received from Suffolk ACRE on Parish and Neighbourhood Planning. It was also noted that it was possible for the parish to begin production of a plan independently now and **RESOLVED:**

- that it was more appropriate to consider producing a Neighbourhood Plan than updating the Parish Plan
- to invite Gillian Benjamin from Suffolk ACRE to the meeting of the Council to be held on 9 January to give further advice
- that matters to be considered would include the LDF/Local Plan policies as applicable to the parish, the potential for designation of a Conservation Area and the Council's own ideas as to what would be considered appropriate development for Little Bealings
- that a Working Group could be set up to produce the initial draft Plan and that residents should be invited to express an interest in joining the Group via the Benefice Magazine
- that bearing in mind the parish's designation as a Local Service Centre it was not appropriate to consider a joint Plan with the adjoining parishes

Visit to Sinks Pit

Notes of the visit which had been produced by one of the residents who attended had been circulated to Councillors. Dr Rowe reported that the visit had been very informative and the site operators had listened to residents' concerns about noise and smell. Plant operations included the production of gravel and stone and crushing and recycling works. The information gathered may be useful in respect of any future planning application and it was now known to whom complaint should be made about the impact of the operations if this was necessary. It was **RESOLVED:**

- that the notes and photographs of the visit be published on the Council's website and residents' attention drawn to them via the Benefice Magazine

East Anglia Offshore Wind Farm

It was noted that the current proposals included two possible routes through the parish. As well as the route passing between Lt and Gt Bealings - north of the Village Hall and along the River Lark valley - noted at the last meeting, a second corridor was being considered which passed south of Playford Road and across a part of Sinks Pit to Playford.

It was noted that an SCDC Project Group had been looking at the proposals and was available to consider the Council's concerns about the route. It was **RESOLVED**:

- To ask the Project Group to support the Council's objection to the proposed routes through Little Bealings, the objections being based on the grounds that:
 - The River Lark route is within a Special Landscape Area and the impact of the works would be unacceptably damaging to the environment. The works would also have a major impact on an area which was very popular with walkers, including those accessing the countryside from Ipswich and valuing its high amenity value. It was also very close to the main settlement area of the village and so would have a major long term impact on many properties, including tree planting and future development potential.
 - The Playford Road route also passed extremely close to many properties and, in addition to disturbance to properties and impact on tree planting and future development potential, involved disturbance of Sinks Pit. The recent designation of Sinks Pit as Contaminated Land by SCDC, meant that disturbance was extremely dangerous.
- To ask the Project Group for information about the level of radiation that the cable would produce when operative, in order that a further objection on health grounds could be considered.
- That, while there was objection to both routes, to advise the applicants that, if the Playford Road route was moved further from properties and appropriate mitigation works were undertaken for the entire area, there could be merit in a route passing through Sinks Pit which would receive support from the Council.
- To join the Suffolk Preservation Society and seek its support for the Council's objection to the River Lark route

Motorbikes at Sunfield Farm, The Street

There was concern by some local residents at the noise generated by motorbikes at Sunfield Farm on Sundays. It was thought that the frequency of use exceeded the number of times a year (14) for which such activity had planning permission; there seemed to have been motorbike noise from the site nearly every Sunday since June, and on some Wednesdays. It was **RESOLVED**:

- To explore whether any resident had kept a log of the dates of motorbike activity
- To pursue the matter with SCDC as appropriate in respect of environmental (noise) and planning matters

7 Security Light for Bealings Village Hall

It was noted that there was no difficulty with the light being owned by the Council but insured and maintained by the Village Hall. This had been confirmed by the insurers and the VHMC.

It was also noted that Gt Bealings Parish Council had decided that it would not contribute 50% of the shortfall in funding for the light (£87.32p), preferring the VHMC to find funding itself. The VHMC was unable to do this. It was noted that the project was in any event an action from the Parish Plan, not a Village Hall initiative. It was also noted that the data from the Plan showed more support from Gt Bealings residents for the light, than from Lt Bealings residents.

The Council noted the generous offer of a resident from Gt Bealings parish to fund the shortfall personally if it secured the project. However, it was **RESOLVED**:

- that 100% of the shortfall in funding for the project, £174.65, would be met by the Council.

8 Finance

Completion of the Audit of 2010/11 Accounts

It was noted that the auditors had completed the audit and had not raised any matters which required an 'issues arising' report. It was **RESOLVED** that:

- The annual return be approved and accepted by the Council and the notice of conclusion of the audit advertised as required.

Budget for 2012/13

The Council considered a draft budget for 2012/13. Mr Carr had attended an SCDC presentation on its budget proposals. In respect of the Council's draft budget it was noted that:

- the Benefice Magazine was understood to want an increase in funding from £100 to £150, but despite being asked to provide confirmation and the reasons for this, no information had been received
- no SORR meetings had been held and that further donations would not be made at present
- there was no knowledge of use of the CATS service by any resident and funding was not therefore appropriate at present
- the budget allowed a Project Fund of £300 for Neighbourhood/Parish Planning
- there was no requirement for extra funding for joint Councillor training sessions offered by SALC
- the original revenue budget approved for 2011/12 showed a deficit £229.93, with reserves of £1117.79 at year end, and the revised estimated outcome was now a revenue deficit of £387.46 and reserves of £1501.52.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- papers from the SCDC budget presentation be circulated to Councillors
- the salary of the Clerk, which had not been increased in 2011/12, be increased from SCP 25 to SCP 27 for 2012/13
- that the precept, which had not been increased in 2011/12, be increased from £5750 to £6000 for 2012/13
- that the following donations be made during 2012/13:

Village Hall	£250
Playing Field	£500
Benefice Newsletter (assuming appropriate confirmation)	£150

resulting in budget summaries as follows:

2011/12: Year End Revised Estimated Outcome

Total receipts	£6928.77
Total payments	£7316.26
Reserves to carry forward to 2012/2013	£1501.52

2012/13: Estimates

Total receipts	£6230.00
Total expenditure	£5992.78

Reserves to carry forward to 2013/14	£1438.74
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Income and Expenditure

The Chairman reported the following income and expenditure:

Income:

- SCDC: second half of the precept: £2875
- SCC P3 funding: £160
- Gt Bealings PC: half of the insurance premium for the shared wooden village sign: £11.56
- Aldeburgh Food and Drink Festival: postage refund: £1.22

Expenditure:

Cheques were signed as follows:

- Clerk Salary and Expenses: £698.03 and £6.99
- PAYE due to HMRC by 7 January 2012: £174.40
- BDO for external audit: £144

Bank balance was £2719.23.

9 Matters Arising from Circulated Items

There were no matters arising.

10 Correspondence

Changes to Waste Collections

There were concerns from some residents about missed collections and bin replacement following recent changes by SCDC to the collection days.

SCDC had apologised for some errors, but stated that collection was difficult in some places where residents' trees and hedges needed cutting to enable the collection vehicle access. It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a request to residents to cut overhanging foliage be included in the Benefice Magazine, but that SCDC should contact any specific property itself
- SCDC be asked to replace bins to the sides of driveways to ensure they did not block access to properties for residents' vehicles from the road.

Other

It was noted that:

- Mrs Evans Rogers may be available to attend the Kesgrave Town Council Reception on 9 December; the Clerk was not
- The Boundary Commission for England was reviewing parliamentary constituency boundaries, but no change was proposed for the current constituency which included Lt Bealings

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that the following correspondence would be circulated to Councillors:
 - Clerks and Council Direct
 - Suffolk ACRE Update
 - SALC AGM papers and The Local Councillor
 - Suffolk Coastal Resource Network newsletter
 - Came & Co parish council insurance newsletter
 - SCC: Guide to Accessible and Community Transport from April 2010
 - Information about taking part in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons, for consideration at the next meeting
 - Society of Local Council Clerks information

11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be on 9 January 2012.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 10.05pm.