

**Minutes of Little Bealings Parish Council meeting held at Bealings Village Hall at 7.30pm
on Monday 9 September 2013**

Present: Mrs T Cornish, Mr D Hunter, Dr C Rowe, Mr B Rufford, Mr D Wilson and Mrs M Wilson

Also present for part of the meeting: PCSO Justin Moss and Mr T Fryatt
(Suffolk Coastal District Councillor) and one resident

In attendance: Mrs C Ramsden, Clerk to the Council

**Councillor
Actions**

1 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Mrs F Rogers. In the absence of the Chairman the meeting was chaired by Mrs Wilson, Vice Chairman of the Council.

Mr Bellfield, Suffolk County Councillor, had apologised for being unable to attend due to other commitments.

Mrs Wilson declared a prejudicial interest in any consideration of the EAOW planning application, having a beneficial interest in land in the parish affected by the application.

2 Minutes of the Meetings held on 1 July, 24 July and 21 August 2013

The minutes of the meetings held on 1 July, 24 July and 21 August 2013 were signed as a true record.

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Ivy on Trees

Mr Wilson raised continued concern at the damage being done to some trees by the amount of ivy growing on them. It was noted that the matter had been reported to SCC but no response received. There was difficulty in identifying whether trees were on private land or the highway verge. There was especial concern in respect of trees on the banks between the level crossing and the Hall Road crossroads and at erosion here adversely affecting tree roots. It was **RESOLVED:**

- To report to SCC concern about the trees between the level crossing and the Hall Road crossroads in view of the risk posed by ivy and root erosion on the health of the trees and their proximity to the road.

Future of Customer Services Direct

Mr Bellfield had advised the Clerk that the CSD system would not continue after all, the terms being offered to SCC by BT not being considered favourable.

4 Police

Crime

PCSO Moss reported that, as contained in the circulated 12PT report, the parish had experienced six crimes during August: arson, criminal damage

and burglary. Three people had been arrested and released on bail pending further investigation. There was also on-going vandalism at the Playing Field. The police were visiting more often to investigate. There was also a possible crime of theft of a tortoise from a garden. There had been no crimes for the same month during 2012.

School Parking and Road Safety

PSCO Moss reported that, despite emails and a visit, the School had not responded to his request to give advice on parking and road safety to pupils and parents before the end of the summer term. He intended to persist.

It was noted that parking was especially poor at present with cars blocking access and parking on verges. PSCO Moss advised that he would visit at school drop off/pick up times and would issue penalty tickets if appropriate.

Personnel Changes

PSCO Moss reported that the Kesgrave SNT had been short staffed but PC Hayley Ball had recently joined the team.

Speeding

PSCO Moss reported that this remained a priority across the 12 parishes. Three speed checks had been carried out in the parish recently, two in Playford Road and one in Martlesham Road, and speeding drivers stopped.

The concern of one resident about the speed of traffic in Martlesham Road was drawn to PSCO Moss's attention. He agreed to consider the correspondence the resident had had with the Police Commissioner and the District and County Councils, which included objection to the UCS Ipswich and Coastal Grand Prix cycle race which had taken place on the road on 8 September. He advised that traffic regulation provisions had been formally suspended for the race by a 'rolling road closure' and that the disruption to other road users had not seemed to him to be significant.

As regards the on-going concern about speeding at this location, he would arrange for up to date speed data to be collected and for 'SID' to be used to advise motorists of the speed at which they were travelling. He advised that speeding could be perceived as well as a real problem and that the data may not show that speeds on Martlesham Road were different from those in other 30 mph restriction areas.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that the Council had no objection to organised cycle races passing through the parish.
- that, in view of the fact the concern only related to Martlesham Road, the cost and the lack of support from volunteers to participate previously, the Council would not give further consideration to joining a Community Speed Watch Scheme.

5 Public Sewer for The Street

The meeting was adjourned briefly at 8.00pm to enable a local resident to explain ongoing problems experienced with private sewer arrangements in The Street.

It was noted that a request for similarly affected properties to contact the Council had resulted in 9 expressions of interest in connecting to a public

sewer in The Street. There was no obligation on Anglian Water to provide a public sewer but the Council could act as Application Co-ordinator, which may give more weight to an application. Anglian Water would consider all options to overcome an environmental or amenity problem caused by the existing systems, including repair, proper maintenance and reconstruction of the existing system. Provision of a public sewer would only be considered if it was found to be the preferred and cost effective option. Residents would need to meet the cost of connecting to a public sewer.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that the Council would act as Application Co-ordinator for an application to Anglian Water for the connection of properties in The Street to a public sewer, subject to residents providing appropriate evidence of the environmental or amenity problems caused by existing drainage systems
- that a further request be made via the Benefice Magazine for any other interested residents to contact the Council
- that a meeting would be arranged for interested residents to discuss the evidence to be provided for an application

6 Highways

Exposed Kerb in The Street

SCC had advised that a safety audit would cost around £1,500 and was only appropriate for assessing the impact of new works. An audit would not be used to assess the status quo; SCC would take action if it considered an existing situation to be dangerous. However, while it did not consider the exposed kerb to be dangerous, it was able to remove the kerbstone if this addressed the local concern.

It was noted that the kerbstone may have become exposed as a result of hedge growth at the property opposite and that concern had been expressed to the Council about walkers using the verge safely in view of the line being taken by traffic as a result, as well as the possible risk of an accident being caused by traffic hitting the kerbstone. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to request SCC to remove the kerbstone.

Damaged Sandbox at the Level Crossing

It was noted that a wooden sandbox at the level crossing had been badly damaged, presumably by being struck by a vehicle. Mr Ball, who had built the sandbox, had removed the loose wood and advised that, if it was to be replaced it would be better to purchase a plastic sand box.

The Council was concerned that a plastic box would not be in keeping with the location and **RESOLVED**:

- that Mr Wilson would arrange for a new wooden sandbox to be built, **DW** subject to a cost in the region of £60 - £100 to the Council.

7 Planning

Applications and Enforcement

The Admiral's Head

It was noted that there was no agreement between the Community Group and the owners in respect of the sale of the pub. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to pursue the condition of the site again with SCDC, in respect of blue tarpaulin attached to the side of the building.

C12/2483: Finches Hill, The Street: Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use or Development (CLEUD): For a swimming pool enclosure built under permitted development law previously attached to dwelling but since 02/12/12 not attached

It was noted that SCDC had decided that the development did not meet the criteria for a CLEUD. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to ask SCDC when enforcement action would be taken to remove the development.

C13/0758: The Dower House, Manor Farm Lane – Erection of first floor side extensions, internal alterations and detached garage

C13/0801: Lime Tree Cottage, The Street – Erection of conservatory to side/rear elevation

C13/1251 | Variation of Condition 8 (Permitted Development Rights) of Planning Permission C13/0676 | 1 And 2 Wood Barn Cottages Seckford Hall Road Great Bealings IP13 6NX

It was noted the SCDC had granted permission for these applications.

DC/13/2384/FUL: Marchwood, Martlesham Road – Insertion of dormer windows and rooflights to facilitate provision of first-floor accommodation

It was noted that the position of the property was such that the windows would not impact on other properties and **RESOLVED**:

- that there was no objection to the development.

It was noted that the time period allowed by SCDC for the Council to comment on the application had been only 18 days, although the application had been validated by SCDC over three weeks before it was received. In view of reduced time periods meaning the Council would be more likely to need to hold extra meetings to consider planning applications, Mr Fryatt agreed to raise this issue with SCDC.

Tree Preservation Order – Applications for Works to Protected Trees

It was noted that SCDC had granted permission for works as follows:

Woodcote, Martlesham Road: To crown reduce (30%) and balance 3 oaks for safety reasons over domestic space

Fernlea, Martlesham Road: To fell dying conifer, to crown thin Tulip tree and reshape, to coppice sweet chestnut tree causing damage to fence.

It was noted that a Tree Preservation Order made by East Suffolk County

Council in 1952 protected trees at many properties in Martlesham Road. It was **RESOLVED**:

- To consider future applications for works to protected trees within the TPO area with a view to submitting comments to SCDC.

East Anglian Offshore Windfarm Cabling – Site Visit and Hearings Arrangements

It was noted that the site visit to Bealings would take place on 11 September and details had been circulated to Mrs Rogers, Dr Rowe and Mr Hunter.

FR, CR, DH

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- Dr Rowe was not available to attend, but the Clerk and Mr Hunter would arrange to meet during the weekend after the site visit, to discuss the implications for the Council's presentation at the Issue Specific Hearing on 26 September.

DH

Policy

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that the adopted LDF received from SCDC would be circulated to Councillors, with appropriate NPPF and Local Plan Saved Policies.

Local Service Centre

SCDC had responded to the Council's query about the definition of a 'local employment opportunity' by stating: "Local employment opportunities essentially relates to employment uses which are located within the local area." It was **RESOLVED**:

- to advise SCDC that the Council maintained its view that there were no local employment opportunities in the parish and to formally request review of the parish's status as a Local Service Centre in the LDF Settlement Hierarchy.

Planning Statement

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that the Council's existing Planning Statement was still appropriate, subject to the addition of reference to the Council's disagreement with its LDF Settlement Hierarchy status as a Local Service Centre

Creation of a Precedent

Following a query from Mr Hunter, SCDC had been asked for advice on the validity of the creation of a precedent as grounds for objection to a planning application. Mr Fryatt advised that he understood it was only relevant to an appeal against a refusal to grant permission and was not grounds for objection to an application. As this seemed contrary to national guidance advice it was **RESOLVED**:

- to pursue the matter further with SCDC

Foxhall Stadium

It was noted that only one of the Parish Councils which had responded to

the Council's approach concerning noise from the Stadium, shared any concern. Mr Fryatt reported that a meeting had been held with the Stadium operators at the end of August and some flexibility was being requested in the running of events when the licence was renewed. It was **RESOLVED**:

- not to involve other parishes in the matter further, but to advise SCDC of the Council's wish to be involved in consultation on the renewal of the operating licence.

8 Finance

External Audit for 2012/13

This had been completed by the auditors and no matters of concern had been raised. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to accept and approve the external audit and advertise its completion.

Clerk's Salary

It was **RESOLVED**:

- to increase the Clerk's salary in accordance with the agreement between NALC and the NJC on national pay scales for part time Clerks effective from 1 April 2013, an increase of 12p per hour.

Income and Expenditure

The Chairman reported the following income and expenditure:

Income:

Nil. The second half of the precept would be received from SCDC on 30 September.

Expenditure:

Cheques were signed as follows:

- Net Payment to Mr G Ball for P3 Footpath Cutting, including expenses: £132.58
- Net Payment of Clerk's Salary for September, including expenses (£288.13) and October (£262.01) including backdated pay award.
- PAYE due to HMRC for September (£93) and October (£65.60)

An invoice would be raised to SCC for the cost of P3 Footpath Cutting. The current account balance, before the above, was £1,130.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that, as payment was due before the next meeting of the Council, a cheque would be signed for the Council's insurance premium policy once the amount of the premium was known.

9 Matters Arising from Circulated Items (2013/04 and by email)

Insurance

Dr Rowe drew the Council's attention to insurance advice in Clerks and Councils Direct (Issue 88) and it was **RESOLVED**:

to check that the Council's policy did include all of the relevant cover identified.

Safeguarding Children Policy

It was noted that the requirements would be burdensome to meet and that in any event the Council did not arrange any activities which included children. It was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- that Mrs Cornish would be the Council's point of contact for any relevant considerations, but that a need for a policy would only be considered in the event that the Council proposed to be involved in any activity which included unsupervised children. **TC**

Electoral Review of Suffolk Coastal

Mr Fryatt advised that the intention was to reduce the number of District Councillors from 55 to 43. A proposed ward of Grundisburgh, Culpho, Burgh and Hasketon would be the appropriate size (about 2,500) but would leave Gt and Lt Bealings in a ward with Woodbridge. Playford would be in a ward with parishes towards Tuddenham and Otley. Mr Fryatt had advised SCDC officers that he did not consider issues of concern to Bealings (such as rat running traffic) would be appropriately considered within a Woodbridge ward. Gt and Lt Bealings and Playford were not viable as a ward, but an alternative grouping could place Bealings with Kesgrave, which was also considered inappropriate. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to respond to the consultation by advising that the appropriate parishes to be included in a ward with Lt Bealings were Gt Bealings, Playford, Culpho and Grundisburgh, these parishes all being located north of the A1214 and having similar concerns and issues.

10 Correspondence

Items received were noted and it was **RESOLVED**:

- that the following items would be circulated to Councillors:
 - Clerks and Councils Direct Issue 89
 - SALC The Local Councillor
 - Local Boundary Commission Information on the Electoral Review of SCDC

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.40pm. The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 4 November 2013.