

**Minutes of Little Bealings Parish Council meeting held at Bealings Village Hall at  
7.30pm on Wednesday 12 October 2011**

**Present:** Mrs F Evans Rogers, Mr P Carr, Mr D Wilson and Mrs M Wilson

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

**Councillor  
Actions**

**1 Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies were received from Dr C Rowe and Miss D Williams. County Councillor Mr P Bellfield had also advised that he was unable to attend.

There were no declarations of interest.

**2 Vacancy for Parish Councillor**

The vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs Hopkins had been advertised. SCDC had not received notice from electors requesting an election. After consideration of residents who had expressed interest in becoming a Councillor it was **RESOLVED**:

- that Mr Barnaby Rufford be co-opted to the Council.

It was noted that a new representative of the Parish Council on the Village Hall Management Committee would need to be appointed.

**3 Planning**

**National Planning Policy Framework**

Notes from Dr Rowe had been circulated to Councillors. Mr Fryatt advised of his understanding of the proposals in the NPPF, and the comments which SCDC had submitted, as follows:

- The proposals aimed to facilitate growth: a wealth of existing policies and guidance would be replaced with one document in order to simplify the planning process. There was the danger that the resulting lack of precision would result in many planning appeals and much litigation, leading to significant delays while new case law was established to interpret the framework.
- Better precision and definition was required, for example, to define 'sustainable'.
- The framework proposed a presumption in favour of development. This was potentially at odds with LDF policies, which restricted and defined acceptable development in an area.
- There was insufficient evidence that the current planning process restricted growth to justify the new approach. A maximum of 5% of planning applications was refused by SCDC last year. Thus, even if this 5% was approved under the new regime, the difference to growth would not be significant.
- There was difficulty with the NPPF proposal reference to the content

of local plans forming the grounds for refusing an application, when the LDF was only partly prepared. The NPPF proposals were due to be adopted in April 2012, while the LDF would not be in place until July 2012 at the earliest. Where there was no current policy there was to be a presumption in favour of development. It was submitted that, as the LDF was partly prepared it should be used for determining applications, but there was no government assurance on this at present.

- Even once in place the LDF did not contain those policies which were currently within existing national guidance and policy: government advice for preparation of the LDF had said that national guidance and policy should not be repeated locally in the LDF.
- There was especial concern that the NPPF proposals did not afford the same protection to 'the countryside' as the LDF did.
- The NPPF proposals did not encourage brownfield site development sufficiently.
- Protection of heritage assets and consideration of flood plains were also areas of weakness.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that:

- the Council would respond to the consultation, reflecting SCDC's comments and expressing support for SCDC's views
- further consideration would need to be given to the development of Neighbourhood Planning in the parish, once powers proposed in the Localism Bill were enacted, to put specific policies in place to control development in Little Bealings
- that the potential for 'conservation area' designation of parts of the parish be pursued, once information from Mr Fryatt on this was to hand.

#### **Applications**

##### **C/11/1780 – Firecrest Nursery, Hall Road – Erection of Packing and Plant Preparation Shed**

It was noted that SCDC had granted permission for this development.

##### **C/11/2232 – Blewbury, Playford Road – Erection of first floor extension, one and a half storey rear extension and detached cart lodge/garage block**

After consideration of the plans it was **RESOLVED**:

- that there was no objection to the proposed development.

#### **4 East Anglian Offshore Wind Farm**

Mrs Wilson reported on a presentation on this proposal by ScottishPower Renewables which she had attended with Mr Carr. The wind farm proposal involved bringing electricity generated offshore to the existing Bramford electricity substation by underground cabling. Little Bealings was within the corridor proposed for the cabling, with one route in the 16 metre wide search area passing between Lt and Gt Bealings, north of the Village Hall and along the River Lark valley.

The cabling would be buried two metres deep and five metres under roads

or rivers. The work would involve digging a 35 metre wide trench in a working corridor of 84 metres and take two years to complete. Concerns related to construction traffic, disturbance of the flood plain, the impact on possible blue clay in the area and that presence of the cable would prevent future development and tree planting. There was also concern about the proximity to domestic property. Compensation was payable to affected landowners.

There would be further public consultation in 2012 and the cabling was intended to be complete by 2016

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that a plan showing the search area within the parish which was being sent by the developers would be circulated to Councillors, together with papers from the presentation
- that a response to the consultation would be agreed at the meeting of the Council on 7 November.

#### **5 Review of Road Names by SCDC**

A plan of the parish had been received from SCDC, which was seeking information to resolve anomalies in respect of road names in the parish. The review had been publicised in the Benefice Magazine and it was **RESOLVED**:

- to advise SCDC of an anomaly in respect of the location of the junction of The Street and Lodge Road and confusion regarding post codes and SatNav information
- to advise SCDC of comments made by residents, but to ask that further consultation with local residents and landowners was carried out before any changes or new road name plates were decided upon

#### **6 Correspondence**

It was **RESOLVED**:

Not to respond to the SCC budget consultation..

#### **7 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be on 7 November 2011.

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