

POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th June 2008 in the Village Hall Polstead.

Present: Mr Nick Brandt (in the Chair), Mr Michael Hackford (Vice-Chair), Mrs Mandy Flather (from 8.20pm), Mrs Anne Macwilson & Mrs Trish Ravensdale.

In attendance: Mrs Sue Wigglesworth, (District Councillor), Melissa Gaylean (Suffolk Constabulary), Mrs Sandra Gray (Clerk) and one Member of the Public.

1) Apologies for Absence: Mr David Yorke-Edwards, Mr John Baxter, Mr Richard Kilshaw. The Councillors consented to these absences.

2) Declarations of Interests:

There were none.

3) Minutes of the meetings of 15th May 2008

The Minutes of the 15th May 2008 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

4) Matters Arising:

There were none

5) Reports:

County Councillor

In the absence of David Yorke-Edwards, the Clerk read his report. The Boundaries Committee is due to announce their proposals for the reform of Local Government in Suffolk on July 7th, following which there will be a three month period of consultation. Also David Yorke-Edwards would like details of the “project” from Polstead Parish Council, which would need his Locality Budget.

District Councillor

Sue Wigglesworth reported to the Council that Babergh had approved the proposal of the leisure facilities adjacent to the Hadleigh swimming pool.

Suffolk Constabulary

Melissa Gaylean reported that the one crime for Polstead had been the stealing of heating oil. This type of crime was a big problem for Suffolk and Melissa stressed that the noting of tanker lorries in the area and owners performing regular checks of the oil levels in tanks would help the police in tackling this crime. Melissa emphasised the importance of reporting crime to the police however small a crime a resident may feel it is, as it will help to give a clearer picture of criminals’ activities

.Melissa handed out the Police Direct leaflets detailing the new messaging system. It was agreed for the Clerk to pass a leaflet to Richard Sandford for the website.

6) Reports & Questions from Councillors:

District Councillor Sue Wigglesworth reported that the boiler for the Village Hall had broken down and asked the Council to consider using their Locality Budget towards replacing it. The Village Hall Committee was obtaining quotations and was looking into the availability of grants. It was agreed for the Clerk to check with David Yorke-Edwards if the Locality Budget could be used towards the new boiler.

.7) Reports & Questions from Parishioners

There were none.

8) Highways & Footpaths

• Footpath Warden

The Clerk reported to the Council that some interested parties for the position of Footpath Warden had declined to take the position on seeing the definitive map of

footpaths and the commitment involved. The Chairman emphasised the view that the footpaths and their infrastructure were essential to the fabric of Polstead Village as a whole. The Chairman had taken it upon himself to pay for the clearance of Footpaths 15, 30 and 35 and the Council agreed for the Chairman to be reimbursed £40.00 towards the cost. Proposed by Vice-Chair Michael Hackford, seconded by Councillor Trish Ravensdale.

James Ward, who had expressed an interest in the position of Footpath Warden, agreed to undertake the role. The Clerk would liaise with James after the meeting and provide a definitive footpath map and discuss the role and responsibilities in more detail. The Council expressed their sincere thanks to James in undertaking this important role within Polstead community.

- **PP3 Grant**

The Clerk had distributed a copy of the PP3 Grant application to all the Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillor Richard Kilshaw had requested that work would be required specifically on Footpaths 8, 12, 13 & 32. The Council had received £532 last year. The Council were made aware of the maintenance and survey works for which the grant was available. It was agreed for the Clerk to liaise with the Footpath Warden to decide the areas requiring the most assistance in order to complete the forms.

9) Planning Matters:

A) Pre-Agenda Applications:

Planning Application No: B/08/00867/FHA Rosita White Street Green, Polstead, Colchester CO10 5JN. Erection of single-Storey rear extension, bay window and porch.

The Council discussed the above application and had no objection in relation to Babergh Local Plan No: 2 Policy CN01.

B) Any Urgent Planning Matters:

The following planning applications were received after the agenda had been distributed:

Planning Application No: B/08/00788/FHA Hillside Polstead Hill, Polstead Colchester, CO6 5AH. Erection of shed (demolition of existing shed).

The Council discussed the above application and had no objection in relation to Babergh Local Plan No: 2 Policy CNO1

B/08/00352/FUL/CJT Cherry Nook Straight Road, Polstead Heath, Polstead, Colchester, CO6 5BB. Erection of 2 No. two –storey detached dwellings with associated garaging (existing dwelling “Cherry Nook” to be demolished).

Construction of new vehicular access as amended by drawings 126.01A, O2A, and received 28/03/08.

The Clerk reported that planning permission had been refused.

10) Summer Hog Roast

The Marquee, toilets and generator were all booked.

11) Annual Accounts

The RFO, Sandra Gray reported to the Council that the Parish Council Accounts had been audited and that the auditor had found all was in order. The Council accepted the Accounts proposed by Councillor Mandy Flather, seconded by Vice- Chair Michael Hackford. The Council thanked the RFO for all her work in completing the paperwork for the audit.

The Chairman and Clerk/RFO signed the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2008 and the Annual Return for 2008.

12) Chairman & Clerk Reports & Correspondence

- The Clerk reported that District Councillor Sue Wigglesworth had received communication that the summer holiday programme from Babergh planned to visit Polstead on Tuesday 5th August 2-4pm and Monday 18th August 2-4pm. The activities would take place on the Playing Field.
- The Clerk had received notification from Stephen Davies, the booking secretary of the Village Hall, that payment for the hire of the hall would be required at the end of each month starting in June.
- The cost of dog and litter bin emptying had increased and a new system of using black, green and blue liners would help establish when the bin was last emptied.
- The BT Public Telephone box at Polstead Heath would be removed. The Council asked the Clerk to enquire if the box itself could remain and be made into a feature.
- The Chairman informed the Council that, as the wording was no longer visible on the playground signs (apart for the word “NO”), he had removed it. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Babergh about purchasing new signs. The Council agreed for the signs to consist of “No Dogs”, “No Ball Games” and “Please Close the Gate”.
- The Chairman reported that the attendance for the judges at the Village of the Year had been good and felt that the meeting had gone well.

13) Future Agenda Items

Hog Roast

Boundary Review

14) Dates of next meetings

17th July 2008

18th September 2008

16th October 2008

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 09.25pm.