

POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st January 2010 in Polstead Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Nick Brandt (Chairman), Amanda Flather, Michael Hackford, Richard Kilshaw and Anne MacWilson.

Attending: Dave Crimmin (Clerk), Sue Wigglesworth (Babergh District Councillor), David Yorke-Edwards (Suffolk County Councillor) and 15 members of the public.

10/001 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr John Baxter who is away on business, Cllr Theresa Ravensdale due to hospital visit and PCSO Colman.

10/002 Declaration of Interests

None were declared.

10/003 Minutes of Meeting held on 19th November 2009

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

10/004 Reports from County and District Councillors and Suffolk Constabulary

The reports are contained in Appendix A.

10/005 Reports and Question from Councillors

Cllr Hackford raised his concern at the number of potholes that had developed after the recent bad weather. The Clerk updated councillors that Suffolk County Council (SCC) had requested the help of residents to report new pot holes. Following a question by Cllr MacWilson in respect to the publication of the meeting notes in the Polstead Magazine the councillors agreed that the Clerk to issue a copy of the draft minutes to the magazine and website once councillors had reviewed them. Cllr Kilshaw updated the council on the excellent maintenance Babergh District Council (BDC) were providing in keeping the drain clear at the bottom of the hill. In response to Cllr Kilshaw's question regarding the clearance of the bank outside the Community Shop he was informed that with the BDC grant not being available the project would have to wait while funding is sought by the Village Hall Management Committee.

10/006 Reports and Questions from Parishioners

The issues raised are contained in Appendix A.

10/007 Planning

- a. The councillors reviewed Planning Application **B/09/01452 Green Farm, White Street Green** - erection of detached double garage and basically had no objections to the application. However:
 - i. there are reservations as to the ridge height of the garage at its highest point and it is felt that this should be reduced
 - ii. PPC would like a condition that the use of the building is confined to the garaging of motor vehicles in connection with the domestic use of the house.
- b. The councillors reviewed Planning Application **B/09/01506 Brendacot, Heath Road** - erection of two-storey dwelling (following demolition of existing single -storey dwelling). The councillors had great difficulty in visualising from the information supplied how the proposed dwelling would look. The drawings did not enable them to appreciate the impact that this dwelling may have on the local environment and the design and access statement did not go into sufficient detail for the councillors, for example, to assess the extra area that the new dwelling has over the existing dwelling. The councillors were also unfamiliar with grey Corus Colour coated standing seam steel panels planned for the roof. The Clerk to request more information from BDC and for an extension to the consultation period in order to review any new information on the dwelling.
- c. No further planning applications had been received.
- d. The status of previous applications, reviewed by PPC were as follows:

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Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st January 2010 in Polstead Village Hall

Application Reference	Address	Planning Details	PPC Minute	Parish Council Comments	Babergh DC Comments
B/08/01928/FUL	Boxford (Suffolk) Farms including Areas 1-12 Hill Farm Brick Kiln Hill Polstead	Retention and erection of polytunnels for horticultural use on a rotational basis (polytunnels to be assembled and disassembled as required by crop rotations.) Maximum of 10 hectares of erected polytunnels at any one time on land occupied by Boxford (Suffolk) Farms Ltd (as indicated in the application)		Difficult to find a technical planning objection but PPC has the greatest reservations of the spread of this kind of industrialised agriculture in Suffolk & its impact on the landscape	Withdrawn 23/12/2009
B/08/01928/FUL	Boxford (Suffolk) Farms including Areas 1-12 Hill Farm Brick Kiln Hill Polstead	Retention and erection of polytunnels for horticultural use on a rotational basis (polytunnels to be assembled and disassembled as required by crop rotations.) Maximum of 10 hectares of erected polytunnels at any one time on land occupied by Boxford (Suffolk) Farms Ltd (as indicated in the application)	09/007 b	Difficult to find a technical planning objection but PPC has the greatest reservations of the spread of this kind of industrialised agriculture in Suffolk and its impact on the landscape	Withdrawn 23/12/2009
B/09/01139/FUL	Polstead Touring Park Holt Road Polstead CO6 5BZ	Erection of single storey extension to existing shower and toilet block.	09/007 c	No Objections	Permission Granted 23/11/2009
B/09/01121/FUL	Land east of The Garden Cottage Hadleigh Road Polstead	Change of use of agricultural land to menage.	09/007 c	No Objections	Permission Granted 01/12/2009
B/09/01201/TCA	Spring Lodge Mill Street Polstead	Remove 10 no. Cypress / Conifer trees	09/029 a	No Objections	Permission Granted 24/11/2009
APP/D3505/A/09/2 115876/NWF	Darcy Cottage Rockalls Road Polstead	Appeal against refusal of B/09/00567/FUL	09/029 b	No further comments but requested copy of decision.	
B/09/01333/VOT	Sprotts Farm Holt Road Polstead	Extension of time limit condition attached to O.P.P. B/08/00319	09/029 c	No Objections	

10/008 Finance

- a. All cheques signed and due for signing, as itemised in Appendix B, were authorised by the councillors. The councillors also noted the income received since the last meeting and reviewed the Budget against actual.
- b. The councillors resolved to set the 2010 /2011 Precept at £11,770 and the Chairman, two councillors and Clerk signed the Charging Authority for submission to BDC.

10/009 Highways and Footpaths

The remedial work to FP 41, the footpath between Rockalls Road and FP35, has now been completed to everyone's satisfaction. The Chairman outlined further discussion with SCC in respect to the:

- repositioning of the kissing gate on FP 41
- proposed naming of FP 41 as "John's Walk"
- replacement of a stile of FP 18 with a pedestrian gate

Cllr Hackford to talk to residents close to the proposed location for the dog bin at the top of FP 41 and Rockalls Road before order is given to BDC. Cllr Kilshaw will review gate on FRP 41 to see if it could be repositioned to the playing field entrance. The councillors resolved that a local contractor be contracted at £10 per hour to undertake clearance of blackthorn and bramble along Byway 13 / FP 12 which will be overseen by Cllr Kilshaw. **Highways Act 1980 ss 43, 50**

10/010 Hog Roast 2010

Following confirmation from the Chairman that the suppliers were happy with the date, the councillors resolved that the date for next year's Hog Roast should be Sunday 29th August 2010. The Clerk to arrange for deposit to be paid for the tent hire. **LGA 1972 s 145**

10/011 Bus Shelter

After reviewing SCC's feedback that PPC could be licenced to build a bus shelter at the triangle by the Cock Inn for use by the school bus users, the councillors agreed that the Chairman should approach the WI to see if they would be willing to allow a bus shelter to be built outside the Community Shop. The councillors agreed that if acceptable to the WI both bus shelter options would be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in April for residents' feedback.

POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st January 2010 in Polstead Village Hall

10/012 National Grid proposals for a power line between Bramford and Twinstead

- a. Following the publication of the leaflet to Polstead residents on the way in which PPC would like feedback, the councillors agreed to send their own views to the Chairman by 12th February in order that he may prepare a draft response to National Grid for review at the next meeting.
- b. The councillors resolved that the Chairman represents PPC at the BDC Strategy Meeting on 11th February in order to present the council's views for undergrounding the proposed line.

10/013 Playing field

The councillors resolved that PPC re-adopt the playing field from the Polstead Playground Group. The monies remaining in the PPG accounts to be transferred to the council and ring fenced for future playing field expenditure. The Clerk to investigate getting the assets covered under the council's insurance.

10/014 Non-routine Maintenance Projects

The councillors reviewed the proposal suggested by Cllr Kilshaw. The councillors resolved that the proposals be incorporated in the review of the Financial Standing Orders that the Clerk will present at the next meeting.

10/015 Boundary Committee's Structural review of Suffolk

The councillors agreed with the response supporting the two unitary option sent to the Secretary of State on the unitary recommendations made by the Boundary Committee.

10/016 SCC's Pre-submission consultation on the Waste Core Strategy

The councillors resolved that no response should be sent in respect to this consultation.

10/017 Correspondence Received (Appendix C)

There were no actions required after reviewing the correspondence.

10/018 Chairman and Clerk's Reports (Appendix D)

There were no actions required after reviewing the Clerk's Report.

10/019 Future Agenda Items

- Bus Shelter
- National Grid
- Footpath Warden
- Bottle bank
- Locality Budget (Grit Bins / Gate to playing field)
- Financial Regulations Review
- Effectiveness of Internal Audit
- Feedback from Carols on the Green.

10/020 Clerk's Contract of Employment

The councillors resolved that the clerk had met the terms of their probationary period and that his appointment be confirmed. The Chairman to write a confirmation letter to the Clerk.

10/021 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on the Thursday 18th February in Polstead Village Hall starting at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm.

POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st January 2010 in Polstead Village Hall

Appendix A County, District and Suffolk Constabulary reports and Public Forum

David Yorke-Edwards updated the meeting on the Local Government Reform, the Locality Budget available to PPC for a capital project and response received from Tim Yeo in respect to the National Grid project. Sue Wigglesworth reported that should there not be an outcome to the Local Government Review, BDC are working with Mid Suffolk DC on a project to merge operational and management functions although a political merger of councils would be a long way off as it will require an Act of Parliament. She also confirmed that National Grid are currently finalising the exhibition in Polstead on 5th February.

Mrs Tyers raised the issue of what local residents saw as the erosion on the green at White Street Green. The councillors agreed to raise this on the March agenda but would like to hear suggestions from the community as to what steps could be considered to address the issue.

A number of residents gave their reservations about the proposed garage at Green Farm, White Street Green. The applicants Mr & Mrs Watts also gave answers to the issue raised.