

POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15th January 2009 in the Village Hall Polstead.

Present: Mr Nick Brandt (in the Chair), Mr John Baxter, Mr Michael Hackford (Vice-Chair), Mr Richard Kilshaw, Mrs Anne Macwilson & Mrs Trish Ravensdale

In attendance: Mr David Yorke-Edwards (County Councillor,) Mrs Sue Wigglesworth (District Councillor) & Mrs Sandra Gray (Clerk) and two Members of the Public.

1) Apologies for Absence:

Mrs Mandy Flather, the Councillors consented to this absence.
Mr Alan Keeble

2) Declarations of Interests:

Councillor John Baxter declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 Planning Application No:B/08/01799/FHA . The Declarations of Interest Book was signed.

3) Minutes of the meetings of 20th November 2008.

With the manual amendments signed to the Code of Practice for handling Complaints to read “The Chairman and Vice Chair shall thereafter deal with the matter as they see fit, including informing the Councillor against whom the complaint is made and inviting his response.” And the name Riddleston amended; the Minutes were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

4) Matters Arising:

There were none.

5) Reports:

A) County Councillor

David Yorke-Edwards reported that the Locality Budget of £800.00 had been paid to the Village Hall Committee. Suffolk County Council will be investing £3.8 million in Social Services to recruit 50 new Social Workers in its response to prevent the “Baby P” disaster.

B) District Councillor

Mrs Sue Wigglesworth reported that Layham Parish Council had raised concerns regarding the Core Waste Strategy in relation to Layham Pit Quarry. There was genuine concern that the Layham Liaison Committee had not been consulted with regards to the extension to 2021 of Layham preparation for landfill. Mrs Sue Wigglesworth was concerned that her questions regarding what constitutes hazardous waste were not fully answered.

Polstead had not been consulted as an adjoining Parish and as historically Polstead had been consulted on all issues relating to the Layham Pit the Council agreed for Vice-Chair Michael Hackford and Layham Pit Liaison Representative Councillor

Richard Kilshaw to write confirming their wish to be consulted. This is in agreement with the concerns of Layham Parish Council as stated in their letter.

C) Suffolk Constabulary

No report was given

6) Reports & Questions from Councillors:

Councillor Trish Ravensdale reported to the Council that the feedback for Carols on the Green had been good.

Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported that the person nominated for the Community Achievement Award, Michael Hackford, had been successful and the Council congratulated Vice-Chair Michael Hackford on the award, which was long considered overdue for all his work in the community of Polstead

Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported that the two Polstead Black Cherry trees were ready for planting, one at White Street Green and one to replace the tree which had died in the Community Woodland.

Councillor Richard Kilshaw informed the Council that, since the District Council had been clearing the gully at the bottom of the hill as part of their routine every 13 weeks, there had been no flooding problems. The Council agreed unanimously for the Clerk to thank Daniel Whymark for all his assistance in this matter.

Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported that resident Ruth Crabtree wished to confirm that the money from the bottle bank was being used for the youth of Polstead as originally agreed when the bottle bank was placed. The Responsible Financial Officer informed the Council that the money received which varied from year to year and although not assigned to a specific youth project, went towards the upkeep of the children's playground. It was agreed that, if a Councillor knew of a specific youth project they would ask the Council to consider funding this from the revenue of the Bottle Bank.

7) Reports & Questions from Parishioners

There were none.

8) Highways and Footpaths

The Clerk reported that the PP3 Grant had been received and the cheque for £377.20 had been credited to the Community Account. The Clerk reported that Kevin Verlander, Rights of Way Officer, would like to remind the Council that it is the landowners' duty and not the local authority, to maintain hedges in a reasonable condition so as not to obstruct a public right of way. There would therefore be no financial assistance in the future for any hedge clearance work.

The Clerk had also been advised by Kevin Verlander that the PP3 Grant was under review and that the category 1 Footpaths cut by the Council would not be eligible for cuts to be paid by the Council under the PP3 Grant scheme. The PP3 Grant is a grant awarded to Parish Councils to help towards tool maintenance where volunteers maintain the footpaths rather than contractors.

The Clerk reported that the article in the January Polstead News which stated that Stoke by Nayland Parish Council is proposing the creation of a new Permissive Footpath to the north of the B1068. On the Definitive Footpath Map, part of its length would be in Polstead. The Clerk informed the Council that she had contacted the Clerk to Stoke By Nayland Parish Council for clarification. The Stoke By Nayland Club had contacted the Stoke By Nayland Parish Council direct with the request for Permissive Footpath. The Council agreed for the Clerk to write to the Stoke By Nayland Club advising them that their request will need to be made to Polstead Parish Council as well as Stoke By Nayland.

The Chairman informed the Council that Vice-Chair Michael Hackford and Councillor Trish Ravensdale had met with Roberta Meadows on the 10th December 2009. It was clarified at the meeting that there were two pieces of land requiring landowner's permission before a Creation Agreement could proceed. Roberta Meadows said that she would investigate the creation of a Prescriptive Footpath. It was agreed for the FP35 from Rockalls Road to be a future agenda item to be fully discussed by the Council.

The Chairman reported that after a complaint from a Parishioner the bridge at Footpath 4 now had netting on the bridge to help prevent slipping and steps put in the slope leading to the path.

The Chairman handed to the Councillors a map of the Footpaths and Bridleways in Polstead requesting that, with their local knowledge, they complete a worksheet of path number, landowner and any structural features on the path. This would enable the Council in the future to contact the appropriate landowner if any work on hedges etc was required.

Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported that, at the end of Byway 13 and Footpath 12, a steel post had been put in to replace a broken stile. The Chairman said that he would speak to the landowner concerned.

9) Bus Shelter

The Chairman proposed that, with the current information and Parish Council file on the Village Green, he would write to the Councillors of his recommendations of the course of action the Parish Council should take next.

Therefore with regards to the bus shelter three resolutions were agreed:

- It was agreed to adjourn discussion of the Bus Shelter to the next meeting in February.
- The Bus Shelter would be a regular Agenda Item
- The Clerk would contact Highways again regarding the Bus Shelter
Proposed by Councillor John Baxter, seconded by Councillor Trish Ravensdale three in favour and one abstention.

10) Homey Bridge

Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported that the gate at the Stoke by Nayland end was broken and requested that the Council review the changes made to Homey Bridge Lane several years ago. Before the February meeting it was agreed by the Council for Councillor Richard Kilshaw to circulate to Councillors resolutions to be discussed and decided upon regarding Homey Bridge Lane.

Proposed by Richard Kilshaw, seconded by Vice-Chair Michael Hackford, all in favour.

11)Planning Matters

A) Pre-Agenda Applications:

B/08/01786/FHA Scotland Hall, Scotland Street Stoke by Nayland Colchester CO6 4QJ Construction of external swimming pool and associated works.

Polstead are being consulted as an adjoining parish with the above application and the councillors discussed fully the above application.

B/08/01734/FUL Land south of St Marys Church Water Lane Polstead. Change of use of agricultural land to form churchyard including re-positioned and new boundary fencing.

The Council discussed the above application and had no objections.

B) Any Urgent Planning Matters:

The following were received after the Agenda had been issued:

B/08/01799FHA Polstead Green, Cottage Polstead, Green Polstead, Colchester CO6 5AL. Erection of single-storey rear extension and erection of first- floor rear extension.

The Council discussed the above application.

The Clerk reported the following notifications from Babergh District Council

B/07/02028/FHA White House Farm Straight Road Polstead Colchester CO6 5DL Erection of garden building.

The Clerk reported that the hearing for the above appeal will be held on 4th February 2009.

B/08/01763/TCA Kings Bank Polstead Hill Polstead CO6 5AH Removal of 3 no.Pine trees.

The Clerk reported that the above application had been withdrawn.

B/08/01516/FHA/BEL Applegarth,White Street Green, Polstead, Colchester CO10 5JL Erection of rear extension and alterations.

The Clerk reported that planning permission had been granted to the above application with conditions.

B/08/01648/FUL/GC Woodfield, Stackwood Road, Hadleigh Heath Polstead IP7 5NZ Erection of 1.5 storey detached dwelling of detached garage/store (following demolition of existing detached single-storey dwelling).

The Clerk reported that planning permission had been granted to the above application with conditions.

B/08/01596/FUL/LJB Frogs Hall Martens Lane Polstead Colchester CO6 5AQ. Erection of detached three-storey dwelling and detached cartlodge (following demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings). Revised scheme to that approved under P.P B/06/00540/FUL.

The Clerk reported that planning permission had been granted to the above application with conditions.

B/08/01462/FHA/ETR Green Farm, White Street Green Polstead CO10 5JL.

Erection of detached double garage, as amplified by drawing no.426.4 and amended by drawing no.426.3 received on 21st November 2008.

The Clerk reported that Planning Permission had been refused for the above application in relation to CNO6 and CNO1 of the Babergh Local Plan.

B/08/01666/TCA Jesmond Lodge, Polstead Hill Polstead Colchester CO6 5AH.

The Clerk reported that work specified in the above application may be undertaken with conditions.

B/08/01776/TCA Allotments Rockalls Road Polstead. Remove 1 no.Cherry tree.

The Clerk reported that work specified in the above application may be undertaken with conditions.

12) Chairman & Clerk's Reports & Correspondence

The Clerk reported to the Council that she had successfully completed, submitted her portfolio for the Certificate in Local Council Administration. The Portfolio had to be 100% and the Clerk had passed all the sections submitted but until the Government had given instructions regarding the Power of Well Being Section 7 she was unable to submit this section. Once this was submitted and passed an overall pass could then be achieved. The result will be that Polstead Parish Council would have 50% of the requirements to apply for Quality Parish Status.

The Council gave a vote of congratulations for the Clerk.

The Clerk highlighted the training courses available and asked to attend one of the e planning courses in February. The Council agreed.

13) Future Agenda Items and Dates of next meetings

Bus Shelter

Carse Pond

Fees for Hadleigh Fishing Society for youth of Polstead

Homey Bridge Road

Hog Roast 2009

Financial Standing Orders

Clerks Contract and Salary

Section 137 Payments for 2008/9

Footpath Rockalls Road to FP35

Article for Magazine detailing the role of a Parish Council

19th February 2009

19th March 2009

23rd April 2009

30th April 2009 (Annual Parish Meeting)

21st May 2009 (Annual General Meeting)

18TH June 2009

16th July 2009

17th September 2009

15th October 2009

19th November 2009

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30pm