

POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th June 2009 in the Village Hall Polstead.

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

In attendance: Mrs Sue Wigglesworth (District Councillor), Mrs Sandra Gray
(Clerk) and two members of the public.

1) Apologies for Absence: Mr David Yorke-Edwards (County Councillor), Mrs
Trish Ravensdale, Amanda Coleman (Suffolk
Constabulary)

2) Declarations of Interests:

Vice-Chair Michael Hackford declared an interesting Agenda Item 7 Planning
Application No:B/09/00567/FUL. The Declarations of Interest Book was signed.

3) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 21st May 2009.

With the amendment of second item number 8 to number 11 the Minutes were
approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

4) Reports:

A) County Councillor

In the absence of David Yorke-Edwards, the Clerk reported on his behalf that, due to
the elections, there is nothing to report as the County Council does not start
appointing members to all the various committees until its AGM which is on 25th
June.

B) District Councillor

Sue Wigglesworth reported that the residents of Martens Lane had contacted Suffolk
Highways with regards to the large pot holes caused by the heavy traffic. Highways
clarified that it was an unclassified road and that, therefore, they could not stop the
lorries using it. The planning officer would be checking if there was illegal earth
movement taking place. In the meantime it was agreed by the Council to write a
follow up letter to the one sent last year to Mr and Mrs Lewis regarding the heavy
traffic flow to Frogs Hall.

Sue Wigglesworth handed to the Council the notice of precept payment from Babergh
which had been sent to Mr S Davies in error.

C) Suffolk Constabulary

No report was given

5) Reports & Questions from Councillors:

Councillor Mandy Flather commented that she was in agreement with the Chairman
that the rails around the pond were in disrepair and needed either replacing or
repairing. Councillor Richard Kilshaw stated that the concrete poles could be left and

the rails painted. It was agreed by the Council to discuss the rails at a future meeting and, in the meantime, the Chairman would investigate the costing of several options.

Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported that the wall on the bridge was damaged on the left hand side. A section of the wall had cracked and detached itself. The Clerk would report it to highways.

Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported that the Polstead Cherry tree in the Churchyard had died and it was agreed by the Council for Councillor Mandy Flather to talk to the residents of White Street Green to see if they would agree to the tree allocated for White Street Green to go the churchyard instead as a replacement.

Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported that he had cleared the gully by the pond and requested that B. Stickels is made aware of the importance of clearing the gully when he has finished strimming around the pond.

Chairman Nick Brandt reported that he had cleared Footpath 30. Vice Chair Michael Hackford proposed a vote of thanks, which was unanimously agreed.

6) Reports & Questions from Parishioners:

There were none

7) Planning Matters:

A) Pre- Agenda Applications

Planning Application No: B/09/00567/FUL D'Arcy Cottage Rockalls Road Polstead Colchester CO6 5AR. Change of use, alterations and extensions to existing dwelling to form 2 no. dwellings

The Clerk informed the Council of the letters of objection from Mrs P.Brown and Mr and Mrs Lowe.

After discussion, the Council agreed that, in relation to the Babergh Local Plan policy Number HS28, the plan “represents overdevelopment to the detriment of the environment, the character of the locality, residential amenity” and, in particular, “highway safety.” Concerns were raised about the safety of the residents with regard to more cars in an already over used part of the road.

The Council were in agreement that, in relation to HS28, “the proposal is of a scale, density or form which would be out of keeping with adjacent and nearby dwellings or other buildings.” As Polstead is in a conservation area, the Councillors objected to the application in relation to policy CNO8 of the Babergh Local Plan it is not “of an appropriate scale, form, and detailed design” and does not “harmonise with its setting”. In relation to the Babergh Local Plan policy CN04 the plan does not “ensure that the design and layout of buildings, highways and the spaces around them provide for public safety and deter vandalism and crime.”

Planning Application No: 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).

The Council discussed the above application. The Clerk reported that the District Councillor had an objection concerning polytunnels generally as, when they become old and unused, they are left in the field and become very unsightly. Therefore, she requested that the wording "... and disassembled as required" should be emphasised in the conditions.

After discussion by the Councillors in relation to concerns of the changing landscape in a conservation area and the need to be aware of the needs of local farmers, the Council agreed that it is very difficult to find a technical planning objection to the above application. Polstead Parish Council has the greatest reservations, however, concerning the spread of this kind of industrialised agriculture in Suffolk and its impact on the landscape.

Planning Application No: B/09/00556/FHA 19 Rockalls Road Polstead Colchester CO6 5AR. Erection of first floor side extension and a rear conservatory. Erection of detached single garage (existing outbuilding to be demolished).

The Clerk reported to the Council that she had received objections from E A Carter, Ms B J Redding and S Davies.

The Council discussed the above application and agreed that, with reference to the Babergh Local Plan policy Number HS28, the plan "represents overdevelopment to the detriment of the environment, the character of the locality, residential amenity or other buildings." The Council objected to the above application as in relation to CNO1 the plan does not conform in relation to "the scale, form and nature of adjacent development and the environment surrounding the site."

More importantly, as Polstead is in a conservation area, the Councillors objected to the application in relation to CNO8 of the Babergh Local Plan that it is not "of an appropriate scale, form, and detailed design" and does not "harmonise with its setting".

The Council voted against the application (four against and one in favour).

Planning Application No: B/09/00585/FHA The Chapel Manse Evans Heath Polstead Ipswich IP7 5NX. Erection of 2 no. outbuildings to provide studio and storage.

The Council had no objections to the above application.

Planning Application No: B/09/00579/FHA Blackthorns, Boxford Road, Polstead Colchester CO6 5DW. Erection of rear single storey green house extension.

The Council had no objections to the above application.

Planning Application No: B/09/00333/AGD2 Land north of Spring Hill Stoke Road Polstead. Erection of a Dutch barn.

The Clerk reported that approval had been granted for the above application.

9) Footpaths and Highways

A) Rockalls Road to Footpath 35

The Chairman reported to the Council that he had clarified the situation with regards to Rockalls Road to Footpath 35 and had been informed of the difference between making a Definitive Map Modification Order and making a Creation Agreement. The Chairman chronologically recounted the meetings and telephone calls between Roberta Meadows and the Council. Councillor Richard Kilshaw had contacted Roberta Meadows to ascertain the situation but this had added to the confusion at Suffolk County Council. Councillor Richard Kilshaw was reminded that if a Councillor wished to enquire as to the situation of a project etc., they are to go through the Parish Clerk. Due to the claim that there were partly two different routes, a Creation Agreement was the preferred option.

It was after much discussion that the Council agreed to the route of the footpath. It was agreed that the route walked now by walkers was unacceptable as, if the Council wished to increase the number of allotment plots etc., it would not be feasible with a path in the way. Councillor Mandy Flather proposed and Councillor Richard Kilshaw seconded the following proposal:

“The path runs from North to South along the full side of the allotment to as far east as necessary to emerge east of the metal gate owned by Mr and Mrs Levoi”

The proposal was passed, four in favour, one against. It was agreed for the Clerk to inform Roberta Meadows of the Council's decision.

B) Footpath on the B1066

The Chairman reported that he had met with representatives of Stoke By Nayland Parish Council and Stoke By Nayland Club and John Goodyear with regards to the Footpath on the B1066. The Clerk had been notified by e mail of the plan, risk assessments and cost estimates for the options discussed and the Chairman read this to the Council. The Council agreed for the Clerk to write to John Goodyear, on behalf of the Council, expressing their views regarding a tarmac path. (Appendix one attached).

C) Dog Bins

At the AGM, the issue of the removal of the dog bin in Stackwood Road from its site was raised. The Clerk reported that Daniel Whymark, Local Environmental Quality Officer, Babergh District Council had contacted her regarding the damage and offered to repair it plus a 15% admin charge.

Sue Wigglesworth had received a request from a parishioner to have a dog bin at Cherry Billy Walk, before Rockalls Road. The Council authorised the Clerk to talk to Daniel Whymark regarding its position request that the dog bin is moved and placed at the new proposed footpath.

Proposed by Councillor Anne Macwilson, seconded by Vice- Chair Michael Hackford, all in favour.

D) Grass Cutting

The Chairman reported that he had received the cutting schedule from Kevin Verlander detailing the paths to be cut by Suffolk County Council:

- Byway 66
- Byway 13
- Footpath 12
- Footpath 4

However, Suffolk County Council had not stated when the cuttings would take place and the above paths had been cut twice already. It was agreed by the Council for the Chairman to write to Kevin Verlander to express the Council's concern at the infrequency and scheduling of the proposed cuts.

E) Footpath 35

Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported his concern at the exposure of corrugated iron on Footpath 35. The Chairman agreed to assess the problem and if necessary speak to the owner, Mr Love. Councillor Richard Kilshaw reported concerns regarding the exposed rusty rail at the end of Footpath 35 and stated that the hedge needed trimming. The Chairman said that he would talk to the owner, Bob Derbyshire.

10) Summer Hog Roast

The Chairman reported that he had organised with the BBI Team of Babergh Council to provide games for children from 1pm to 5pm. He also confirmed that the hog had been booked for the new date.

Vice-Chair Michael Hackford informed the Council that the Marquee, generator and toilets had all been booked for the new date of the 19th September. He had also spoken to some prospective singers for the day.

Councillor John Baxter confirmed that the ice creams had been ordered and it was agreed by the Council for Councillors Anne Macwilson and Mandy Flather to investigate the cost of a banner advertising the village hog roast to parishioners.

The Council agreed for Vice-Chair Michael Hackford to order two barrels of beer with Dylan Pym and the Clerk would check from last years record the amount of soft drinks sold.

The Clerk would get a copy of the License application for the Chairman to complete.

11) Correspondence Received

The Clerk made the Council aware of the correspondence received. Since the Agenda had been published the following correspondence had been received:

- Temporary Closure of part of the C731 Brick Kiln Hill Polstead
- Babergh Communities Together Free Health Check Roadshow

12) Chairman & Clerk's Reports & Correspondence

The Clerk reported to the Council that Bill Wigglesworth had acknowledged receipt of the Council's letter regarding the wildflower meadow and would respond formally after the PCC meeting in June.

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13) Future Agenda Items and Dates of next meetings

Hog Roast 2009

Bus Shelter

Carse Pond

Homey Bridge Road

Financial Standing Orders

Article for Magazine detailing the role of a Parish Council

16th July 2009

17th September 2009

15th October 2009

19th November 2009

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.20 pm

Chairman

Date