

## POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 in Polstead Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Nick Brandt (Chairman), John Baxter, Michael Hackford, Richard Kilshaw, Anne Macwilson and Theresa Ravensdale.

**Attending:** Dave Crimmin (Clerk), Sue Wigglesworth (Babergh District Councillor), PCSO Amanda Coleman and three members of the public - Ruth Riddleston, Margaret Ryan and Patrick Ryan.

#### 09/001 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Amanda Flather due to a family bereavement and David Yorke-Edwards (Suffolk County Councillor). It was resolved by councillors that the Chairman arranges for flowers to be sent to Cllr Flather. **Chairman's Allowance**

#### 09/002 Declaration of Interests

None were declared.

#### 09/003 Minutes of Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009

The minutes of the meeting were modified in line with Cllr Kilshaw's comments, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 09/004 Reports from County and District Councillors and Suffolk Constabulary

The reports are contained in Appendix A. In David Yorke-Edwards absence, the councillors recorded their thanks for his intervention that has resulted in progress on a number of issues with Suffolk County Council (SCC).

#### 09/005 Reports and Question from Councillors

- Cllr Ravensdale enquired on the relocation of the dog bin from Stackwood Road. The Chairman said that the relocation of the dog bin to Cherry Billy Walk was still outstanding. Clerk to contact Babergh District Council (BDC) to enquire on progress.
- Cllr Kilshaw reported that as the cost of a self closing gate for the playing field had been quoted at £1,400 he would seek alternative quotations from local builders.

#### 09/006 Reports and Questions from Parishioners

Summary of questions raised are contained in Appendix A.

**In light of the public interest in the National Grid proposal on the Agenda, the councillors resolved in accordance with Standing Order 15 to vary the order of business for this item to be discussed next.**

#### 09/007 National Grid proposals for an power line between Bramford and Twinstead

The councillors reviewed the programme received from National Grid for the meeting of parish councillors on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009 and the public exhibition of the proposals planned for the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2010. With both meetings being planned for Boxford Village Hall the councillors were dismayed that National Grid had not considered running a public exhibition at Polstead Village Hall. Based on the impact that 2 of the options proposed have on the parish the councillors agreed that the Clerk liaise with National Grid in an attempt to get an exhibition and meeting at Polstead Village Hall during the consultation. Once the outcome of the discussions with National Grid is known, the councillors agreed that as much publicity as possible be given to Polstead residents on the proposals.

#### 09/008 Planning

- a. The councillors reviewed Planning Application **B/09/001100 Corders House, Polstead** for the reduction in size by 25% to 1 no. Chestnut Tree and agreed that they had no objections.

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- b. The councillors reviewed Planning Application **B/008/01928 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). As in an earlier submission of the application the councillors find it 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.
- c. Two further planning applications had been received after the Agenda was posted. The councillors reviewed Planning Application **B/09/01139 Polstead Touring Park Holt Road** for the Erection of single storey extension to existing shower and toilet block and agreed that they had no objections. The councillors reviewed Planning Application **B/09/01121 Land east of The Garden Cottage Hadleigh Road Polstead** - for the change of use of agricultural land to ménage and agreed that they had no objections.
- d. The status of previous applications, reviewed by PPC were as follows:

Application Reference	Address	Planning Details	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	
B/09/00758/FHA	Millward Cottage Millward Road Polstead CO6 5AY	Erection of detached double garage with addition accommodation over.	No Objections	Permission Granted 25/09/2009
B/09/00758/FHA	Millward Cottage Millward Road Polstead CO6 5AY	Erection of detached double garage with addition accommodation over, a samended by Drawings No's Rev A 1 and 1009 Rev A 2, received on 10th September 2009	No Objections	Permission Granted 25/09/2009

**09/009 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.
- b. The councillors resolved to approve and accept the external audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 by BDO Stoy Hayward and the publication of the results to the residents.

**09/010 Highways and Footpaths**

- a. The Chairman updated the councillors on SCC's proposed Public Path Creation Agreement as well as the proposed letter that should be sent to SCC if council is prepared to agree to the proposal. The councillors resolved that the Chairman and Cllr Ravensdale sign the agreement on Polstead Parish Council's behalf and the Clerk should send the letter to SCC along with the agreement.
- b. The Clerk was asked to raise the issue of continual flooding at the bend on the north end of Homey Lane with SCC.

**09/011 Hog Roast 2009**

The councillors agreed the Hog Roast this year had been very successful albeit that it probably should have been held on the first Saturday of the school term. It was agreed for 2010 that no dogs will be allowed on site. Cllr Hackford expressed his disappointment at the timings of support he received on site during the set-up of the event. The councillors agreed that they would either have to cut back on some of the itinerary of the event or look at alternative ways of attracting support for the set-up of the event. After reviewing the accounts for the event, which showed an income of £410.74 and an expenditure of £681.96, the councillors resolved to accept the accounts.

**LGA 1972 s 145**

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**09/012 Carse Pond**

The Chairman updated councillors that John Boutcher of SCC Highways was willing to attend a site meeting once the council had decided on a course of action for the pond. Cllr Kilshaw updated councillors on his discussion with consultants on the options that could be considered for the pond. The councillors agreed that there were three options for the pond; leave it as it is, take the silt out and leave or take silt out and line the pond with clay. Cllr Baxter will discuss options with consultants and report back to next meeting.

**09/013 Bus Shelter**

With no response being forthcoming from SCC's Simon Barnett, the Clerk was asked to contact him in order to review progress on his report.

**09/014 Carols on the Green 2009**

The councillors resolved to repeat the formula of last years event on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2009 starting at 6pm. Cllr Ravensdale will co-ordinate the event on the council's behalf. Clerk to write to the Rev Michael Tillett inviting him to the event at 6pm and ask if it would be possible to bring his successor along as a way of introduction to the community.

**09/015 Local Highways Drainage Maintenance**

The councillors agreed that the Clerk write to SCC asking if the culverts along Straight Road had been cleared.

**09/016 Pond Railings**

Following feedback from SCC that they were not responsible for the maintenance of the pond railings the councillors resolved a budget of £250 for the painting of the railings along the road in white. *Public Health Act 1936 s 260*

**09/017 Annual Parish Meeting in 2010 and Precept Meeting**

- a. The councillors agreed the Annual Parish Meeting should be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010.
- b. The councillors agreed that the precept should be discussed at the next council meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

**09/018 Representative for BDC meeting with Parish Councils**

It was agreed that the Chairman would represent the council at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

**09/019 Correspondence Received (Appendix C)**

The councillors agreed the following actions after reviewing the correspondence:

- a. The Clerk to pass the letter from Active Wellbeing to the Village Hall Chairman Sue Wigglesworth
- b. The Clerk to investigate the proposal by BT to sell the red telephone kiosks in Polstead to the council for the next meeting

**09/020 Chairman and Clerk's Reports**

The Chairman had raised all his issues during the meeting. As the Clerk was only appointed on 1<sup>st</sup> October he did not have anything to report.

**09/021 Clerk's Contract of Employment**

After reviewing the changes between the contract of Sandra Gray and the one proposed for Dave Crimmin, the councillors resolved that the Chairman sign the contract on the council's behalf.

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**09/022 Future Agenda Items and Date of next meeting**

- Carse pond
- Bus Shelter
- National Grid
- Rockalls Road to FP35
- Red telephone kiosk adoption
- Precept for 2010 /11

The next meeting will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> November in Polstead Village Hall starting at 7.45pm.

**The meeting closed at 10.05pm.**

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

Sue Wigglesworth reported that she had attended the Suffolk summit of county and district councils with “innovation” being the theme. Sue felt sure that changes will occur as a consequence. She reported that the homeless unit in Sudbury has now re-opened with the Orwell Housing Association running the operation. Babergh councillors had attended a presentation by National Grid. The Babergh Development Framework will be on the agenda of the BDC meeting with Parish Councils on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

PCSO Coleman reported that she hoped to attend as many meetings as possible in the future but the absolute minimum will be two meetings a year. She will review the issue of cars passing buses at the bus stop on the Green from a road safety perspective.

Ruth Riddleston thanked the council for running the Hog Roast this year which she felt had been very successful. Margaret Ryan was keen for as much publicity as possible being raised with residents in relation to National Grid’s proposals for the power line between Bramford and Twinstead.