

POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th February 2010 in Polstead Village Hall

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

Attending: Dave Crimmin (Clerk), Sue Wigglesworth (Babergh District Councillor), and 5 members of the public.

10/022 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from David Yorke-Edwards (Suffolk County Councillor) and PCSO Coleman.

10/023 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Baxter declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 10/028 b as he owned the property and left the meeting while the item was discussed.

10/024 Minutes of Meeting held on 21st January 2010

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

10/025 Reports from County and District Councillors and Suffolk Constabulary

The reports are contained in Appendix A.

10/026 Reports and Question from Councillors

Cllr Ravensdale reported that the Carols on the Green went very well with residents who attended enjoying the event. The councillors resolved that Cllr Hackford look at the project to install a permanent solution for positioning the Christmas Tree. A new lead singer would also be required for this year's Carols now that Rev Michael Tillett has left Polstead.

10/027 Reports and Questions from Parishioners

The issues raised are contained in Appendix A. The councillors resolved that the safety concerns for drivers exiting Stackwood Road onto the A1071 to be on the next agenda. The councillors agreed that no further action was required with respect to vehicles parking near White Street Green as the builders will be finished within a month.

10/028 Planning

- a. The councillors reviewed Planning Application **B/09/01506 Brendacot, Heath Road** - erection of two-storey dwelling (following demolition of existing single-storey dwelling). The Clerk updated the councillors with feedback received from BDC in respect to the measurements of the proposed dwelling in comparison to the existing bungalow. The councillors resolved to object to the application and expressed their concerns with the:
 - scale of the proposed dwelling, especially the height
 - design of the construction and the materials to be used
 - general lack of information in the design and access statement.The councillors felt that more thought should be given to the neighbourhood environment in which the dwelling is proposed.
- b. The councillors reviewed Planning Application **B/10/00037 Polstead Green Cottage, Polstead Green** - erection of single-storey rear and first floor side extension and resolved that they had no objections.
- c. The councillors reviewed Planning Application **B/09/01353 The Old Forge, Polstead Green** - reduction of limbs of 1 No. Chestnut Tree and resolved they had no objections as long as the work was undertaken outside the nesting season and that no bats were present.
- d. A further planning application had been received by the council after the agenda was posted. The councillors reviewed Planning Application **B/10/00148 Polstead Touring Park, Holt Road, Polstead** - change of use of land and farm agriculture for siting of touring caravans and construction of 10 no. hard standing pitches. The councillors resolved by majority, with Cllr Kilshaw objecting, that the council has no objections. However PPC does

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have a reservation about the steady extension of this site and the absorbing of agricultural land. Concerns were also expressed about caravan drivers losing their way and causing problems in the village. Drivers using the site should be issued with good maps as well as satellite navigation instructions.

e. The status of previous applications, reviewed by PPC were as follows:

Application Reference	Address	Planning Details	PPC Minute	Parish Council Comments	Babergh DC Comments
APP/D3505/A/09/2115876/NWF	Darcy Cottage Rockalls Road Polstead	Appeal against refusal of B/09/00567/FUL	09/029 b	No further comments but request 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	
B/09/01452/FHA	Green Farm White Street Green Polstead	Erection of detached double garage.	10/007 a	No objections but reservations re highest point. Asked for condition for garaging of vehicles connected with domestic use of house.	Permission Granted 12/02/2010
B/09/01506/FUL	Brendacot Heath Road Polstead	Erection of two-storey dwelling (following demolition of existing single -storey dwelling).	10/007 b	Requested more detailed specification of proposed dwelling in relation to existing dwelling.	Christine Thurlow will visit site and make assessment of the proposed dwelling's scale in relation to existing dwelling and local environment.

10/029 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 adopt the Financial Regulations presented by the Clerk. A copy of these and the Standing Orders are to be forwarded to the website for publication.
- c. After reviewing that a council with annual expenditure less than £200,000 does not need to produce accounts on an income and expenditure basis the councillors resolved that PPC's accounts should be prepared on a receipts and payments basis.
- d. The councillors resolved to award the 2010 grass maintenance to P& H Landscapes with a budgeted cost of £1,657.50 **Open Spaces Act 1906 s 10 & LGA 1972 s 214**
- e. The councillors resolved that an application be made to David Yorke-Edwards Locality Budget for 3 Grit Bins and contribution towards the cost of replacing the playing field gate.

10/030 National Grid proposals for an overhead line between Bramford and Twinstead

After reviewing the feedback from residents and the District Councillors and after reviewing the response sent by Babergh District Council the councillors resolved the following response to National Grid.

Polstead is a large parish by area which already plays host to both the existing routes of pylons and will be most affected by any additional pylons. Polstead Parish Council strongly objects to any overhead routeing. This scheme should not even be considered until all other schemes have been properly researched and conclusively rejected.

Such schemes should include not only undergrounding but undersea cabling. A fundamental rethink and consequential research needs to be carried out as to the methods of distributing electricity in the 21st Century.

Costs should carry little weight. National Grid declared a pre-tax profit of £649 million for the past year and the costs may be spread over the lifetime of the system probably in excess of 100 years.

Polstead would not object to any route provided that **ALL** of the cabling is placed underground. Moreover the opportunity could and should be taken to place the existing system underground, not just the part which passes through the AONB, should corridor 2 eventually be selected.

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There have been persistent allegations linking overhead lines to serious health hazards especially leukaemia. In fairness, this causal link has never been proved. Neither has it been disproved. Increasing the number and spread of high voltage lines can only increase the risk. A full and thorough assessment of the risks to health needs to be undertaken as a vital prerequisite, not some kind of incidental or afterthought. Polstead of course is particularly at risk.

10/031 Highways and Footpaths

- The councillors resolved that the dog bin should be located just beyond the footpath sign as you enter the allotments from Rockalls Road. Clerk to seek BDC's approval for this location.
- The Clerk to place advertisement in the local magazine for volunteers to become the Polstead Footpath Warden.
- The councillors resolved that a local contractor be contracted at £10 per hour to undertake further clearance work along FP 12 which will be overseen by Cllr Kilshaw. **Highways Act 1980 ss 43, 50**
- The Clerk updated councillors that SCC has agreed to give PPC a grant under the P3 Scheme towards the machinery maintenance costs incurred during 2009.
- Clerk to contact SCC re the condition of the 1st bridge along FP 3 as the wood has become rotten

10/032 Bus Shelter

The Chairman reported that he met with two representatives of the WI and raised the issue of a bus shelter outside the community shop. After reviewing the changes to both the bus being used for the school transport and the new pick up point the councillors resolved to reconvene the working group in order to discuss with SCC the options available for a bus shelter and report back to the council when complete.

10/033 Playing field

The Clerk outlined the work undertaken with the Polstead Playground Group and PPC's insurers in order to adopt the playing field equipment on 1st April 2010. The Clerk highlighted discrepancies between the current council insurance and the council's asset register which the Chairman will help to resolve.

10/034 Bottle Bank

The councillors agreed that they would speak to the landlords at the Cock Inn to see if they would be willing to have the bottle bank back in the car park if PPC could ensure that the emptying issues are resolved.

10/035 Safer Neighbourhood Priority Panel

The councillors agreed that they did not wish to nominate a representative to the panel.

10/036 Correspondence Received (Appendix C)

After hearing that Neil Marshall has resigned as PPC's internal auditor, a post that he served for the past 10 years, the councillors requested that a letter of thanks be sent to him for his excellent service to PPC. The councillors resolved that Heelis & Lodge be appointed as internal auditors for PPC for the current year after hearing that the company undertook this role for a number of councils in Suffolk including Chilton, Haverhill, Leiston, Framlingham, Saxmundham, Thurston and Chelmondiston.

10/037 Chairman and Clerk's Reports (Appendix D)

The Chairman wished to record his appreciation of the work undertaken by Benedict Stickels and Drew Coulson on the footpaths and his intention to give each of them a small consumable award

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paid for out of the Chairman' s allowance. There were no actions required after reviewing the Clerk's Report.

10/038 Future Agenda Items

- Effectiveness of Internal Audit
- Risk Assessment
- A1071 / Stackwood Road.

10/039 Date of Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 10.45pm.

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

Sue Wigglesworth outlined the proposal by a stage director for a production to be held in a Polstead wood for an audience up to 45 in the summer. The group will meet in the play field before walking to the location in a nearby wood. Sue also updated councillors on the decision reached by BDC on the National Grid proposals.

In the absence of the police the Clerk read their report for the period 21st January to 18th February - "BURGLARY - DWELLING, Polstead Heath. Some time during the early evening around 7 pm on Saturday the 6th February unknown persons have entered a rural residential dwelling and stole valuable antiques and a large sum of cash from within. The house alarm activation stopping them before they could search and steal anymore than they already had. Ongoing (CID dealing)."

Concerns were raised by Mrs Westbrook-Smith on the issues facing drivers turning onto the A1071 from Stackwood Road. Richard Sandford raised the issue of vehicles, which since the last meeting no longer park on the green at White Street Green, now forcing other vehicles to drive over the green to pass.