

Minutes of Little Bealings Parish Council meeting held at Bealings Village Hall at 7.15pm on Monday 10 September 2018

Present: Mrs M Wilson (Chairman), Mrs T Cornish, Ms D Head, Dr C Hopkins, Mr D Hunter and Mr I Ransome

Also Present: District Councillor Geoff Holdcroft (for part of the meeting) and six members of the public

In attendance: Mrs C Ramsden, Clerk to the Council

1 Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

Apologies were received from Mr B Rufford who was working. It was **RESOLVED:**

- To accept the apologies for absence.

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

2 Public Participation Session

Two matters were raised:

Footpaths: Kissing Gate on Church Footpath

The Chairman of the Grove Farm Residents' Association raised the recent removal of the kissing gate on the footpath at the Church and asked about the basis for removal. He understood that it had been removed at the request of some School parents, for easier access to the rear entrance to the School with strollers.

He was aware that the kissing gate had been the subject of discussion on previous occasions and that it had been in place in the 1930s. It has previously marked the Churchyard and the Church Field boundary, before the field was sold for the development of Richards Drive and Michael's Mount in the 1960s. He had found reference to the kissing gate in the Annual Parish Meeting minutes of 1962 and that it had been agreed with the County Council then that it should be left as it was. There had also been objections to later attempts to remove it. He referred to Defra advice in respect of implementation of the Disability Act 2005 and that there was no expectation that such structures would be promptly replaced; historic features could be kept in place. He also referred to Hampstead Norreys project to renovate and reinstall a kissing gate, which had been removed some years earlier to improve disabled access, putting a pedestrian swing gate next to it.

The gate had been a limit on access by bicycles, which could now travel at speed past the rear entrance of the School. He had contacted the School which had advised that they had not been aware it was to be removed. He had taken a 'straw poll' of local residents, contacting 44. Seventeen had responded, with 13 opposed to the removal. The response was 50:50 in respect of reinstatement. No one had responded in favour of removal.

He suggested that the kissing gate be re-installed and a swing gate be put next to it for strollers to use. He was aware that the PCC had acknowledged that there should have been consultation before it was removed and wished to reach agreement on the matter.

The Chairman read information which had been received from the PCC Secretary on the matter which confirmed that the gate had been removed from Church grounds by the PCC in July at the request of a group of School parents to improve access. The

PCC had the gate, although it had been shaved from its moorings, and was happy to provide it to the GRFA to reinstate it, but not on Church grounds and so that strollers could still pass easily.

Angela Cobbold Hall

The spouse of an officer of Little Bealings Parochial Church Council advised that he considered the sale of the Angela Cobbold Hall and the Cafehub to be good projects; the two assets would both be better utilised. However, he wanted to know of the motives and intentions of the Council in its dealings with the matter and why it was overseeing and providing a platform for discussions on a PCC asset. He considered that the minute of the public participation session of the meeting held on 17 July, and the Council's consideration of the matter at item 3, where reference was made to promises made and now alleged to be broken, were not as factual as other minutes and that the Council had overstepped the mark in not being impartial. He considered that the item 3 minute would not bear legal scrutiny. He advised the Council that it should stick to decisions on matters of relevance to it and not question the decision making process of the PCC.

In response he was informed that the Rev Cook had advised the Council at a previous meeting that the Hall would not be sold before the Church re-ordering was complete. He was also advised that the comments recorded in the minutes were made by residents, not by Councillors. The Council had resolved only to ask the PCC for information to address residents' concerns and had been careful not to make any decision, or form a view at the meeting.

3 Minutes of the Meetings Held on 2 July, 17 July and 20 August 2018

It was **RESOLVED**:

- To approve the minutes of these meetings.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Webmaster

The webmaster had advised that she would provide some instructions for the Clerk, to enable Agendas etc to be published when she was not available.

It had become apparent that the Council's website did not have a security certificate. While OneSuffolk had advised that this was not critical, as personal and financial data was not collected, it could provide a certificate for a fee of £30. It was **RESOLVED**:

- To obtain a security certificate for the website at a cost of £30

4.2 Fynn-Lark Volunteers Event

Dr Hopkins reported that he had attended this event on behalf of the Council, and that it had been a well-attended informal celebration of the work carried out by the volunteers.

4.3 Angela Cobbold Hall

The responses obtained from the Acting/Deputy Diocesan Registrar for St Edmundsbury and Ipswich to the Council's request for information had been circulated to Councillors and were noted. The Registrar had also explained the ownership of the Hall and sent a copy of the conveyance.

A prospective purchaser had contacted the Council, to explain his proposed new business use and the work he would carry out to refurbish the Hall, and

to ask if the Council would support a change of use planning application. It was **RESOLVED**:

- To advise the prospective purchaser that the Council would consider the matter if a planning application was submitted.

4.4 Any Items Raised by Councillors

Deposit of Documents at Suffolk Records Office

The Records Office had acknowledged receipt of the Annual Parish Meeting minute book 1896 – 2003, and the Council's minute book 2006 – 2016. It had thanked the Council for depositing information that could be of great use to researchers in the future.

5 Adoption of Standing Orders

It was **RESOLVED**:

- To adopt new Standing Orders supplied by NALC and referenced 2018 July 18-13.

6 Planning

6.1 **SCDC Local Plan: First Draft Consultation Response**

The Chairman, Mr Ransome and the Clerk had attended a meeting with SCDC policy planners to discuss the future of the parish. A draft response to the consultation had been circulated to Councillors for consideration, together with comments submitted to SCDC in response to the Local Plan Review in 2017, and it was **RESOLVED**:

- To respond to the consultation as follows, and to pursue the proposed 'Small Village' settlement type thereafter if necessary:

The Council wishes to make the following comments in response to the consultation:

The Council found the opportunity to discuss the future of the parish at a meeting with SCDC very helpful.

The Council undertook a Parish Review in March 2018, which showed no great appetite for development, rather a wish to protect the rural character of the village against encroachment from Ipswich, Kesgrave and Martlesham. The Council agrees therefore that there should be no housing allocation to Little Bealings. The figures on page 45 show 2 extra houses. The Council is aware that this is likely to become 3 when application DC/17/4940/FUL is approved.

The Council notes its proposed Settlement Type of 'Small Village'. The parish has no retail outlets, no place of employment, no pub and a very limited bus service. The PCC recently closed the Angela Cobbold Memorial Church Hall for a period and placed it for sale. The village contains Bealings Primary School, which attracts the majority of its pupils from outside the village, reported to be 85% recently. The School creates major parking problems, being on a single track private road with no parking. The village has no pavements and no street lights. The village contains Bealings Village Hall, but this is near to the boundary with Gt Bealings and is a shared, not exclusive, facility for Lt Bealings. SCDC acknowledged the lack of facilities in its refusal of planning application DC/18/1268/OUT: "Little Bealings is classified as a local service centre although within the context of this classification the village is a fairly low order settlement and the majority of services necessary for day-to-day living would be over 2 miles from

the application site, at Kesgrave, Woodbridge and Martlesham Heath.” We request that the parish be classified as ‘Countryside’, not ‘Small Village’.

However, if classed as a Small Village, the Council agrees the location of the red line boundary on the plan on page 36 of the Policy Maps Booklet Part 1. However, it notes the loss of land previously coloured yellow (Area to be Protected from Development) and green (Special Landscape Areas) and requests that this status for the land be included.

Two other concerns of the Council relate to existing permissions:

1. The noise at Sinks Pit and the failure of both SCDC and SCC to enforce planning conditions and achieve noise and dust reductions.
2. Traffic along Martlesham and Playford Roads which has continued to increase in volume and speed since the introduction of the 30mph limit on the A1214 Kesgrave Road and the building of Grange Farm. The Council is concerned that the development at Brightwell Lakes will lead to more use of this road as new resident and services vehicles seek to avoid traffic congestion and speed enforcement elsewhere when travelling between Martlesham and Ipswich. Planning permissions should require works to promote use of other routes and deter rat running through Little Bealings.

The Council supports the re-opening of the Admiral’s Head pub and has recently secured a further 5 year ACV listing.

The Council supports maintaining the current usage of the Angela Cobbold Memorial Hall.

The Council supports a policy of keeping the countryside around villages and maintaining their identify distinct from urban development.

The Council is also aware of County Council proposals for an Ipswich Northern Bypass to run along a corridor between Kesgrave and Grundisburgh and considers this a major threat to the quality of life in the village to be vigorously opposed. Any discussion of a northern link road route should focus on a corridor further north, linking the A14 at Claydon to the A12 at Wickham Market.

6.2 Previous Planning Applications: Update

It was noted that SCDC had approved the following applications:

DC/18/2620: High Rigg, Martlesham Road

DC/17/5222/FUL: 2 Holly Lane

EAOW

Great Bealings Parish Council had drawn attention to the section of Holly Lane which had been crossed by the cabling installation, on the basis that it was sinking and needed repair. The developers had said that they would inspect the works.

7 The Admiral’s Head

It was noted that some 10 – 15 residents had responded positively to the Council’s enquiry about forming a new Save the Admiral’s Head Group. It was **RESOLVED**:

- To arrange for a meeting of the Group to be held in Bealings Village Hall Committee Room at 7pm between 1 and 10 October.

8 Highways

8.1 Traffic on Playford Road

SCC had supplied the data it had collected previously. It was noted that SCC required a payment of £310 to undertake a survey of traffic speed and volume, and that the police had been conducting speed checks. The highest recorded speed had been 62pmh. It was **RESOLVED**:

- To ask if the police data was available before deciding whether to fund a speed survey by SCC.

8.2 Replacement of White Lining on Martlesham Road

SCC had advised that due to limited budget the replacement of the hatching was not a priority. However, the replacement of central white lines was a priority and it was likely that the other work would be carried out at the same time. The white line replacement between The Street and Holly Lane was not a priority, although it had been reported by the Council as a safety issue due to parking problems.

8.3 Bealings School Parking

It was noted that no reply had been received from the last FOBS contact available to the Council. The Chairman had attended the recent ASB Police meeting and the School would be asked by the SCDC ASB officer to consider appointing Junior Road Safety Officers.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- To contact the School and ask them to advise parents about the established parking arrangements.

8.4 Grit Bins

SCC had advised of a new process for the ordering and placement of grit bins within the highway verge. It was **RESOLVED**:

- To consider the new process with respect to the replacement of the grit bin at the Hall Road crossroads.

8.5 SAVID

It was noted that a link from the Council's website had been added to the SAVID website. Ms Head reported that she had been unable to attend the SAVID meeting held on 8 August, but reported that a Steering Group had been set up to prepare a strategy, which should lead to the appointment of a permanent Chairman. SAVID had a bank balance of £3,000, being a grant made by County Councillor Robin Vickery for the purchase of a SID, although the grant was conditional upon administration, ownership and insurance matters being resolved. It was thought that Charsfield Parish Council may own the SID, but they had not attended the meeting.

The date of the next meeting was not known, but the draft minutes of the meeting on 8 August would be circulated to Councillors by Ms Head.

8.6 Footpaths Cutting

The second cut had been completed and the invoice received. SCC had been invoiced for reimbursement.

Kissing Gate on Church Footpath

Dr Hopkins declared a non pecuniary interest in this matter, as a member of the Grove Farm Residents' Association.

It was noted that the footpath was not permissive but was recorded on the Definitive Map as Footpath No 1A Little Bealings. There was no reference to a kissing gate in the Definitive Statement, which described the route as three feet wide, but narrower due to its condition.

Dr Hopkins advised that he shared the concerns of the GFRA and that clarity was needed on the matter, including the location and legal status of the kissing gate. He was of the view that there was no room to install a kissing gate and a swing gate, but he hoped that some agreement would be reached on a location. There was room for both structures a few feet along the footpath.

It was noted that SCC authority would be required to authorise a structure in a new location, perhaps on safety grounds, and that the GFRA and the PCC would discuss the matter further.

9 Reports from Local District and County Councillors

No report had been received from Councillor Robin Vickery.

District Councillor Colin Hedgley's report had been circulated. As he was unable to attend he had asked District Councillor Geoff Holdcroft, who represented the same ward, to do so. Mr Holdcroft drew attention to the closure of the Local Plan Consultation on 14 September and that it was intended to adopt the Plan by 31 March 2019, when SCDC would cease to exist. Elections for the East Suffolk Council would be held on 2 May and two Local Plans would operate, one for the SCDC and one for the Waveney areas. There would be two Planning Committees. It was intended to merge the Local Plans into one over the next four years. A decision on the creation of the East Suffolk Council would be made by the government by 4 October.

Mr Holdcroft advised that he was busy with the proposed Sizewell development. There were no questions for him.

10 Police

First Tier ASB Meeting Held on 6 September

The Chairman had attended this on behalf of the Council. She had raised School parking, and especially problems arising from events such as Sports Day. It had been agreed that it would be useful for the police to be aware of the dates of School events in future in case they could attend and advise on parking. It was **RESOLVED**:

- that Mrs Cornish would attend the next ASB meeting in November

The meeting was adjourned for two minutes at 8.15pm and recommenced at 8.17pm.

11 Finance

11.1 Bank Statement/Cheque Book Reconciliation for Second Quarter

This had been completed by Mr Hunter and no issues had arisen.

11.2 Authorisation of Expenditure

It was **RESOLVED** that the following expenditure be incurred:

- CAS Business Services: renewal of the Council's insurance policy on the basis of a five year term: £166.14
- Mr T Fear: P3 cutting: £171
- SPS: annual subscription: £30

- SPS: Landscape Training Event for Ms Head: £15
- Clerk's Salary for September and October
- PAYE for September and October

A schedule of the above payments was signed by the Chairman and cheques were signed by Ms Head and Dr Hopkins

11.3 Income

£500 had been transferred from the NS&I account to the bank current account. The second half of the precept would be received from SCDC on 30 September and the SCC P3 income of £171 was awaited.

11.4 External Auditor's Report for 2017/18

This had not been received.

12 Any Matters Arising from Circulated Items

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That Dr Hopkins would represent the Council at the East Suffolk Annual Partnership Forum on 9 November.
- Apologies would be sent to SALC as no one was available to attend the AGM.

13 Correspondence

It was **RESOLVED**:

- To circulate to Councillors recent copies of Clerks and Councils Direct, and the local Citizen's Advice Bureau Annual Report.

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Council would be on 5 November 2018.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.