

Minutes of Little Bealings Parish Council meeting held at Bealings Village Hall at 7.15pm on Monday 17 July 2018

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

Also Present: Eight members of the public (all for part of the meeting)

In attendance: Mrs C Ramsden, Clerk to the Council

1 Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

Apologies were received from Mr D Hunter and Mr B Rufford who were away. It was **RESOLVED:**

- To accept the apologies for absence.

County Councillor Robin Vickery and District Councillor Colin Hedgley had also sent apologies for not being able to attend.

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

2 Public Participation Session*

Five members of the public spoke in respect of item 4 on the Agenda, the Sale of the Angela Cobbold Hall. The following points were made and included the reading of a letter from a resident who was unable to attend:

A report on behalf of the Church to the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5 March 2018 had advised that the Angela Cobbold Hall would not be sold until the re-ordering and conversion of All Saints Church had been completed. However, the Hall had now been placed on the market. This was as a result of it being difficult to obtain grants and the wish of Reverend Cook to use the proceeds to start work on the CafeHub project as soon as possible. Several members of the PCC had been against the sale until the Church was ready and the matter had been taken up with the Bishop.

The Fynn-Lark News published in February 2017 had included a report from the CafeHub Committee which stated "No proceeds from the sale of the Angela Cobbold Hall are going towards the CafeHub project."

The Council's minutes of 19 October 2017 record that Rev Cook and the Secretary of the CafeHub Committee stated it to be a 'stand alone' project and not linked to the future of the Angela Cobbold Hall.

In January 2018 a meeting of "a much reduced PCC" had voted in favour of selling the Hall, but the parish had not been advised of the change of plan. Some members of the PCC did not support the sale and had not been told of it or had the opportunity to discuss it. The sale had been instructed recently, without any notification to the Hall Trustees or to the Bookings Secretary. This felt hurtful and bad mannered.

The sale was proceeding by formal tender with bids due by 3 August.

There was concern at the lack of Little Bealings residents on the PCC, and that nine members had resigned in recent times.

There was concern at the financial assumptions made in the previous presentation of the project to the Diocese. The project had been budgeted to cost £300,000, with an

*see also PPS session of PC meeting held on 5 November 2018

additional £38,000 for a new organ. The proceeds from the sale of the Angela Cobbold Hall were not included in the project at that time, but to be transferred to the Church Fabric Fund. Now it was proposed to use the anticipated £60,000 raised by the sale to start the CafeHub works, in the hope that grant funding would follow. At present only two grant offers had been received, one being £21,000 from Viridor.

The first works would be the removal of the organ and pews, a new stone floor and re-wiring, for which there were no proper estimates. The organ removal had already started, but the wood was not being re-used as promised.

If the anticipated funding did not materialise, this would leave the parish without either facility. In any event the plan had been for the Hall to be available for storage and services while the Church re-ordering was carried out and for there to be a transfer of activities from the Hall to the Church.

A petition from residents was proposed, to secure the withdrawal of the Hall from the market until funds for the Church project had been secured and a new business plan and budget, reflecting the actual funding available, approved by the Diocese.

It was not the case that All Saints Church was losing money, rather it was making money. This project was not necessary.

The Bishop should be asked for a meeting to discuss the situation. One resident had written to the Bishop and would be writing to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

It was agreed to re-order the Agenda to consider Agenda item 4, the Sale of the Angela Cobbold Hall next.

3 Sale of Angela Cobbold Hall

The concerns of the residents were noted. It was considered that the matter had two aspects: firstly promises which had been made and were now alleged to have been broken and secondly whether the decision to sell the Hall now had been taken properly and in accordance with governance by the PCC. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to write to the Reverend Cook and the Secretary of the PCC and CafeHub Committee and ask for information regarding the decision-making process, and her comments on the concerns of residents. In view of the tender deadline, a reply would be requested within one week.

4 Planning

4.1 DC/18/2610/FUL: Demolition of the existing High Rigg dwelling. Replacement with a new five bedroom country house with a new driveway and highway access.

It was noted that this application was a renewal of approval for application DC/15/3667/FUL although that had stated the design to be for six bedrooms. It was **RESOLVED** that:

- in view of the previous approval, there was no objection to the application.

4.2 Update on Applications The Admiral's Head

It was noted that residents had reported the use of a television in the downstairs area of the building and this had been reported to SCDC. SCDC had opened an enforcement matter file and advised that it would investigate.

Recent notices erected in respect of parking had been amended, following intervention by SCDC. There was no news of any appeal to the ACV listing or the planning application, although the period for the latter had not yet expired.

It was noted that a water leak at the property needed to be repaired. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to request Anglian Water to give priority to the installation of the new sewer in The Street when creating its timetable for projects to be delivered between 2020 and 2025.

4.3 Sinks Pit

It was noted that the permission granted by SCC for the extension of time to remove the stockpiles on the site, did not permit work between May and August, in view of the noise and dust which resulted. Residents had raised this with SCC and the enforcement officer had visited and asked for work to be stopped. This had been ineffective and work had started again. It was not known if SCC would take any further action. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to write to SCC in respect of the breaches of the planning permission and request that enforcement action be taken.

4.4 The Orchard, Holly Lane

It was noted that the hedge along the boundary of the property with Holly Close had been mentioned as of value in the Inspector's decision to refuse planning permission for the erection of an additional dwelling at this property. It was understood that the hedge was very old and that Suffolk Wildlife Trust could advise residents on whether it was of especial ecological value and any way in which it could be protected.

5 Ward Boundaries for Merged SCDC/WDC

The Local Government Boundary Commission had revised proposals put forward by SCDC and was consulting on a Carlford & Fynn Valley ward, which would include Little Bealings with 18 other rural parishes. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to support the proposals from the Commission in preference to those from SCDC.

6 Finance - Income and Expenditure

There was no income and both Gt Bealings and Playford Parish Councils had refused the Council's request for a contribution to the costs of the Council's representation at the Admiral's Head ACV listing appeal.

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

- LPCAS: GDPR contract fee: £150

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

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Council would be on 10 September 2018.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.00pm.