

Minutes of Little Bealings Parish Council meeting held at Bealings Village Hall at 7.15pm on Monday 5 November 2018

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

Also Present: District Councillor Colin Hedgley and nine members of the public for all/part of the meeting.

In attendance: Mrs C Ramsden, Clerk to the Council

1 Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

None.

2 Public Participation Session*

Two matters were raised, both relating to the Sale of the Angela Cobbold Hall:

Sale of the Angela Cobbold Hall

The Secretary to the PCC commented on statements made on this matter during the Public Participation Session of the meeting held on 17 July 2018, and made the following points:

- A disservice had been done by the speakers, who she believed included members of the PCC and included one who had subsequently been asked to resign
- the decision to sell the Angela Cobbold Hall had been made democratically by the PCC in January 2018, following direction from the Bishop, at a meeting attended by all but one member and with no votes against
- the Hall was supposed to have been sold in 2000, so the sale was not a surprise
- mistakes had been made during the process, for which she had personally apologised to those involved
- the sale was now proceeding to 'the Community bidders' and it was hoped that it would be completed in time for a Christmas Community Lunch to be held in the Hall
- one Parish Councillor had objected to the Chancellor concerning the Hall sale and the Café Hub project, but did not declare an interest in the matter at the meeting on 17 July, and all Councillors should do so if appropriate in future
- contrary to what was stated, the financial plan for the Café Hub project had been approved by the Diocese, the PCC and other independent bodies, and will be adjusted as necessary in the future
- minimal Church funds were at risk as grants had been obtained, with more being sought, and there were local fundraising activities
- the Hall sale proceeds would be put towards general repair and upgrades to the Church, making it more welcoming

* also PPS session of PC meeting held on 17 July 2018

- each phase of the work and funding will continue to be approved by the PCC. Phase 1 should provide a new floor and heating by the end of 2018. All work had been estimated and a professional project manager engaged. The builder had extensive experience in church restoration and had been selected after a multiple bid process approved by the PCC.
- the organ wood was being reused and it, and many of the pews, will be put in storage until the new floor was complete.

She also stated that:

- The PCC would welcome more Little Bealings residents joining the PCC and the project and was grateful for the support received in the village and the Benefice to date.
- While change was not easy, the alternative was a village without a Church as a community asset.
- She believed it was time for the community to come together and reject those driven by anger and poor judgement.
- She hoped the Parish Council would correct its record and resume its role as an objective body. She questioned whether it was the policy of the Council to record everything, regardless of veracity. She stated that the Council's approved minute of the matter appeared to side with people whose actions have led to the resignation of the vicar, without checking the facts.
- She asked whether the Council saw that it had a role questioning the operation of another organisation and if it felt it had gone too far in the matter. She asked what action the Council would take as a result.
- She stated that the PCC had no issue with the Council assisting the community and reviewing the merits of village projects, so long as it did so objectively.

The second speaker, the partner of a Councillor, commented on statements made on this matter during the Public Participation Session of the meeting held on 10 September, and made the following points:

- he was of the view that the Council did have a remit to consider and form a view in respect of the sale of the Angela Cobbold Hall and the Café Hub project, as a result of the Localism Act 2011, and the guidance contained in The Good Councillors Guide published by NALC
- while Councils had few duties, they had legal powers they could exercise if they chose, and the Act had encouraged Councils to engage with the local community in a positive and proactive way
- the General Power of Competence and the Nolan Principles also supported the Council debating current issues and acting in the public interest, taking up local issues. This included encouraging public participation at Council meetings
- the Charities Act 2011 and Local Government Act 1976 also gave the Council relevant duties

- he considered the Council was correct to consider the matter within its remit and that it should continue to do so: being proactive, having a duty to help with, and debate, local issues, to act in the public interest and to speak on behalf of the community.

3 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 10 September 2018

It was **RESOLVED**:

- to approve the minutes of this meeting.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

5 Sale of Angela Cobbold Hall

It was noted that the sale of the Hall to a local community group was progressing. A letter from the owners of the Admiral's Head, in which they offered to buy the Hall for the community to enable its current use to continue, was considered. The offer was made subject to contract and to there being full support from the Council and SCDC for the removal of the Asset of Community Value listing for the pub and a planning permission for change of use to a dwelling. They considered that the Hall would be a more suitable location for a community led meeting place and it could accommodate lunches, group bookings and also be managed as a weekend drinks venue. It was **RESOLVED**:

- To advise the owners that as far as the Council is aware a sale is already agreed and is progressing, and that, in any event, the Council has no means by which it could secure either the removal of the listing or a planning permission.

6 Save The Admiral's Head Group

It was noted that the Group had met on 8 October and a chairman had been appointed. The group would be independent of the Council, and the chairman was contacting Gt Bealings and Playford Parish Councils to seek their support. It was intended that more regular pop-up pubs would be arranged.

It was also noted that Anglian Water had confirmed that the new sewer for part of The Street would include capacity to allow the pub to connect to it, and, as the location of the new pumping station was currently nearby, a connection was expected to be a relatively simple undertaking. However, no date within the 2020-2025 works programme had been identified.

7 Planning

7.1 Previous Planning Applications and Enforcement Cases: Updates The Admiral's Head

SCDC had recently visited the site and advised that it had not found any evidence of use of the ground floor as a dwelling.

Sinks Pit

A complaint about noise from the site on Saturday afternoons had been referred to SCDC, but a report by the SCDC Enforcement Officer was not yet available. It was noted that complaints had also been made to SCC by residents about the unauthorised

storage and movement of goods and it was understood that a notice of the breach of planning permission had been served on the owners. A further report from the SCC officer was awaited regarding the site and the alleged installation of floodlights and change to the site boundary.

7.2 SPS Training Event

Ms Head reported on this event which had focussed on environmental issues and especially improvements to landscaping at large sites. It was possible to make comments on applications which, for example, highlighted the impact of a development on a TPO.

8 Public Sewer for The Street

As noted under item 6 above, no date was yet available for the installation.

9 Highways

9.1 Traffic on Playford Road

The police had stated that they did not have up to date data, but that a survey could be undertaken. No date for this was yet available.

9.2 Bealings School Parking

The School had responded positively to meeting with SCDC and this was due to take place in the next week or so. The police had green 'respect' cones available if the School wished to borrow them. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to ask if a representative of the Grove Farm Residents' Association could also attend the meeting.

9.3 Sand Spreading in The Street

Mr Finch had confirmed that he would do this as necessary over the winter at the railway crossing approach.

9.4 Grit Bin Replacement

It was noted that the grit bin at the Hall Road crossroads was in a poor state of repair. The new SCC grit bin procedure required a new bin to be yellow, and a replacement would cost in the region of £188. It was noted that the road from the level crossing to the cross roads was gritted by SCC and **RESOLVED**:

- Not to replace the grit bin and to advise SCC that the existing one could be removed.

9.5 SAVID

District Councillor Hedgley advised that the AGM would take place on 14 November in Grundisburgh and it was hoped to appoint a permanent chairman.

9.6 Holly Lane

It was noted that Holly Lane would be closed for two days in November to enable repair of the road where it had sunk after EAOW reinstatement works.

10 Reports from Local District and County Councillors

No report had been received from County Councillor Robin Vickery.

District Councillor Hedgley's report had been circulated. He drew attention to the arrangements that SCDC had made to assist with applications for Universal Credit, to some free Christmas parking and that he had some project funding available.

The new East Suffolk wards had been announced by the Boundary Commission but those standing to be one of two Councillors for the new Carlford and Fynn Valley ward had not yet been selected.

11 Police

First Tier ASB Meeting on 1 November

This meeting had been cancelled and rearranged for 8 November, but no one was available to attend on behalf of the Council.

12 Finance

12.1 End of the Audit for 2017/18

It was noted that there would be no report from the external auditors as the Council had declared that it was an exempt authority.

12.2 Authorisation of Expenditure

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

- Clerk's Salary for November and December
- PAYE for November and December
- CAS website hosting fee: £60
- CAS website security certificate: £30

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

12.3 Income

£5.16 had been received from Great Bealings Parish Council, 50% of the cost of insuring the shared wooden village sign. Great Bealings Parish Council had also inspected the sign and reported it to be in good order.

12.4 Approval of Budget for 2019/20

A draft budget for 2019/20 had been circulated to Councillors and it was **RESOLVED**:

- To approve the budget as drafted.

12.5 Risk Assessment for Current Year

The Risk Assessment had previously been circulated to Councillors and it was **RESOLVED**:

- To approve the Risk Assessment as drafted.

13 Any Matters Arising from Circulated Items

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that Dr Hopkins would represent the Council at the East Suffolk Partnership Forum to be held on 9 November.

13 Correspondence

Parish Map

The preparation of a map of the parish for display was considered but it was **RESOLVED**:

- not to proceed with such a project.
- 14 Date of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Council would be on 7 January 2019.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.