

Minutes of Little Bealings Annual Parish Council meeting held with members in remote attendance (via Zoom) at 7.15pm on Tuesday 4 May 2021

Present:

Mr I Ransome (Chairman), Mr M Garnham, Ms D Head, Dr C Hopkins, Mr D Hunter, Ms H Saagi and Mrs M Wilson

In attendance:

Mrs C Ramsden, Clerk to the Council

Also present:

District Councillor Colin Hedgley, the Reverend Gary Jones, the Chairman of FoTAH and some residents (for all/part of the meeting)

The Chairman welcomed those present.

1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Mr Ransome (as current Chairman of the Council) asked for nominations. It was **RESOLVED:**

- that Mr Ian Ransome be elected Chairman of the Parish Council.

Mr Ransome signed the Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Chairman.

The Chairman asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. It was **RESOLVED:**

- that Ms Saagi be elected Vice Chairman of the Parish Council

2. Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

Declarations of a personal interest in item 16 on the Agenda, The Admiral's Head, were made by Mr Garnham, Ms Head, Dr Hopkins, Mr Hunter, Mr Ransome, Ms Saagi and Mrs Wilson, as they had all pledged to buy community shares in the pub.

Declarations of a personal interest in item 16 on the Agenda, The Admiral's Head, were also made by Mr Hunter and Mr Ransome as members of the joint Parish Council/FoTAH Admiral's Head Working Group (AHWG).

Declarations of a personal interest in item 16 on the Agenda, The Admiral's Head, were also made Ms Saagi as a member of FoTAH and of AHWG.

Declarations of a personal interest in item 16 on the Agenda, The Admiral's Head, were also made Ms Head as a member of FoTAH and Chairman of AHWG.

3. Public Participation Session

DC/21/1698/TPO: The Chestnuts Martlesham Road

A resident explained the reasons for his objection to this application.

DC/21/1010/FUL, DC/21/1079/FUL and DC/21/1471/VOC Kesgrave Quarry, Main Road, Kesgrave

A resident advised of his dissatisfaction with the ESC Planning Committee which had considered these applications. He was in correspondence with ESC on the matter.

The Agenda was reordered to consider Item 14 next.

4. Proposed Good Neighbour Support Scheme

The Chairman advised that this item was included on the Agenda as a result of an email from the PCC Secretary advising that a Steering Group was being set up with Gt Bealings Parish Council, Gt Bealings Parochial Church Council and Lt Bealings Parochial Church Council (PCC), and asking if the Council wished to join. After requests for further information and discussion with Gt Bealings Parish Council Chairman, it appeared that no agreement to form such a Group existed. It had subsequently been confirmed by Reverend Jones that this Group had not been set up and that this was not a Lt Bealings PCC initiative. It was **RESOLVED**:

- that, in view of emails from the PCC Secretary, clarity was still needed on whether the PCC was proposing a Joint Good Neighbour Support and that Reverend Jones, as Chairman of the PCC, be asked to advise the Council further on the matter.

5. Review of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Delegation, Policies and Procedures in accordance with Standing Order 5 j

These were reviewed and it was **RESOLVED** that:

- The National Association of Local Councils Standing Orders (2018) (England) be adopted
- The National Association of Local Councils Financial Regulations 2019 for England be adopted
- The Council's delegation, policies and procedures were appropriate, but that a policy for dealing with the press/media, in accordance with Standing Order 5 j xviii be drafted for consideration at the Council's meeting in July.

6. Appointments

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That the following be appointed for the forthcoming year:

Webmaster: Mrs Shaw

Footpath Wardens: Mr Mutimer and Mr Wittgreffe

Footpath Volunteer Workers: Jane Mardell, Liz Mutimer, Anthony Meehan, Keith Beaumont and Anna Beaumont

VHMC representative: Ms Head, and that arrangements for feedback from meetings to the Council be raised with the Committee

SALC representative: Mr Ransome (with support from Ms Saagi)

Woodbridge and District ASB Meetings Representative: Dr Hopkins

ESC Community Partnership Representative: Mrs Wilson

SAVID representative: Mr Garnham

Sinks Pit Community Liaison Group Representatives: Mr Garnham and Ms Saagi

Admirals Head Working Group Representatives: Deferred to consideration of The Admiral's Head item.

7. Minutes of the Meetings held on 1 and 23 March 2021

It was **RESOLVED**:

- To approve the minutes of these meetings.

8. Matters Arising from the Minutes

8.1 Public Sewer for The Street.

It was noted that the Environment Agency had allowed the Council's appeal and directed Anglian Water to install a new public sewer for five premises by 31 December 2024. The Clerk and two local residents were thanked for their work on the application and the appeal.

8.2 War Memorial Works

It was noted that a grant application had been submitted and a grant received from ESC for the cost of cherry picker hire. The PCC was applying for a Faculty to permit the works.

8.3 Minute Book Scanning

It was noted that Suffolk Records Office would be able to quote for this work once the move to The Hold in Ipswich was completed.

8.4 18 and 25 March Zoom Meetings with Dr Poulter MP

Matters discussed had been the proposed A12 'improvement' works, parking in The Street (which had resulted in a visit by the Police Commissioner at School pick up time), Sinks Pit and the Admiral's Head.

8.5 Attendance at SALC Meeting on 25 March

The Chairman had been unable to attend this meeting in view of the meeting with Dr Poulter.

8.6 Any Other Matters Raised by Councillors

No other matters were raised.

9. Planning

9.1 Policy: Neighbourhood Planning

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that research be undertaken into the work involved, the benefits and the potential for funding and professional assistance for consideration at a future meeting

9.2 Applications

DC/21/1698/TPO: The Chestnuts Martlesham Road Little Bealings Suffolk IP13 6LX: Holly (T1) Crown reduce to 10 feet in height to allow light into the garden in the evening. Chestnut (T2) removal due to leaning towards property and tree is very top heavy due to a large amount of branches removed historically. Chestnut (T2) removal due to leaning towards property and tree is very top heavy due to a large amount of branches removed historically. Large breakouts happening within the

canopy. Beech (T4) removal - due to poor health and showing signs of decay. Leaning more than 45 degrees. Beech (T5, T6, T7) - removal - due to leaning towards the property, if they failed they would reach the property. Currently they are over the outhouse. Suppressed by a large chestnut tree that is encouraging them to grow at an adverse angle to find the light. Beech (T9, T8, T10) Removal - due to suppression of light caused by a large chestnut tree. Beech (T11, T12, T13) Removal - due to suppression of light caused by large chestnut tree. Cherry (T14) - Removal - due to suppression of light caused by large chestnut tree. Chestnut (T15) Removal - due to counter balance of a large limb. Showing signs of root heave and posing a risk to neighbours property. Chestnut dead wood (T16, T18) Remove deadwood. Oak (T19) Removal - due to suppression of light from a large chestnut tree, causing the tree to produce unbalanced growth. Posing a risk of failure and damaging T17 which we are trying to keep. Ash (T20) Removal due to dead Oak (T21) Removal of dead wood from the canopy. Silverbirch (T22, T23) Removal - due to root heaving Poplar (T24, T25, T26, T27, T28) - Removal due to severe lean towards the railway network and top heavy. Spruce (T29, T30, T31, T32, T33, T34, T35, T36, T37, T38, T39, T40) Removal to allow native trees to re-establish. Ash (T41) Removal due to dead

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**:

- to object to the deforestation of the property on the following grounds:
 - the site is in a part of the parish where many gardens include mature woodland and this is a part of the character of the area. Many gardens have large trees which create shade, shade each other and grow unevenly in consequence. This does not justify their felling, rather it contributes to the character of this area of the parish and is valued as such
 - many of the trees proposed for felling are some distance from the property and do not affect light into the property as claimed
 - there is no arboricultural report on the health of the trees to support the proposed felling. Planning application DC/19/2349/FUL did include such a professional survey and report to support previous felling, yet did not identify any issues with trees now proposed for felling
 - the plan provided is not to scale and contains many inaccuracies and inconsistencies in identifying the trees and the proposed works/felling

and that in consequence an arboricultural survey should be required by the Council before the application is determined; alternatively the application should be refused on the grounds that the removal of such a significant number of mature trees would fundamentally change the character of the area and has not been justified by the applicant.

DC/21/1714/FUL: Land North Of Martlesham Road And Adjacent To The Old School House Martlesham Road: Proposed erection of 1no. new residential dwelling with attached garage

After discussion and consideration of the application in the context of Local Plan Policy SCLP5.4 Housing in Clusters in the Countryside, it was **RESOLVED**:

- to object to the development and recommend refusal in view of the cumulative impact of approving development on Martlesham Road. The site must be considered in the context of the many other properties along Martlesham Road and Playford Road, the majority of which could claim to meet the definition of a

'cluster' site given in SCLP5.4. The impact of approving this application will be to encourage the submission of other applications leading to perhaps another 30 houses being built along Martlesham Road. The impact of this will be considerable in two ways:

1. in terms of the harm it will do to the character and appearance of the area. Allowing cluster development along Martlesham Road will fundamentally change the character of the area, which is characterised by spaced out houses which are well set back from the road, and interspersed with significant gardens and large trees (partly protected by an area TPO). The site also falls within a locally designated Special Landscape Area
 2. in terms of the increase in traffic that will result as a result. The cumulative impact of an additional 30 houses is likely to mean up to an additional 100 cars (there being no bus service, pavements, street lighting or services in walking distance). Many houses already use mirrors to access the road safely. Visibility at the two junctions of Beacon Lane is also very limited, and access from the village at the crossroads with Martlesham and Playford Roads is also very difficult. The PC represents that the approval of 'cluster' development at this site is contrary to the principle and spirit of the new Local Plan. Little Bealings is not allocated any new housing in the Local Plan. Approving a site which could lead to perhaps 30 houses being built in the countryside in a Special Landscape Area is contrary to SCLP10.4 which does not permit development which harms the landscape character.
- to advise that the application is erroneous is saying that there will be connection to a mains sewer. There is no mains sewer anywhere near the development.

9.3 Update on Applications dealt with under Delegated Authority, Previous Applications and Enforcement Matters

DC/21/1010/VOC Variation of Condition No(s) 3 on application DC/15/5055/FUL - Change of use in Kesgrave Quarry from mineral use to associated parking and access routes for adjacent Trucks R Us Headquarters

DC/21/1079/VOC Variation of Conditions 6, 7, 8 & 10 of DC/19/2666/FUL - Construction of 2 No. new buildings and use of land for vehicle and plant hire operator(s) comprising offices, workshops, associated parking, drainage infrastructure etc to allow for the hire, storage, sale, maintenance and servicing of vehicles, plant, machinery and equipment. - Variation to operating hours. Kesgrave Quarry Sinks Pit Kesgrave

DC/21/1471/VOC Variation of Conditions 4 and 22 of DC/15/4908/FUL- Erection of new headquarters building for vehicle hire operator comprising workshop, offices, associated parking, drainage infrastructure and landscaping to allow for the hire, storage, workshop and sales of vehicles and machinery (revised scheme to DC/15/2107/FUL and DC/14/4251/FUL) - Variation to operating hours. Sinks Gravel Pit Main Road Kesgrave

The Council had responded to DC/21/1471/VOC under delegated authority, in line with its objection to the other two applications. The Chairman reported on the consideration of the applications at the ESC Planning Committee on 27 April 2021 and that he and a resident had spoken in respect of the first application. Consideration of the applications had been terminated by a decision to defer determination for a site to visit to take place. It was **RESOLVED**:

- that the Chairman would represent the Council when the applications were considered further by ESC Planning Committee
- that a survey by Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council on Planning Protocol be completed to reflect the Council's recent experience of ESC Planning Committee.

DC/20/4969/CLE Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing) - C3 dwellinghouse - see submissions as to why there is no material change of use of the land edged blue (with the parking area in question edged red within the blue land) | The Chestnuts Martlesham Road Little Bealings Suffolk IP13 6LX

The applicants had appealed against ESC's refusal to grant the Certificate and it was **RESOLVED**:

- that the Council make a submission to the Planning Inspectorate, including drawing attention to application DC/21/1698/TPO at the site.

It was noted that ESC had approved the following applications:

DC/21/0054/FUL Replacement of portacabin Adjacent Existing Weighbridge Sinks Pit Main Road Kesgrave

DC/21/0753/FUL New timber structure to house outdoor kitchen and seating area Fynn Bridge Barn The Street

DC/20/4866/FUL Alterations to existing vehicular access to create a new driveway & blocking existing entrance Beacon House Playford Road

10. Reports from Local District and County Councillors

These reports had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting.

11. Highways

11.1 Report on SAVID Meeting on 16 April

The notes of this meeting had been circulated. The posts for the erection of the SAVID SID were still awaited. Use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition in The Street would be considered in due course.

11.2 Speed Data for Playford Road

It was **RESOLVED**:

- to request the data obtained during police speed checks in Playford Road, including via a Freedom of Information Act request if appropriate.

12. Woodbridge and District ASB Liaison

12.1 Report on Meeting held on 15 April

The notes of the meeting had been circulated to Councillors. Dr Hopkins reported that the village had low level anti-social behaviour issues compared with elsewhere in the District, although there had been a recent incident of cars being driven around the village hall car park late at night. The ASB initiative was looking to move to an educational approach and would be supplying posters for display. Individual incidents were best reported directly to the police. He would attend the next meeting on 15 July.

13. East Suffolk Community Partnership

13.1 Report on Meeting held on 16 April

A report had been circulated to Councillors. Mrs Wilson reported that she had joined a 'Green Initiative' local sub-group and would be attending its first meeting. There was the opportunity to apply for funding for various initiatives.

14. Finance

14.1 Adoption of Financial Regulations

Financial Regulations had been adopted under item 5 above.

14.2 Review of Internal Audit and Adoption of Accounts for 2020/21

The accounts for 2020/21 and Annual Governance and Accountability Return Part 2 (AGAR), including the internal auditor's report had been circulated to Councillors. The Council reviewed the effectiveness of its internal financial control in accordance with the requirements of the Annual Governance Statement. After consideration it was **RESOLVED**:

- that the current system for internal financial control and the internal audit were effective and appropriate
- that the Council certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review on the grounds of meeting the relevant criteria
- to approve the Annual Governance Statement contained in section 1 of the AGAR

After further consideration it was **RESOLVED**:

- to approve the accounts and the Accounting Statements for 2020/21 contained in section 2 of the AGAR

Arrangements would be made for the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer/Clerk to sign the AGAR as required.

14.3 Income and Authorisation of Expenditure

Income of £6085 had been received from ESC, being the first half of the precept and a tax base grant.

The Chairman reported that the Clerk's annual appraisal had been carried out and the Clerk's salary had been increased in line with the contract of employment with effect from 1 April. It was noted that Headway had confirmed that it has been active in the parish over the last year and **RESOLVED**:

- that the following expenditure be incurred:

S111 and S112 LGA 1972:

- Clerk's net salary for April 2021: £338.99
- Pay As You Earn (PAYE) for April: £84.60
- Clerk's Annual Allowance for 2021/22: £216
- Clerk's net salary for May 2021: £338.99
- PAYE for May: £84.60

S111 LGA 1972:

- SALC membership: £265.37
- Internal Auditor Fee: £20

Donations: S137 LGA 1972:

- Fynn Lark News: £250
- Headway £25

Donations: S19(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 37 LGA 1976:

- Bealings Village Hall Trust and John Belstead Playing Field £750

- that a donation of £25 be made to the Citizens Advice Bureau if it confirmed that it had been active in the parish over the last year.

Arrangements were in place for the signing of the schedule of the above payments by the Chairman and the cheques.

14.4 Review of Banking Arrangements

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that a review be undertaken of the Council's current banking and savings account facilities, with a view to considering whether online banking and/or the use of direct debit/standing orders was appropriate and advantageous to the conduct of business.

A resolution was passed to exclude the public from the meeting for consideration of the next item, in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Standing Order 3d and S1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that publicity of the Council's consideration of a community purchase of the Admiral's Head would be prejudicial to the public interest

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Council would be at 7.15pm on Monday 5 July 2021. Unless alternative provision was made by new Regulations in respect of remote meetings, this meeting would be held in Bealings Village Hall and would need to comply with 'Covid secure' requirements for attendance.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.09pm. The Chairman thanked those who had attended the meeting.