

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PRAISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY 2006 AT 8.00 PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL, NAYLAND

Present: G. Battye (Chairman), Mrs. P. Fuller, Mrs. M. George, C. Hunt, Mrs. R. Knox, B. Smith, R. Spencer, Mrs. W. Sparrow (Clerk), Mrs. P. Bray (for the Press), Pc Wren, 2 members of the public.

1. Public Forum

Mr. Dowding asked if the next letter from the County Council concerning the Parish Paths Partnership scheme could be forwarded to the Conservation Society.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Mimpriss and Miss Knight.

3. Police Report

Pc Wren reported 4 crimes in January: a distraction burglary at Harpers Estate, two other burglaries and a theft of domestic fuel oil in Bear Street. It had not been possible to ascertain whether the wheelie bin fire at the surgery was deliberate. Community Support Teams were starting to be introduced round the villages but Pc Wren was not expecting this to happen here until 2007. Because of the closure of the B1068 to Stoke due to resurfacing from 19th February to the 5th March, traffic would be diverted through Bear Street. The Chairman agreed to give Pc Wren details of the children still playing football at the Harpers Estate/Heycroft Way junction. Pc Wren then left the meeting.

4. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the meetings held on 11th January and 18th January were confirmed and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Mrs. Fuller, seconded by C. Hunt and carried with one abstention in respect of the meeting held on the 11th January.

5. Village Hall

Hiring charges. Mrs. Knox reported that the VHMC had completed their review and a decision was made that in order that the hall could be run as an economic business local residents would have to pay more. To enable money to be set aside for maintenance local organisations would not be subsidised by other hall users but if necessary could appeal to the Community Council for help. All hirers would be informed. R. Spencer was concerned that because of increased charges some groups could go elsewhere but Mrs. Knox said the charges were reasonable compared to other halls.

Films. Mrs. Knox said that in the autumn the VHMC were going to take up Babergh's offer to hire out films on occasional evenings, provided that someone could be found in the village to help form a group to organise this.

Chairs. Mrs. Knox said there was a problem as to whether the chairs should be fixed together for public events. The VHMC had received conflicting advice and it seemed likely that the new licence could be affected. A suggestion had been made that special chairs could be hired for drama productions but the purchase of any new chairs would have to be put on hold for the time being.

6. Affordable Housing

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council wished to go ahead as a partner with a housing association to look at the viability of low cost housing in the village as a result of the recent housing survey carried out by the Suffolk Acre Rural Housing Enabler which showed a proven need for low cost housing. Presentations by the Flagship and Orwell housing associations had been heard and the Council had decided that the Flagship Housing Group would be its partner.

It had also been decided to form a working party to work on the servicing of the scheme and to form a link between the Council and the association. This would be headed by Mrs Fuller with B. Smith and R. Spencer.

7. Finance Report

(i) Risk Assessment. The Chairman confirmed this showed there were no items requiring immediate action and any other items would come up under other agenda headings.

(ii) Cash position, as at 8th February 2006 from all sources and after paying cheques to be signed at this meeting was given as £17,207.82 (including £7,968 Capital Investment Fund).

8. Accounts for payment

Anglian Water (Half year water charges for Allotment Field) £32.15

Cheque paid since January meeting

F.P. Rose (4 weeks Streetcleaning)£146.90

Paid by Direct Debit

Public Works Loan Board (Half year repayments on VH & Playing Field loans) £1,547.27

Mrs. Fuller proposed approval of the cheques, seconded by Mrs. Knox and carried unanimously.

9. Correspondence

(i) Suffolk Preservation Society planning campaign. A reply had been received from SALC regarding the Council's query about supporting the SPS campaign. The Chief Executive said that in the main SALC supported the campaign but did not want to be connected with media seeking events that may prejudice their standing as a well respected organisation that works with local, regional and national partners.

(ii) Minerals Core Strategy Issues & Options Consultation Report. Comments requested on a draft consultation report on the new planning framework for minerals and waste. Mrs. Knox and Mrs. George agreed to look through the document and return it to the Clerk.

(iii) SCC Land. Copy email noted between the Conservation Society and SCC regarding possible acquisition of the triangle of land on the west side of the A134 by the Nayland with Wissington Land Company. The Society would prefer to see no change to the land and expressed doubt that the land company would be able to outbid any commercial entity interested in acquiring the land.

(iv) Anchor Inn – external lighting. Copy letter noted between the Conservation Society and Babergh Planning Department. Concern expressed about the high level of lighting and resulting pollution seen from the south and western approaches. Babergh requested to investigate whether permission for the lighting was given in the original planning application.

10. Footpaths

Great Horkesley Rights of Way. A reply from Mr. Bunting confirmed warning signs about the electric fencing had been put up. He commented that he had provided wider footpaths than required by law and described in detail the improvements his company had made to the whole area which he hoped was appreciated by residents who previously had to walk on a narrow muddy footpath around mono cropped arable fields.

11. Town and Country Planning

(i) Decisions received

B/05/02078/FHA – Hill Rise, 42 Gravel Hill. Erection of part 2 storey & part single storey side extensions. Erection of 3 two storey front extensions. Erection of single storey rear extension & conservatory. As amended by drawings received on 13.1.06. Planning permission granted. The Parish Council had objected to this retrospective application: amended plan failed to answer the earlier points about size, form & mass still detrimentally affects the neighbours' amenities. Letter from Babergh: Garage to be subject of separate application & enforcement action will follow if refused; amended scheme considered to address LPA's concerns.

B/05/01612/LBC – Butchers, 5 Bear Street. Retention of demolition & reconstruction of gable wall. Listed Building Consent refused: reconstruction undertaken to an extent and in a manner which had significant impact on the special interest of this Grade II* building

B/05/01900/LBC – 1 Birch Street. Insertion of 1 replacement window, as amended by details dated 14.12.95. Listed Building Consent granted.

B/05/02005/FUL – Land adjacent 106 Bear Street. Erection of detached 2 storey dwelling & garage (following demolition of existing conservatory attached to 106 Bear Street). Construction of new vehicular access. Planning permission granted. Letter from Babergh stated Members of Development Committee did not accept their officers' recommendations: they considered the site was a brownfield site in accordance with PPG3; proposal represented an efficient use of land & proposed dwelling would preserve and enhance character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

Mrs. Fuller commented about Babergh's different decisions on same sites when the planning regulations had not changed. The Chairman agreed it was difficult for the Parish Council to know what bench mark to work to in these circumstances. C. Hunt said the District Council committee were very careful in their deliberations and they also had an overall view. All planning guidelines were on the Babergh website.

(ii) Applications dealt with between meetings

B/05/01930/LBC – Rose Cottage, 5 Fen Street. Internal alterations. No objections subject to the Conservation Officer's recommendations.

B/06/00057/FHA – Hill Rise, 42 Gravel Hill. Part retention and erection of garage & garden store(part variation of planning approval B/03/01061/FHA). PC continued to object; revised plan failed to answer points re size, form and overbearing relationship to house, still detrimentally affected neighbours' amenities. Mrs. Fuller proposed draft letter should be sent, seconded by B. Smith and carried unanimously.

(iii) Correspondence

B/05/01811/FHA – 4 Ash Rise. Erection of 2 storey side extension (ground floor to provide granny annexe). Insertion of 3 dormer windows. As amended by drawing received 11.11.05. Following the last meeting a letter had been sent to the Head of Planning complaining about the PC not seeing amendments, particularly in this difficult case. The amended plan was subsequently sent from Babergh with apologies.

B/05/02113/LBC – White House, Church Lane. Demolition of existing extensions, erection of single storey extension. Copy letter of objection from SPS noted.

iv) Babergh Local Plan Alteration No. 2 Post Inquiry Modifications. Letter from Babergh re consultation on modifications proposed to plan. Any representations should be made by 1st March.

Mrs. Fuller confirmed she would be attending the meeting concerning these changes at the Stoke by Nayland Club on the 9th February.

12. Streetlighting

SCC Contract. A letter detailing costs for the current financial year was noted. An increase of £103 in maintenance costs, due to the need for 2 man working on elevating work platforms as required by Health & Safety, would be charged. Energy costs continued to rise due to world prices.

13. Burial Ground

(i) Cremation Area, trees & grave levelling. C. Hunt and Mrs. George had met with the contractor at the cemetery. It was recommended 3 trees in the cremation area should be felled; undergrowth should be cut back from the seat to the corner of the path, trees in this area also to be pruned. It was recommended the chains and posts should be removed to make maintenance easier. In addition clearance should be carried out along the northern edge of the burial ground to the point of the furthest graves. The sub committee recommended planning a rolling programme of pruning trees and bushes and filling sunken grave areas, the work to be identified during the summer.

A letter from Mr. G. Jones, Heycroft Way, said the trees on the north side were overgrown and offered the contractor access for cutting back overhanging branches from his adjoining field. He also referred to some broken fencing near the entrance of the cemetery.

The sub committee and contractor had also looked at the open space next to the A134 and recommended that some of the trees should be pruned. Broken concrete around the circular seat was causing mowing problems and should be removed. They had also noticed the river bank near the riverside seat and path was being eroded and recommended contacting the Environment Agency.

A quotation had been received from Mr. Mortimer for £480 for the cemetery work and £30 for lifting of trees on open space. G. Batty proposed accepting the sub committee's recommendations and Mr. Mortimer's prices, with an additional payment for mending the fence. Seconded by C. Hunt and carried unanimously.

(ii) Memorial. An application a memorial in the name of the last Enid Collins was approved.

14. Recreation Ground; Open Spaces

(i) Recreation Ground. A second quote of £525 for removing the existing poles along the driveway and replacing with new had been received from Danny Thurlow Landscapes. An earlier quotation had been received for £565 and it was proposed by C. Hunt to accept the lower price. Seconded by Mrs. Fuller and carried unanimously.

15. Highways

(i) Speeding in Horkesley Road/Court Street. Following the accident on Anchor Bridge in 2005 and correspondence with Mr. Bunting, the Clerk had produced a site history of the area. A recent letter had been received from Mr. Bunting asking about the proposed meeting with highways and other interested parties. No response had been received from SCC since August 2005 and C. Hunt said he had been informed that SCC were reviewing their speed limit policy and all requests were on hold. Mrs. Fuller suggesting trying to achieve a gateway at Horkesley Road first but most members thought the Council should continue to push for gateways at all 3 village entrances. B. Smith thought a site meeting should be organised with County officers and G. Battye suggested an agenda item to decide the scope of such a meeting.

C. Hunt proposed that, following the lack of response from SCC this Council requests an officer of the County Council be contacted to arrange the provision of village gateways/speed limit signage at Horkesley Road and Stoke Road in accordance with SCC requirements. Seconded by R. Spencer.

G. Battye proposed an amendment: a site meeting to be held to instigate this. In favour of amendment 5, against 2. The amendment was carried and the resolution was carried unanimously.

(ii) Bures Road. Mrs. Knox said that following recent heavy use by large beet and onion lorries, the edge of the road was broken in many places and the resulting holes were dangerous. She had spoken with County Councillor Pryor and a resident had rung the County Council but there seemed there was little that could be done. It was agreed to write to Highways drawing their attention to the situation.

(iii) Court Street. R. Spencer said the front hedge and tree were so overgrown that they were causing an obstruction. It was agreed in the first instance to write to the owners.

(iv) Harpers Estate. Highways to be contacted about the poor condition of the road.

(v) Socket Alley. Work on the alley was nearing completion and copies of several emails from D. Lowe, Stoke Road, to the County Council regarding the work were noted. It was agreed to thank him for his cooperation.

16. Allotments

Water Tank. R. Spencer reported that the tank underneath the tap had been flattened by persons unknown. The Clerk said she had been in contact with a resident who had agreed to donate a second hand water tank which he would put in place shortly.

17. Clerkship

The Chairman said it had been agreed to form a working party to begin the process of appointing a new Clerk at the end of the year. This would comprise the Chairman, Mrs. George and Miss Knight.

18. Format for Parish Assembly 2006

As it was likely there would be progress to report on with regard to low cost housing, it was agreed not to have a speaker on another topic.

19. Report by District Councillor

C. Hunt reported that Babergh's draft budget had been scrutinised and it was hoped the Council Tax increase would be limited to 2.7%. Babergh & Suffolk had met existing statutory targets for recycling & composting. However, contamination of the blue bin was causing concern and measures would be taken to address this problem.

20. Community Notice Board

All Councillors were asked to look at the bus shelter and attached notice board which it had been agreed to replace. The shelter was sturdy enough to take a new board but R. Spencer suggested taking the shelter down, having a seat and a freestanding board. C. Hunt said the shelter was used by young people and thought it should stay.

B. Smith suggested having a report back from Community Council meetings. Recently the issue of having a First

Response Team had been discussed and there was strong feeling that the Parish Council should take the initiative rather than the Community Council. Similarly with Anglia in Bloom.

The meeting closed at 10 pm.