

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2006, at 7.30 PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL, NAYLAND

Present: Mrs P Fuller (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair); C Hunt, Miss A Knight, Mrs E Mimpriss, R Spencer, Mrs W Sparrow (Clerk), Mrs P Bray (for the Press), 2 members of the public

1. **Public Forum**

Mr G Jones said that Leavenheath received considerable income from recycling and suggested that the vehicles which could not get to Nayland Village Hall may have moved on since the last enquiry. He also referred to the point made at the Annual Assembly that 23% of the Council's precept was allocated to funding the Village Hall. He understood that the Council would be underwriting any future loss without public debate and questioned the business plan and whether increased costs were factored into hiring charges. Some societies indicated they had difficulty in meeting increased charges. The hall was under used during the day and could be pricing itself out at night. On the other hand the Playgroup had to raise £75,000 so they could have a facility at the school during the day which would rarely be used in the evening. Mr Jones thought wider discussion should be given about the Playgroup operating from the Hall which could also reduce some of the traffic congestion.

Mrs Fuller reported that the Head teacher was exploring the possibility of financial help through her school budget which would mean the Playgroup would be able to lease from the school. The Head was adamant that she wanted to keep the Playgroup on the school site. Miss Knight confirmed the hiring charges had not been covering the maintenance costs but if a group was in difficulties with the increased charges they should discuss this with the Treasurer.

C Hunt said there was still a problem with access to the Hall for recycling vehicles, they could not negotiate the entries to Church Lane and the driveway. He pointed out that some villages' entire precept was allocated to their Village Halls. Mrs Mimpriss said the Council had not agreed to underwrite the Hall's losses but agreed a wider debate was needed. Mrs Fuller asked Mr Jones to make written representation so that this could be given consideration at the next meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from G Battye, Mrs George, Mrs Knox and B Smith.

3. **Housing Needs**

A letter from Babergh advised that site investigations would be taking place at 25 & 26 Harpers Estate on 20<sup>th</sup> June and neighbours at 23 & 24 Harpers Estate and 1, 2 & 3 Ash Rise had been informed. C Hunt suggested neighbours at 2 & 4 Heycroft Way should also be informed.

It was agreed to ask the Flagship Housing Group for an update every month so this could be reported at the Council's meeting.

4. **Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2006 were approved and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by C Hunt, seconded by Mrs Mimpriss and carried with 1 abstention.

5. **Village Hall**

(i) **Dogs.** Miss Knight reported that the Management Committee had agreed, subject to the Council's approval, to put a total ban on dogs on the playing field in the interests of health and safety. An article would be put in the Community Times informing residents.

C Hunt suggested that under the recent Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act a Dog Control Order could be made through Babergh which would have legal status. Mrs Mimpriss thought as a first step a sign would act as a deterrent. C Hunt proposed that the informal approach by the Management Committee should be supported by this Council. Seconded by R Spencer and carried with 1 abstention (Miss Knight).

(ii) **Flooding.** Miss Knight reported that at their recent meeting the VHMC had discussed the flooding problems and it was agreed the soakaways could not cope with sudden heavy downpours of rain. The MC Chairman thought there was not a lot that could be done about it but it was agreed to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting when other Councillors would be present.

## 6. Finance Report

(i) **Annual Audit.** The Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 had been completed by the Clerk and the Council's Internal Auditor and copies circulated. A Statement of Assurance was required to be completed by the Council and signed by the Chairman. Mrs Mimpriss proposed approving and signing the form, seconded by C Hunt and carried unanimously.

(ii) **Cash position** as at 14<sup>th</sup> June 2006 from all sources and after paying cheques to be signed at this meeting was given as £20,506.78. This figure included £10,718 in the Capital Fund.

## 7. Accounts for Payment

Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (Donation agreed at May meeting) .....	£65.00
Home-Start Babergh (Donation) .....	£65.00
Sudbury & District Citizens Advice Bureau (Donation) .....	£65.00
Suffolk Family Carers (Donation) .....	£65.00
Roy Mortimer (Grasscutting May/June) .....	£385.40
Mrs W Sparrow (Salary & expenses 3 months ending 30 <sup>th</sup> June) .....	£1355.50
Environment Agency (Allotment Drainage charges) .....	£10.03
Anglia Relief Agency (Photocopying 8.3.06 – 12.6.06) .....	£51.40
Mrs W Sparrow (Petty Cash) .....	£40.00

Miss Knight proposed approval of the cheques, seconded by Mrs Mimpriss and carried unanimously.

## 8. Clerkship

The information for applicants document drawn up by the sub committee had been circulated. Miss Knight, for the sub committee, confirmed that interviews would be held in July but if no more than 4 or 5 applications were received from within the village, as a result of the advertisement in the Community Times, interviews would take place in September after further advertising. Several comments and suggestions were made but Mrs Mimpriss thought that congratulations should be registered for the work done by the committee. Miss Knight agreed to report back to the rest of the sub committee. The Clerk said she had received 2 enquiries and had promised to send application forms as soon as these were available.

## 9. Correspondence

(i) **Police Report for April.** Three crimes were listed: 1 Burglary in Bear Street, 1 Criminal damage at Harpers Hill and 1 offence of Misuse of public communications at Wiston Road.

(ii) **Abberton Scheme Scoping Report.** A letter from Essex & Suffolk Water apologised for not replying to the Council's response in May 2005. They confirmed the scheme was being developed in

close co-ordination with the Environment Agency with regard to the recreational uses and wildlife of the river.

(iii) **Stop Stansted Expansion.** Consultation documents from the Campaign Director.

(iv) **Babergh Local Development Framework Statement of Community Involvement.** Draft document for circulation and comment.

(v) **SCC: School Organisation Review.** Consultation document for circulation and comment.

(vi) **Babergh Media Releases,** including one re music workshops for young people. Copy to Youth Club and Community Times.

(vii) **Charter 88: Community Decline campaign.** Charter 88 asked for support in their campaign re the Government's Sustainable Communities Bill which gave parish councils and local people powers over how to protect their communities from further decline. It was agreed the Council should be consistent and not support this pressure group but rather leave it to the individual.

(viii) **Recycling Commercial Waste.** Following discussion at the Parish Assembly a letter had been sent to the Chairman of Babergh District Council, Rex Thake. In his reply Mr Thake explained that trials had recently taken place to find a way of delivering a recycling service without incurring additional cost to Babergh or their customers, and following this a new recycling facility was soon to open in the Sudbury area. The plant would separate recyclable materials and send the remainder to landfill. Performance would be evaluated over a six month period. It was agreed to write to the two businesses who had raised this issue at the Parish Assembly enclosing a copy of Babergh's letter.

(ix) **SCC Minerals Specific Site Allocations Issues & Options Consultation Report.** This had been circulated for comment. C Hunt and Mrs Knox had commented on possible lorry problems but Mrs Knox felt that being in the AONB would protect this area from any potential plans and it was therefore agreed there was little point in completing the questionnaire.

(x) **For circulation:** Babergh Matters; Woodlands Promotional Event; Charity Commission News, Environment Agency Coastlines; Babergh Communities Together; Charter 88 newsletters; Babergh Community Plan; SCC "Better Way for Suffolk"

## 10. Training

Following the joint evening with Stoke and Leavenheath Councils the previous year it had been suggested that another similar occasion might be useful. Mrs Mimpriss suggested inviting a non Babergh planning person to talk and C Hunt suggested inviting someone from Environmental Health to discuss the new Clean Neighbourhoods Act. It was agreed to defer this matter until more Councillors were present.

## 11. Footpaths

(i) **Star Alley.** R Spencer reported that the alley was overgrown with nettles and it was agreed to contact the County Council about tidying this up.

(ii) **Tree next to School.** R Spencer agreed to speak to the owner of a tree whose lower branches were obstructing parents entering the school gate.

(iii) **Maintenance.** Following a request to Bury ROW Officer to clear areas around stiles on paths 4 & 11 and to improve the stile on path 8 at Wiston, a reply confirmed this work had been done.

(v) **Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation.** Comments requested by 11<sup>th</sup> September 2006. To be circulated.

## 12. Town and Country Planning

### (i) Decisions received

B/06/00164/FHA – Thatched Cottage, Bures Road. Part retention of and alteration to front boundary fence. Planning permission granted subject to fence being reduced within 3 months of decision & hedge planting specification submitted for approval within 3 months, planting to take place during the next planting season (Oct – March 2007).

B/06/00543/FHA – Wissington House, Bures Road. Erection of side/rear conservatory (ex conservatory to be demolished); erection of single storey side extension (ex single storey side extension to be demolished). Planning permission granted.

B/05/01607/ROC – Harpers Hill Farm. Variation of conditions 09 of PP B/94/1019; 06 of PP B/05/1442; 05 of PP B/99/01026/FUL, to a continued stacking height of skips to 2.6 m as opposed to 2.0 m. As amended by drawing received 28.2.06. Planning permission granted.

B/06/00459/FHA – 20 Newlands Lane. Insertion of 1 dormer window into east elevation. Planning permission granted subject to matching materials.

B/06/00382/FHA – Ancient House, 12 Fen Street. Construction of swimming pool. Planning permission granted subject to approval of noise control scheme.

### (ii) Applications dealt with between meetings

B/06/00714/FHA – 11 Laburnum Way. Erection of single storey side extension. No objections.

B/06/00741/FUL – Part side garden of 9 Wiston Road. Erection of 2 two storey semi-detached dwellings. Construction of new vehicular access. This had been circulated and the Chairman had used his casting vote to object on grounds of concerns expressed in the previous Outline application. Mrs Fuller agreed to speak to G Battye before the letter was sent.

B/06/00333/FUL – 36 Stoke Road. Erection of detached 2 storey dwelling with garage (demolition of ex dwelling & garage). No objections to amended plans.

### (iii) Correspondence

**13 Court Street**, Creation of a second separate unit of living accommodation. Letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> May from Babergh advising that further information had been deposited with them and as a result they had no alternative but to withdraw the Enforcement Notice and it was expected that the Appeal would not proceed to a decision. Further letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> June confirming the Enforcement Notice had been withdrawn and as such the Inquiry was no longer going to take place. There would be no further action on this appeal. It was agreed to write to Babergh asking for more detail regarding the further information they had received.

## 13. Streetlighting

A letter from Suffolk County Council set out the costs for Streetlighting Maintenance and Energy for 2006-07. The total cost would be £1,603. The Clerk said that during the previous year the total cost had been £1,340 and the increase for the current year was mainly due to the considerable increases in

energy costs, with a smaller increase in maintenance. The Chairman proposed accepting the figures given by the County Council, seconded by C Hunt and carried unanimously.

#### 14. Burial Ground

**Memorial.** The Clerk had been approached by a family wishing to inter ashes in an unmarked grave in the old burial ground. This was next to another unmarked grave where members of the same family were buried. The request was for one memorial between the two graves with all the names of the family members whose remains were interred. This was agreed in principle, subject to the design which would be submitted in the normal way.

#### 15. Recreation Grounds; Open Spaces

(a) **Recreation grounds (i) Fencing play area.** A letter had been received from Mrs K Maguire asking for the play equipment area to be fenced off. C Hunt had spoken to Babergh who had referred him to the RoSPA website. This gave a lot of useful information but did not state that fencing was essential. The possibility of extending the existing fence was discussed and it was agreed the Council should look further into this issue. Mrs Mimirriss said it could be quite expensive and if it was decided to go ahead this would have to be put in the budget for next year.

It was agreed to inform Mrs Maguire the Council were looking into her request further, taking advice from RoSPA and its insurers. B Smith had earlier agreed to talk to the insurance inspector on his next visit. It was also agreed to circulate the RoSPA information.

(ii) **School parking.** Following a request to the school asking parents not to park on the playing field, a reply from the Head teacher enclosed a copy of a letter sent out to parents on this issue. She said that parking was an item included in every school newsletter and enclosed copies of several back numbers. It was agreed to thank Ms Delaney for her prompt action.

(b) **Open Spaces (i) Grasscutting.** C. Hunt commented that the grass next to the river was not being cut so well this year and it was agreed to speak to the contractor. Also to ask him to cut a wider strip along the A134 up to Horkesley Road. Mrs Fuller said the visibility coming out of Horkesley Road was obstructed by the high grass.

(ii) **Naming of Bear Street open space.** C Hunt had provided a further suggestion to those already discussed: The Tye which he thought would indicate a green area on the outskirts of the village. As there were several Councillors not present it was agreed to defer this matter once more, with a final decision to be made at the July meeting.

(iii) **Litter Bins.** The Council was now paying for all dog and litter bins to be emptied weekly but this was not happening and C Hunt agreed to speak to Babergh about the problem. It was agreed to add the bin on Popp's Piece to the list of bins to be emptied by Babergh as this had previously been emptied by the Streetcleaner.

C Hunt also proposed looking at re-siting the bin near the war memorial at road level and contacting Highways to ask if the sign which the bin was currently fixed to was necessary. Seconded by R Spencer and carried unanimously.

Miss Knight proposed an extension of 10 minutes.

(iv) **Bridge.** The Clerk pointed out that the wooden battens which provided an anti-slip surface on the bridge over the floodstream were breaking up and it was agreed to write to the Environment Agency to ask if these could be repaired.

(v) **Village Seats.** The Clerk reported that three quotations had been obtained for rubbing down and oiling the seats around the village. In view of the need to get this work done before the Anglia in Bloom judging, the Chairman had agreed to accept the lowest figure of £225 for the 9 most prominent seats, the remainder to be done at a later date. Mrs Fuller proposed approving this action, seconded by R Spencer and carried unanimously.

(vi) **Nayland Fen.** A letter from Suffolk County Council, Open Access Officer, stated that they had been contacted by a member of the public about the condition of the stiles used to enter the site. The Council as access authority may be able to provide some assistance with the replacement of these if necessary. Details regarding ownership of the site were requested. The Clerk said she had a copy of the register of fenholders compiled by Suffolk County Council and suggested referring the writer of the letter to the department holding the register. This was agreed.

## 16. Highways

(i) **Street Fayre.** Copy of a Road Traffic Order prohibiting through traffic on 16<sup>th</sup> July was noted.

(ii) **Road Markings.** Reply from Highways confirming any markings which need to be reinstated would be included in their list of work and they would be investigating the possibility of providing a line across the entrance to the Village Hall as promised the previous year.

(iii) **Bollards.** A reply from Highways stated that they would bear in mind the comments made by the Conservation Society when providing new or replacing existing bollards in the future. There was a large number across the area and replacement would be very costly but where possible they would try to standardise on a few types.

(iv) **Stoke Road hedge.** Following letters to Babergh and the Dedham Vale & Stour Valley Project concerning the proposals to manage the hedge, a site meeting had been arranged of interested parties on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June and G Battye had agreed to attend.

## 17. Allotments

(i) **Competition.** The Clerk reported that this had been arranged for 14<sup>th</sup> July.

(ii) **Water Butt.** The Clerk reported that the second hand water tank offered by an allotment holder had a hole in it and she was investigating the cost of a new one.

(iii) **Tap.** C Hunt raised the possibility of a second tap. The Council had looked into this a few years previously and the cost had been prohibitive but C Hunt thought that some allotment holders might be willing to provide the labour and agreed to follow this up.

## 18. Report by District Councillor

**Ely/Ouse to Essex Transfer Scheme & Combined Essex Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS).** C Hunt had attended a meeting of the Dedham Vale & Stour Valley Project to discuss this. River Stour is part of a 'Combined Essex CAMS' on water resource management which seeks to meet the needs of abstractors and water space users while conserving aquatic habitats. A public consultation document should be available in October. **North Essex Catchment Plan** – aims to look at how fluvial flood risks may change and be managed over a 50 to 100 year period. Draft out for consultation.

**New Fridges from Old** – A new scheme from Babergh. **Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act** – A summary of provision of the Act. Report to be circulated.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.