

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12th December 2007, AT 8.05 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL, NAYLAND.

Present: G Battye (Chairman), C Hunt, Mrs Knox, Mrs George, Mrs Sparrow, R Spencer, Mrs Mimpriss, Mrs Fuller, Ms Knight, Mrs Hattrell (Clerk), Mrs Bray (for the Press) R Cave (District Councillor) and 1 member of the public.

1. **Public Forum**

Mr Dowding raised the issue of ivy still obstructing Mill Street. Details of the owners had been passed to the Clerk. It was agreed for the Clerk to write to the Owners concerned. He then went on to advise that the street light at Socket Alley Bus Stop is still not working. The Clerk confirmed that this has been reported and she will chase the matter with Suffolk County Council – **Action Clerk**.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

None were received.

3. **Report by District Councillor**

District Councillor Richard Cave reported that the recent decision, not to give Unitary Status to Ipswich, has a number of implications to Babergh Council. More information is to come on the detailed reasons for the decision. Babergh Council instigated a constitutional review on the strength of Unitary Status for Ipswich. They will now need to re-consider matters in view of this change. Budget at Babergh Council is being finalised and due to be announced shortly. As statutory obligations increase, consideration needs to be given to cost cutting and joint working. The report on Hadleigh Swimming Pool has confirmed poor construction and therefore Babergh Council are withdrawing their bid to refurbish the pool. The existing pool will be closed when no longer operative. Consideration is now being given to a new leisure centre along side the existing one. Mrs Knox questioned R Cave on access to Planning Applications on the Internet. R Cave confirmed that there have been delays and the site is not fully operational yet.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2007 was proposed by C Hunt, seconded by Mrs Mimpriss and unanimously carried. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

5. **Housing Needs**

A formal response had not been received to the letter stressing the importance of involving the Parish Council at the earliest opportunity with the other potential site in the Village. Emails had been circulated ahead of the meeting confirming that work had stopped on the Harpers Estate site. Tim Cottrell, Housing Enabling Officer at Babergh Council, had confirmed the reasons. The Chairman read from his email advising that when the site was cleared, the site levels did not correspond to the levels in the plan. Therefore the contactors have had to stop work while a new topographical survey was carried out and the plans amended. Flagship Housing has advised that they hope to be back on site before Christmas. As soon as a definite date is known, they will inform us. It was agreed for the Clerk to chase Flagship Housing for the earliest possible return to work on the site and also to confirm that children are now playing on the site – **Action Clerk**.

6. **Village Hall**

Mrs Knox reported that the issue of hall furniture being borrowed has recently been discussed. Mrs Knox believes this practice should be discouraged unless the equipment is officially hired. A film will be shown on 29th December at 2.00 p.m. specifically for children. This is likely to be Shrek 3.

7. Finance Report

The Clerk confirmed the cash position as at 20th November 2007 in the Royal Bank of Scotland Accounts. In the current account there is £141.61 and in the reserve account £15477.00 making a total of £15618.61 including £5,968.00 in the Capital Investment Fund. The Clerk explained that the funds were in the process of being transferred to our new bank account. The Minutes of the Finance Working Party Meeting had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The Chairman proposed that they were a true record. This was seconded by Mrs Fuller and unanimously carried. The Chairman explained that there needs to be a significant increase in the Precept requirement for next year. He confirmed having taken on board comments and suggestions for next years' budget. He stated that the carry forward into next year will not be significant due to some areas of overspend including support to the playgroup project. He then confirmed that this year has been useful to determine the hours required to fulfil the role of Clerk to the Council. He spoke of a need to either increase the working hours or to reduce the tasks. Mrs Mimpriss spoke of the need to get the employment of the Clerk onto a professional basis and at the same time avoid the need for casual hours. The Chairman confirmed the trends over the years of Precept increases and decreases. C Hunt spoke of the need to keep the street lighting costs under close scrutiny and review the requirement for the playgroup. R Spencer was concerned as to whether sufficient reserves and contingency are built into the budget. The Finance Working Party shared those concerns however felt the need to minimise the increase this year. The Chairman confirmed that some contingency is built into the various heads of budgeted expenditure. Mrs Knox advised that we should be careful to explore all potential grants towards particular projects. After all the questioning had been exhausted, C Hunt proposed that the recommendations made by the Finance Working Party be implemented and the Precept be requested at £31,000 for 2008/9. This was seconded by R Spencer and unanimously carried. The Chairman thanked everyone for their hard work and careful consideration of the Finances.

8. Accounts for payment

DK Hattrell (Clerk's Salary)	544.66
Inland Revenue Only (Clerk's Deductions and Employers NI Contributions).....	184.53
SCC (Clerk's Pension).....	144.43
Roy A Mortimer (Grass cutting)	197.41
Suffolk ACRE (Subscription).....	20.00
J Murphy (Willow Tree Newlands Lane)	250.00

The above cheques were approved for payment.

9. East of England Plan

No comments were raised over and above previous considerations.

10. Suffolk Fire Service

C Hunt was disappointed that there was no mention of the Retained Fire Service in the future strategy. In Nayland, they play a key role and it was considered important that their position is secured for the future. It was agreed to locate the original documentation, which was in circulation and for C Hunt to discuss with the Clerk a suitable response – **Action C Hunt**.

11. Correspondence

The Clerk circulated her report ahead of the meeting and key areas were discussed. The Parish Council agreed that in the future the Agenda's can be posted on the Website. The Clerk can send to the webmaster ahead of each meeting – **Action Clerk**. Comments made by a resident that he intends to cut branches of Burial Ground trees that overhang his garden were read. It was agreed that he is legally entitled to remove those branches and return them over the boundary. However, the Parish Council have agreed to consider further tree work in the Burial Ground, so careful liaison should be encouraged. It was agreed for the Clerk to respond accordingly – **Action Clerk**. The Clerk read from the Police Report for October showing no reported crimes in Nayland with Wissington.

12. Footpaths

The Clerk confirmed that a response has been received from the SCC Right of Way Officer, K Verlander, regarding footpath 8. He inspected the route recently and he is writing to the landowner requesting that fallen trees are cleared. He also confirmed that the permissive path through the wood that is signed with a thin plastic yellow arrow is also obstructed by trees, however, he has no control over this route.

13. Planning

1) Decisions received

B/07/01549/FHA/BHW – Hullbacks Farm, Dead Lane.

Babergh District Council confirmed that permission has been granted to erect a summer house.

B/07/010010/LBC/BEL – The Old Guildhall, 13 High Street.

Babergh District Council confirmed that listed building consent has been granted to install a spiral wine cellar.

2) **B/07/00709/LBC/BEL – Guinea Wiggs, Bures Road.**

The Parish Council had no objections to the application for listed building consent to raise the height of the roof to existing barn. This was considered between meetings to comply with the deadline.

14. Streetlighting

The Clerk reported SCC confirmed the quotations to adapt four units to comply with the G39/1 Regulations remain the same. The Locality Budget has therefore been applied for as agreed at last meeting. A report has been made of the unit 65 on the junction of Newlands Lane and Church Lane, which is intermittent.

15. Burial Ground

The Chairman read from a letter received from Mrs Sebba at Babergh Council regarding the gate to the old burial ground. R Spencer agreed to speak to Mrs Sebba to confirm where the latch is broken and that graffiti will need to be removed from the gate – **Action R Spencer.**

16. Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces

The Clerk read from a quotation received from our regular contractor to reduce the apple tree at the playing field. Mrs Sparrow confirmed that the resident has now arranged for the work to be done. Mrs Sparrow then went on to confirm that she met with Mr Hipkin from the Environment Agency. The reedcutting has been carried out. By cutting the reeds regularly this should increase the flow of the river and naturally reduce the silt. Mrs Sparrow reported that the debris has been minimal and the appearance is better as a result of this work. The Clerk then explained that letters have been received making suggestions regarding the horsewatering. Additionally, Mrs Childs has telephoned confirming she will honour the agreement made to restore the horsewatering, however, believed the cost should be divided three ways. She stated that other residents have had building work carried out and this has contributed to the damage. She has already paid for the parking area to be flattened and re-gravelled. The Chairman asked for comments. It was mentioned that the agreement related to the planting area and not the parking area. The planting area was completely damaged before others carried out building work. It was therefore agreed to write to Mrs Childs confirming that the Parish Council would like the agreed arrangement to remain – **Action Clerk.**

17. Highways

The Clerk read from an email received from County Highways regarding the agreed new sign outside 15 Birch Street directing traffic straight-on for the A134. This is for traffic approaching the village from Stoke Road and

the sign is intended to discourage HGV's from trying to turn left into Mill Street. The owner of 15 Birch Street has advised that Lorries are coming from both directions. Mrs George agreed that this was the situation and proposed a response to County Highways confirming that Lorries were indeed coming from both directions. This was seconded by R Spencer and carried. The Clerk is to write to County Highways confirming the position – **Action Clerk**. Attention then turned to the presentation of the HGV survey results from County Highways ahead of the meeting. It was agreed that Councillors should have time to consider the data provided and this will form an Agenda item at the January Meeting – **Action All**. The interested parties attending the earlier meeting were also encouraged to write to the Clerk with views. Initial views from each Parish Council Member varied between having some sympathy with the position of County Highways to concern over their negative stance and their failure to grasp the issues involved. The Chairman confirmed that issues should be broken down into factual ones and potential solutions. He believed it was positive that the County Councillor, Parish Council, District Councillor and others in the village have brought this issue to the forefront and was hopeful that some positive outcome would result.

18. Allotments

The Chairman asked whether our land was being grazed. R Spencer confirmed that it had earlier in the year and the field had been used for hay. Ms Knight mentioned that the grazing this winter may have been delayed due to the movement restrictions on livestock.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.