

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9th DECEMBER 2009, AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE
HALL NAYLAND

Present: G Battye (Chairman), Mrs R Knox, C Hunt, Mrs M George, Mrs W Sparrow, Mrs E Mimpriss, Mrs P Fuller, Ms A Knight, R Spencer, Mrs D Hattrell (Clerk), Mrs P Bray (for the press) and J Finch (County Councillor).

1. **Public Form**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

2. **District Council Report**

District Councillor R Cave was unable to attend and no report was provided.

3. **County Council Report**

County Councillor J Finch confirmed that the Schools Organisation Review was ongoing with the first phase closing on 18th December. He confirmed a group have formed to try to retain the Stoke by Nayland Middle School site as an educational base. He went on to speak about the pylon proposals. He is currently fact finding and attending various meetings including those held by the Groton Pylon Alliance. Many views have been expressed to keep the areas north of Boxford free of pylons and the existing route is favoured by some as long as cables are put underground in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other specific places. He confirmed that groups exist who are campaigning vigorously to put all the cables underground. This, in his view, is unrealistic. The Chairman asked how the National Grid could be forced to be put cables underground? J Finch confirmed that the National Grid have a commitment to link the power source to the National Grid in the most economic way. Where the pylons would cross an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or National Park, they should avoid that part or consider undergrounding. Currently only about 3 – 4% of the National Grid is underground. J Finch then turned to the construction of the new Fire Station which is underway in Bear Street and mentioned the completion of the surfacing work in Court Street. He feared that due to pressures on finances, more patching work rather than complete resurfacing will be undertaken. He is going to ask for 5 year costings of alternative methods of resurfacing to establish whether patching really is an economic solution. C Hunt then reminded members that the nearest public exhibition regarding the pylons is being held at Leavenheath Village Hall on Saturday 16th January 2010 from midday onwards.

4. **Police Report**

PCSO Mandy Coleman was present to deliver her report. She advised over the last month there was 1 reported crime which was entry into a car on 25th November where a handbag and laptop were stolen. This remains undetected. They were hopeful that a new PC would be appointed for the area by January. However, this is still to be confirmed. Mrs George advised that cars are being parked on the pavement causing an obstruction on Stoke Road near the chapel. PCSO Mandy Coleman noted this point. Members also advised PCSO Mandy Coleman of the construction of the fire station presently. PCSO Mandy Coleman was aware of the construction site and had already spoken to some youths in the vicinity on her way to the Parish Council meeting.

5. **Apologies**

Were received from District Councillor R Cave.

6. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2009 was proposed by C Hunt, seconded by P Fuller and carried with 1 abstention due to absence at the previous meeting.

At this point, the Chairman asked members whether he could re-order the agenda to bring Finance higher up. This was agreed.

7. **Highways**

The Chairman reported that street cleaning is continuing and Mrs George is liaising with the contractor concerned. He urged members to let Mrs George know any issues as they arise. Mrs Mimpriss confirmed that she has made contact with LAC Cleaning Contractors regarding the Wiston litter pick. The charge for next year will remain the same. A representative has agreed to contact Mrs Mimpriss ahead of the next scheduled litter pick. Members reported that the operatives carrying out the resurfacing in Court Street were most helpful. J Finch noted the thanks and will pass onto the relevant people. The Chairman reported that J Finch had

informed County Highways of pot holes on Harpers Hill. The temporary road closure of Cawley Road between 25th January and 14th March was duly noted. A further pot hole at Cawley Road where it joins Bures Road was reported. This seemed to be as a result of a land drain. It was agreed for the Clerk to report to County Highways – **Action Clerk.**

8. Finance Report

The Clerk confirmed the cash position as at 30th November 2009 as £1000.00 in the current account, £23041.56 in the linked deposit account and £9242.10 in the Capital Investment Fund making a total of £33283.66. The Chairman first referred to the Finance Working Party meeting minutes and the precept calculation. He explained that members of the Finance Committee started with the economic situation and noted that where possible this council should achieve minimal increases from last year. As a result, the proposal was to increase the Precept by 1.9%. With such a low increase, inevitably some cuts in services could result. The Chairman advised that tree maintenance could become expensive and it also may be prudent for the Finance Committee to meet at different intervals to examine whether budget amounts should be moved between different headings. The Chairman then proposed the Minutes of the Finance Meeting to be a true record. This was seconded by Mrs Fuller and carried. C Hunt advised that it is difficult not to put together a wish list when looking at budget. He had concerns that the amount allocated for both the Burial ground and Recreation ground may not be adequate. He advised that the play ground equipment is starting to show its age. Mrs Sparrow reminded Council that a new sign is required for the Recreation ground. R Spencer confirmed that the 1.9% increase seems at the right level, however, he feared that increases may be capped in the future which may force further hard choices. Mrs Mimirriss commented that it is important to consider whether tasks were required because they posed a risk or whether they were of a cosmetic nature. She stressed the importance of building in flexibility. It was mentioned that it would not be appropriate to spend significant sums on litter picking and not provide sufficient litter bins. The Chairman reminded members that we do not have a statutory duty to provide litter picking. C Hunt advised that people in the village expected it to be maintained to a high standard and that included the collection of litter. The Chairman advised that it was important to keep Finances and Budget under close scrutiny throughout the year and not to merely complete this as a one off exercise. The Chairman then proposed a Precept of £32,500 for the 2010/11 financial year. This was seconded by R Spencer and unanimously carried. C Hunt then took the opportunity to express gratitude to the Finance Committee for their hard work. The Clerk sought clarification as to whether full Council wanted to appoint the existing grass cutting contractor for next financial year in accordance with Finance Committee's recommendations. The Chairman proposed the appointment of the existing contractor. This was seconded by Mrs George and unanimously carried. The Clerk advised that following completion of an activities questionnaire, our insurers have reduced our insurance premium cost. A return premium of £132.08 will follow. The Clerk also reported that the Locality Budget has been agreed towards adaption of street lighting and a cheque is awaited shortly.

9. Recreation Ground and Open Spaces

The Chairman confirmed that he has prepared a Tree and hedgerow Risk and Safety Management Plan. He circulated to members. He confirmed it is important to agree the next step. C Hunt and Mrs Sparrow volunteered to translate the Management Plan into a specification incorporating the most urgent work for approval at the January meeting. The Chairman stressed the importance of this task ahead of the January Meeting and it was agreed to involve the Tree Warden in the process - **Action C Hunt and Mrs Sparrow.** The Chairman agreed to investigate the hedge at Pops Piece. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work between meetings with regard to the Deed of Easement and locating the 1954 Conveyance for the Recreation Ground. The Chairman read from the email from Farrens Construction proposing to install a fence around the play area. This was agreed in principle subject to a further pedestrian gate being installed in the eastern boundary near the 2 seats and leaving enough sitting room. Mrs George had some concerns regarding the space within the fenced area for children to run around. R Spencer confirmed that the fencing to some extent was dictated by the size and shape of the current play area. It was agreed for R Spencer and Mrs Sparrow to meet again with Farren's Construction ahead of the work to finalise the specification. In the meantime, it was agreed for the Clerk to respond and agree the principle, subject to a further pedestrian gate and a further meeting before the work is carried out – **Action Clerk.** The Chairman proposed that if any additional document signing is required with regard to the Deed of Easement, this Council authorises signatories between meetings. This was agreed.

10. Housing Needs

The Chairman confirmed that following the objection from Nayland Flying Club, Babergh Council's Environmental Health Team concluded that a Noise Impact Assessment was required. This assessment is the responsibility of the applicants. Flagship Housing was in the process of obtaining quotations for this assessment. Therefore, final agreement by the Planning Committee is expected to be delayed.

11. Village Hall

Mrs Knox provided the invoice in respect of the new oil tank. This amounted to £1983.75. Mrs Knox formally asked, on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee, for the Parish Council to consider a contribution towards that cost from the Capital Investment Fund. The Chairman reminded members that we have seen the detailed plan from the Village Hall Management Committee. The Chairman proposed that we contribute the total amount of £1983.75. This was seconded by Mrs George and carried with 1 abstention from Mrs Knox. Mrs Knox went onto remind members that a vacancy exists for Booking Secretary to replace Mrs Whiting, who will be leaving the post at the end of the financial year. The committee is investigating computer packages with Suffolk ACRE to assist the new booking secretary. C Hunt advised that the Village Hall car park is being used by residents. There was also an incident recently where the church and the hall both had an event at the same time leading to congestion in the car park.

12. Accounts for Payment

DK Hattrell (Clerk's salary – cheque number 400217).....	648.30
Inland Revenue Only (Clerk's deductions and ERS NIC – cheque number 400218)	214.98
Suffolk County Council (Clerk's pension – cheque number 400219).....	201.05
JRB Enterprise (Dog Bag Dispenser – cheque number 400220)	158.70
FP Rose (S137 Litter Pick – cheque number 400221)	150.80
L.A.C. Cleaning Contractors Ltd (Wiston Litter Pick – cheque number 400222)	54.63
Nayland Royal British Legion (Remembrance Wreaths – cheque number 400223)	33.00
Babergh District Council (Wiston Mill Footpath Diversion – cheque number 400224)	250.24
Roy A Mortimer (Sweeping – cheque number 400225)	96.60
Chilton Office Supplies (Stationery & photocopies – cheque number 400226)	15.98

The above cheques were approved for payment.

13. Correspondence

The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and key areas were discussed. The Chairman read from the police report for October. He confirmed that 5 incidents were recorded. Fuel was stolen from Harpers Estate and Heycroft Way. On both occasions, it was stolen from motor vehicles. There was a driving with excess alcohol incident detected on the A134. Power tools were stolen from an out building and in Birch Street an assault occasioning ABH was reported. The Chairman went through the items for circulation to members. He confirmed that he had been approached by Adam Sedgewick from Stoke by Nayland Parish Council. The Chairman requested the support of members for him to arrange an informal meeting to gather and share information with Mr Sedgewick. Members agreed. The Chairman then went onto read a letter from Ms A Knight resigning from the Parish Council at the end of the year. Ms Knight had outlined various reasons including workload and her plans to move away from the village in the early part of next year. The Chairman confirmed that Ms Knight will be missed from the Parish Council and also from the village should she move away. Mrs George proposed a vote of thanks to Ms Knight for her time and support to the Parish Council over the past 10½ years. The Chairman shared details of a new mobile library timetable from Suffolk County Council. Unfortunately, the wrong timetable has been provided, so it was agreed to obtain the relevant one from Suffolk County Council – **Action Clerk.**

14. Footpaths

The Chairman confirmed that K Verlander, Area Right of Way Officer, has been investigating the issue with the stile on footpath 3 between the burial ground and the scout hut. He has requested details of the ownership of that stile. Members believed it belonged to Mrs G Jones. It was agreed for the Clerk to advise K Verlander accordingly – **Action Clerk.**

15. Planning

B/09/01322/LBC – Dresden Cottage, 10 Birch Street.

Mrs George left the room for this item in view of her interest. The Parish Council had no objections to the application for external and internal alterations.

16. Street Lighting

Nothing was raised under this item.

17. Burial Ground

Nothing was raised under this item.

18. **Allotments**

The Chairman advised that he has recently provided the measurements of the allotments to the Clerk to enable our grant providers to be approached to determine the reduction in income as a result of increasing the allotment provision by a further 4 allotments. The Chairman read an email from Transition Nayland confirming that they were willing to provide machinery and labour for ploughing and harrowing the new allotments. Members agreed that subject to public liability issues, this was a wonderful idea. It was agreed to finally decide whether to proceed at the January meeting and in the meantime try to obtain details of the implications to our grant income – **Action Clerk.**

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.