

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10th FEBRUARY 2010, AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE
HALL NAYLAND

Present: Mrs P Fuller (Chaired the meeting), Mrs R Knox, C Hunt, Mrs M George, Mrs W Sparrow, Mrs E Mimpriss, Mrs D Hattrell (Clerk), , County Councillor J Finch, District Councillor R Cave and Mrs P Bray (for the press).

Before Commencement of the Meeting

a. **Public Forum**

No issues were raised by members of the public.

b. **District Council Report**

District Councillor R Cave was present to deliver his report. He confirmed that the Secretary of State noted that there was wide agreement that Suffolk should move to Unitary control, however, he did not consider the options presented met the criteria needed, accordingly he concluded that he could not decide on the information before him. Therefore, further work is required before matters could be progressed. Consideration of budget continues with the deficit narrowing to now £191,000. Staff costs are expected to reduce by 1 million pounds.

c. **County Council Report**

County Councillor J Finch was present to deliver his report and confirmed that a recommendation will be taken to full Council on 18th February for a 2.4% Council Tax increase in respect of the Suffolk County Council proportion. This will mean an approximate rise of 50 pence per week in respect of a band D property. The County Council has issued their response to the National Grid regarding the pylon project. County Councillor J Finch urged members and the public to read in full the County Council's response and referred them to the website. In summary, the County Council welcomed the opportunity to comment and also encouraged the National Grid to pay full regard to local views. They expressed concern that the National Grid had not published comments received on the website. The County Council was of the view that all corridors would cause severe damage to the environment in South Suffolk. They considered that the National Grid should take a more strategic longer term view and also investigate alternative solutions. The County Council urged the Infrastructure Planning Commission to request that National Grid takes a more strategic longer term view and investigates alternative solutions. However, if the Infrastructure Planning Commission ultimately accepts the case for a new overhead line, the County Council believes routes 3 and 4 should be ruled out because they traverse large areas currently free from pylon intrusion and there is insufficient justification for a third pylon line on option 1. Therefore the County Council considers that option 2b would cause the least environmental damage of the 4 options but in the AONB and the Stour Valley area the transmission lines should be undergrounded and to compensate at least in part and to maximise the environmental benefit, the length of the existing lines should also be undergrounded in these areas. J Finch stressed again that the response from County Council should be read in full. With regard to the School Organisational Review, the County Council has published its response to the Consultation of this review and responded to the campaigners who wish to save Stoke by Nayland School as a High School. J Finch advised that Mike Manning at the County Council would welcome any feedback following the severe winter period regarding the salt position, road and pavement conditions, pot holes and the service received during the poor weather conditions. J Finch commented that the County Council was concerned about young carers. A number of families only function because of the input of the youngster in the family. J Finch has been involved in the scrutiny of the role that the County Council has to ensure that these children are not disadvantaged during their personal development.

d. **Police Report**

A representative from the police was unable to attend the meeting.

Parish Council Meeting

1. **Apologies for Absence**

G Battye (Chairman) and R Spencer had sent their apologies both due to holiday.

2. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2010 was proposed by Mrs Mimpriss, seconded by C Hunt and unanimously carried.

3. **Standing Orders and Parish Council Procedures**

Mrs Fuller explained that full Council met as a working party to consider new standing orders and Parish Council procedures. Following brief discussion, Mrs George proposed that the minutes of the 20th January Working Party Meeting be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by C Hunt and carried with 1 abstention from Mrs Knox due to her absence at the meeting. It was agreed to list the action points ahead of the March meeting for implementation following that date – **Action Clerk**. The Standing Orders will remain on the table for approval at the March meeting.

4. **Parish Council Vacancy**

The Clerk confirmed that she has received a letter from Babergh District Council dated 4th February confirming that insufficient requests for an election took place and the Parish Council may now fill the vacancy by co-option. C Hunt felt strongly that this was against the democratic process. Mrs Knox confirmed that many vacancies have been filled by co-option so she did not see a change in spirit in the village in this regard. It was agreed to advertise the vacancy on the website and notice boards and it will also be included in the press report of the meeting. With regard to Community Times, there is not a timely edition in this respect. It was agreed to issue a deadline of next meeting for responses – **Action Clerk**.

5. **Highways**

C Hunt referred to the recent bad weather and that it was noticeable that the buses were generally running a normal service. He had direct experience of a driver taking a bus safely to Colchester during blizzard conditions. A number of people have since commented to C Hunt on how well the drivers coped in the conditions. C Hunt asked for a letter of appreciation to go to Chambers Buses on behalf of the Parish and suggested a wording for such a letter. This was agreed. Mrs Fuller read correspondence between Emma Bishton, parishioner, and the Clerk on the subject of grit bins. The correspondence was initiated by a request from Mrs Bishton for grit heaps on the Heights. The Clerk had summarised the actions taken by the Parish Council in this respect. It was agreed that the Parish Council may consider the purchase of further grit bins later in the year, subject to budget, ahead of next winter. The meeting was closed briefly to enable J Finch to speak. He confirmed he was challenging the logic of needing to provide named volunteers of people in the village who spread grit. The meeting reopened. Mrs George provided brief updates on the sweeping in the village and interruptions during the poor weather conditions. Mrs Fuller read from a legal notice regarding the proposed waiting restrictions at the Harpers Estate junction with Bear Street. C Hunt pointed out that throughout the documents Harpers Hill Estate is mentioned. The estate has not been named Harpers Hill Estate for many years, so it was agreed to advise County Highways accordingly – **Action Clerk**. Mrs Fuller reported that Karen Smith from County Highways has responded to our request for additional signage warning of traffic in the middle of the road on Anchor Bridge. Mrs Smith had confirmed that the sign in the High Street was obviously in place for a reason and would not be appropriate for Anchor Bridge. She confirmed that the use of road narrow signs with vehicles in the middle of the road actually relate to physical changes in the carriage way width, where 2 vehicles cannot pass but not at locations where it is created by parked vehicles. She was therefore unable to agree to our request. The meeting was closed briefly to allow J Finch to speak. He offered to discuss with Mrs Smith whether there are any other options. Mrs Fuller asked for a possibility of a site meeting. J Finch confirmed that one could be arranged for week commencing 8th March. The meeting reopened. Mrs Mimpriss then asked for a reminder to be issued to the contractor that carries out the litter pick in Wiston – **Action Clerk**. Pot holes were reported on Bures Road near the drive to Wisington Grove Farm and the one just west of Fox Cottages was now opening again. It was reported that the road opposite the Post Office on the High Street was breaking up badly – **Action Clerk to report to County Highways**.

6. **Planning**

1. **B/09/01157/LBC – White Hart Inn, 11 High Street.**

Mrs Fuller read the Parish Council's response to the Planning Authority following further correspondence from the agents. The Parish Council notes the Planning Consultant's letter, but draws the Planning Authority's notice to the exact wording of its response to this application, dated 12th November 2009. Whilst having no principled objection to the original application, this was subject to certain conditions. Following the letter from Mr Gittins and addressed to Mr Chamberlain, the Parish Council wishes to make the following observations:-

1. As already expressed in the correspondence of 15th November, the Parish Council wishes to see the whole building in single ownership. This would enable a range of options to be maintained – particularly during a period of economic restraint.
2. The letter of exemplification does not address residential, commercial and customer parking. Car parking remains inadequate for the demands of 3 residences and the customers/trade/supply of a public house. The original, larger car park has been reduced by the creation and sale of what is identified as “private garden” on the ground plan. Only 5 designated car parking spaces are identified. The history of this public house exemplifies that reliance solely on pedestrian custom is unviable and wholly unrealistic. Such reliance will prove unviable. The recent history of these premises shows that sound business decisions will need to be made at this juncture and adequate parking is essential for this plan to succeed and for 3 residences to be created. Off street parking for increased residential and proposed commercial use is crucial in the crowded heart of the conservation area.
3. Paragraph 2 of the agent’s letter is inaccurate. The proposed size of the “licensed premises”, within this overall application, is “dissimilar”, to that at the time of acquisition by Mr Gittin’s client. In consideration of this change of use, viability should be a factor. In fact, in former times, i.e. 15 years ago, the whole of the ground floor of the White Hart Inn was used as front bar, back bar, restaurant, kitchen, toilets – all uses associated with public house use. Indeed, an associated hall, used for hiring by pub customers, completed the commercial footprint of the premises. It was a busy public house, serving meals from a large menu.
4. Mr Gittin’s letter fails to answer this Council’s wish, stipulated in its own response to Babergh, dated 15th November, that the design is amended, to prevent any adapted residential use encroaching on the original part of both bars and associated dining area, thus ensuring the integrity of this listed property.
5. The Parish Council agrees that the results of an independent historic building/heritage survey are essential in helping the Planning Authority to determine this application. This should ensure that the integrity of this Grade II listed building is maintained. The above observations where relevant, should be enshrined in conditions placed upon and linked with any successful outcome.

2. B/09/00583/FUL – Wiston Road Affordable Homes Scheme Noise Assessment

As the Noise Impact Assessment concludes that noise is not a factor in determining the outcome of the planning process, then Nayland with Wisington Parish Council has no objections, but will request that Babergh Council ensure the recommended glazing and ventilation is compliant with the report recommendations.

3. B/09/01148/FA – 58 Bear Street.

The Parish Council had no objections to the erection of a detached summer house. The proposed no objections was carried with 5 votes in favour and 1 against.

7. Recreation and Open Spaces

C Hunt confirmed that he met with 2 contractors in respect of the urgent tree work identified from the recent risk assessment. One of the contractors identified a possible problem with the Jubilee tree in the form of decay and recommended a test to identify the extent of the problem. C Hunt has spoken with the Tree Warden, Mrs Bannister, who recommended that we take on board the advice given. The Clerk confirmed that 2 quotations have been received and both are within budget. It was agreed to meet as a working party after the public meeting to consider these quotations in detail. Mrs Sparrow reported on a site meeting with the Environment Agency. They shared plans for dredging on the weir junction with the main river and the mill stream. The dredging will take place from 1st March and will take around 2 to 3 weeks. In view of the new method used, limited disruption is expected. Letters will be sent to all nearby residents from the Environment Agency.

8. Housing

Mrs Fuller read from a report from Carla Beckett – Flagship Housing Group, confirming that the Noise Impact Assessment was completed at the end of December following an objection to the planning. The report has been submitted to Babergh District Council and it is likely to go before the February Planning Committee. The land has now been registered and they can now progress with the purchase of the land for the development.

9. Village Hall

Mrs Knox reported that increases to the hire charges will need to be considered in view of the extra rates that will be charged. The Village Hall Committee are looking into improving efficiency in the hall and saving overhead costs. They have still been unable to secure a new Bookings Secretary.

10. Finance Report

The Clerk confirmed the cash position as at 29th January 2010 as £1000.00 in the current account, £16784.55 in the linked deposit account and £9242.10 in the Capital Investment Fund making a total of £27026.65. The Clerk advised that the capital expenditure on the Village Hall is still to be transferred from the Capital Investment Fund.

11. Accounts for Payment

DK Hattrell (Clerk's salary – cheque number 400237).....	645.96
Inland Revenue Only (Clerk's deductions and ERS NIC – cheque number 400238)	214.98
Suffolk County Council (Clerk's pension – cheque number 400239).....	201.05
Roy A Mortimer (Sweeping & removing ivy – cheque number 400240)	124.55

The above cheques were approved for payment.

12. Correspondence

The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and key areas were discussed. Mrs Fuller read from the correspondence from Inspector Weeks and Sergeant Scanlan regarding the Safer Neighbourhood Priority Setting Meetings for the Babergh East Safer Neighbourhood Team. They were looking to have all areas represented at the meetings and they were seeking a candidate from either Stoke by Nayland or Nayland with Wissington. It was agreed to put full details in the circulation envelope and to include as an agenda item for the March meeting – **Action Clerk**. The Chairman then read from the police report for December showing 2 crimes within the parish. One was a car stolen from Radleys Road and the other a common assault in Court Street.

13. Footpaths

C Hunt had reported a post for a directional sign that has been knocked down with the sign missing on footpath 14. The Clerk confirmed that she has already reported this issue and it has been acknowledged from the Rights of Way Officer at Suffolk County Council.

14. Street Lighting

The Clerk confirmed that 2 lights were reported as not working as a result of correspondence from the Tree Warden and a parishioner. These lights were unit 72 on Wiston Road and unit 53 on Stoke Road. Reports have been made to Suffolk County Council Street Lighting Department.

15. Burial Ground

C Hunt reported that the Burial Sub-Committee are in the final stages of reviewing the burial fees and certain conditions. They are undertaking a spreadsheet comparison with other burial ground fees. When they have concluded their work, a report will be issued to members ahead of the March meeting. It was agreed to include as an agenda item for the March meeting – **Action Clerk**. C Hunt reported that he has investigated the unsafe memorials in the old burial ground and family members have been identified and approached. He asked for this to be included as an agenda item for the April meeting so that a further update could be provided – **Action Clerk**. Attention then turned to an application for permission to erect a memorial over a cremation space. The Clerk had confirmed that the size is within the cremation plot size, however, the rules require a flat stone only and the proposed one is sloping. Members confirmed that sloping tablets are not permitted so it was agreed for the Clerk to respond accordingly – **Action Clerk**.

16. Allotments

C Hunt reported that he attended the allotments with Mrs Sparrow and marked out the further 4 plots which have now been ploughed. Next week they will be harrowed. C Hunt suggested that the Allotment Sub-Committee attends following the harrowing to mark out the new allotments. Consideration needs to be given to fencing off the allotments and moving the existing fencing. It was agreed for members to visit the allotment area before next meeting and include as an agenda item to finally agree the fencing arrangements at the March meeting – **Action all and Clerk**. The Clerk reported that Mrs Carter has telephoned in order to give up her allotment. Mrs Sparrow took details to enable the Allotment Sub-Committee to inspect and confirm the condition is appropriate for handover. It was further reported that the Clerk received a letter from the contractor in respect of the work to plough and harrow the new allotments confirming their public liability insurance arrangements.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.