

GT. BEALINGS PARISH COUNCIL

(www.greatbealings.co.uk)

The Annual Meeting of Gt. Bealings Parish Council was held in the Angela Cobbold Hall on Tuesday, 7th May 2013 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr Eric Barnett (Chairman), Mr Julian Haywood Smith, Mr Colin Hedgley, Mr John Carter-Jonas, Mrs Sally Johnson and Mr Paul Norris.

Also present for the meeting: Mr Tony Fryatt, Mr Peter Bellfield (arrival time 7.45pm), Mrs Jenny Shaw, Mr Norman Porter, Mr Charles Barrington, Mr Martin Cripps, Mr & Mrs Geoff Drake and Sally's Garry.

In attendance: Mrs Sarah Cartwright, Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr and Mrs Chris Chestnut

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 13th March 2012

These were signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that it had been a very busy year with a number of issues cropping up. The high feelings raised regarding the planning application of the new Regency House have now settled and although it is far too large for the plot it is in his view stylish. Another major issue was the exploration of a Community Wind Turbine for the village largely undertaken by Mr Robin Sadler with the Parish Council's backing. An open meeting was held for residents from Playford, Great and Little Bealings to discuss the location found for the Wind Turbine. Most of the support for this scheme came from Playford and Little Bealings and least support from those living within a quarter of a mile. As a result of this feedback it was resolved to look for a new site. An alternative site was found but the Parish Council has not come to any conclusion about it. Mr Robin Sadler has since resigned as a Parish Councillor so it was felt the best way forward to gauge support for a Community Wind Turbine was to air it under the umbrella of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

Signed
Chairman

The Chairman wished to convey his gratitude to Mr Robin Sadler for all the work he has done as a Parish Councillor and for all the work he did on the proposal for a Community Wind Turbine. The Chairman reported that the EAOW planning application has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate however since that time new information has emerged which will need to be re-submitted and a new consultation period will begin (from 17th May to 16th June 2013). Geological conditions in The Bealings have confirmed that the HDD method will not be suitable and Open Cut trenching will need to be used instead. In addition new traffic figures and assessments are to be published. EAOW would like to make a presentation to Playford, Great and Little Bealings on this new information, date to be confirmed; and seek our views on it.

Another major item in the Chairman's Report is that the Parish Council have agreed that we should proceed with the production of a Neighbourhood Plan. SCDC are consulting on this for us and a working group has been set up of which Mr Charles Barrington is the secretary. This Plan will involve many people and a lot of work and we will hear about it from Mr Charles Barrington later on (Agenda item 8). Ipswich Borough Council and adjoining District Councils are looking at housing needs in the Eastern Ipswich Fringe possibly an extra 2,500 dwellings over the next 15 years highlighting the need for a Neighbourhood Plan for Great Bealings. There have been 10 or 12 planning applications most of which we have approved. The Chairman thanked Parish Councillors for giving tirelessly of their time over the past year and gave special thanks to Mr Paul Norris for his work getting the Solargen sign installed in Boot Street.

5. District Councillor Tony Fryatt's Report

Mr Tony Fryatt reported that £100,000 has been earmarked to allow three people to run the Neighbourhood Plan process at SCDC. This is a huge step forward. He also reported that the number of Councillors at SCDC could be reduced from 55 to 43. The Chairman asked if there had been any progress with the LDF? Mr Tony Fryatt reported that there is to be a full council meeting at the end of the month to see if the new proposals are sustainable. If everything goes through at that meeting it should be cleared in a couple of months. Mr Tony Fryatt informed Councillors that there was grant money available at SCDC that could be made available to Parish Councils – "Revenue Grant".

6. Village Hall Management Committee's Report delivered by Mrs Jenny Shaw

Mrs Jenny Shaw, Chairman of the Village Hall reported that it costs £8,000 a year to run the Hall and £3,000 a year for the playingfield - the bulk of this money being used for insurance of the field. As a registered charity it is their policy to hold reserves to the value of one year's base operating costs. Last year costs were kept to a minimum and with the help of Peter Bellfield's locality budget they were able to mark out the car park with blocks to assist tidier parking.

Signed
Chairman

The weather has seriously impacted the lines on the Sports Court and Mrs Jenny Shaw reported that they have asked the Parish Council to support the release of funds from the Outdoor Playspace Fund which would cover 2/3rds of the cost of having the lines re painted – total cost £1,302 + VAT. The Village Hall Management Committee have set aside funds for the flat roof which is 30 years old. Events planned this year include; an event on the 13th July to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the refurbishment (organised by the Friends of the Field), a New Years Event at the Village Hall on 31st December, and to hold another quiz evening. Mrs Jenny Shaw thanked the volunteers that continue to help and in particular Mrs Margaret Wilson who is the Secretary, bookings officer and treasurer! Also thanked is Eric Barnett, Robin Sadler and Peter Bellfield. A full copy of this report can be viewed on the website: www.greatbealings.co.uk.

7. Benefice Newsletter Team delivered by Mr Norman Porter

Mr Norman Porter gave a good report on the commercial aspects of the Magazine. He reported that advertisers continue to use the Benefice Newsletter and this year they had £1,000 in the bank before they even went to print. On top of that donations from Parish Councils bring the total income up to £1,530 and with outgoings at £1,601 there was just a £71 shortfall. The production of the Magazine is the result of a team effort and a real debt of gratitude is owed to all of the team – contributors, compilers, designer, treasurer, collectors, distributors, and, indeed, readers. The Benefice Newsletter alongside the digital news service provided by Phil Holmes, remain for many at the heart of good community communications. Mr Norman Porter also added that the Great Bealings Church – which also plays a central role in village life – is looking for a Church Warden and he pointed out that you don't have to be a regular church goer, or, indeed a believer to apply. He also reported that the Farm Fair last September had been a huge success and this event will be repeated this year. The time, energy and expertise of as many villagers as possible will be called upon and with up to 1,000 visitors last year our village will be very much on show.

8. Neighbourhood Plan Progress delivered by Mr Charles Barrington

Mr Charles Barrington reported that after 6 months preliminary discussions and meetings the Neighbourhood Plan is now ready to go public and the first consultation stage is in progress (26th April – 21st June 2013). He suggested by way of background that residents and Councillors take a look at the Upper Eden Valley Neighbourhood Plan on the net. It is the only Neighbourhood Plan in the country to have been passed by a referendum so far and is a very well written document. Mr Barrington reported that SCDC have agreed to increase their planning support budget by £100k to allow more staff to be hired to work on Neighbourhood Plans and he reported that we have also applied for funding from DCLG under a scheme that can grant up to £7k per Plan.

Signed
Chairman

The work has been divided into the following headings; Built Environment, Natural Environment, Consultation Process, Funding, Services and Historic Setting and Context. Mr Eric Barnett is in charge of the Consultation stage with two Open Days scheduled to run on the 14th and 15th June in the Angela Cobbold Hall. Here maps, storyboards, question/answer sessions will help get residents acquainted with the Neighbourhood Plan and explore what they would like to see in it. The Open Days will be followed up with a questionnaire. Mr Martin Cripps asked what was the difference between a Neighbourhood Plan and a Parish Plan? Mr Barrington answered that a Neighbourhood Plan is a document with planning policies in place. It is designed to allow things to happen but channels progress in a certain way. This is becoming increasingly important for Great Bealings with developments such as Grange Farm relatively near the village and ever more houses needing to be built. On the Eastern Fringe Area of Ipswich the Neighbourhood Plan will help safeguard what will happen to the village in the future. Mr Martin Cripps also asked what the “shelf life” of the Plan was? Mr Barrington answered that the Plan will be kept under review and looked at every 5 years. It will have to fit in with the Local Development Framework which has a “shelf life” of 15 years.

Charles Barrington is going to see the Suffolk Wildlife Trust to set up the surveys we need to justify the continuing “Special Landscape Area” status of the Lark Valley, which is not specified as such under SCDC’s new Planning Framework Document. At the moment it has SLA status but not a lot of weight attached to that designation.

9. County Councillor Peter Bellfield’s Report

Mr Peter Bellfield reported that Mark Bee and Debora Cadman have proved highly successful as political leader and executive leader of the Council for 2012/13. He reported that once again SCDC are on track to achieve the savings of £25 million this year and that Council Tax will remain unchanged. Other items Mr Peter Bellfield reported on were libraries, education, residential care homes, broadband, energy from waste, the fire and rescue service, future back office requirements, records and heritage functions and the proposal of major construction sites. A full copy of his report is available on the website:- www.greatbealings.co.uk .

The meeting closed at 8.03pm

Signed
Chairman