

**Minutes of Great Bealings Parish Council meeting held at the Bealings Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014.**

**Present:** Mr Eric Barnett, Mr John Carter-Jonas, Mr Martin Cripps, Mr Julian Haywood Smith, Mr Colin Hedgley, Mrs Sally Johnson and Mr Paul Norris.

**In attendance:** Mr Charles Barrington, County Councillor Peter Bellfield, Mrs Gillian Benjamin, Mrs Sarah Cartwright, Mr James Firebrace, District Councillor Tony Fryatt, Mrs Dee Knights, Mrs Ann Nesling, Mr Adrian Melrose, Mrs Sunila Osborne, Mr Richard Root.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He introduced Mrs Dee Knights, the new clerk taking over from Mrs Sarah Cartwright. Mrs Sunila Osborne and Mrs Gillian Benjamin were present to talk about the Housing Needs Survey results.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

None

**2. Declaration of Members' Interests in any items on this Agenda**

There were no declarations of interests.

**3. To approve the Minutes from the Meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

These were approved and signed as a true record. Proposed by Mr Paul Norris and seconded by Mr Martin Cripps.

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

None

**5. Highways**

The Chairman moved this Agenda item forward so that Mrs Ann Nesling could appeal to Mr Peter Bellfield about the problems along Hasketon Road. She thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to speak and read from a pre-prepared speech (attached to these minutes). Mr Peter Bellfield reported that he has had no contact with Mr Tony Buckingham and his budget for minor highway improvements at £8,000 for 36 parishes would be of very little help. The idea of exploring a weight restriction order was again addressed. The law states that a highway must be open to all vehicles. In conclusion Mr Peter Bellfield said he would speak to the legal department at SCC if any changes could be made to the highway status of Hasketon Road.

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The Chairman reported that although Rosery Lane was the primary candidate to be classified as a “Quiet Lane” perhaps Hasketon Road could be looked at too.

**6. Report by County Councillor Peter Bellfield**

The County Council is not increasing Council Tax this year and is making £36.6 million savings for the forthcoming year in the budget. £156 million needs to be saved over the next 4 years. The work done to save money is very dramatic. The Government grant will be down by 37% with £50 million less from central Government. The highways budget has not been reduced at all. Suffolk County Council has been praised as one of the best in the country.

Mr Peter Bellfield reported that Ofsted has been slow to act on problems in schools. They need to firm up on all things starting with the class teachers, then the head teacher then the governor etc. Mark Bee, Leader of the Council is taking a much firmer line and improvements in education over the last year are to be seen.

In response to the Chairman’s invitation for any questions Mr Charles Barrington asked about the EA1 pipeline and ducting; in particular whether ducting for 2, 3 or 4 cables would be put in at the onset of the works. Mr Tony Fryatt reported that they will not be putting ducting in for subsequent years.

**7. Report by District Councillor Tony Fryatt**

Mr Tony Fryatt reported that the Council tax has been frozen by SCDC for 4 years. The £12 million budget next year has been reduced by £1/2 million. A £2 million reduction since 2010. SCDC have had to cut costs and planning has suffered as a result of this. 1,500 planning applications have been dealt with in the year and 700 houses have been built which has brought in additional council tax. Council tax for a D band property remains at £147.40. Restructuring and joint working with Waveney District Council has saved £210,000.

The electoral review of ward boundaries was discussed. This is Boundary Commission led. The number of district councillors is to be reduced from 55 to 42. The proposal for Great Bealings, Little Bealings and Woodbridge to be warded together is strongly opposed by MP Dr Dan Poulter. Little Bealings and Woodbridge Town Council also oppose this arrangement. It was **RESOLVED:**

- To inform the Boundary Commission that Great Bealings Parish Council oppose the idea of the villages being grouped with Woodbridge.

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## 8. Police Report

A police report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no crimes to report.

## 9. Neighbourhood Plan

### (i) Proposed Advisory Committee

The Chairman reported that under the standing orders the Parish Council can set up a sub committee/advisory committee which can include non-parish councillors. Councillors agreed that it might be more apposite and transparent if the NPWG which has been working for some time became a sub committee of the Parish Council. It was **RESOLVED**:

- To accept the formation of a sub committee called the Neighbourhood Development Plan Group. This would promote and further the work and production of the Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of the Parish Council. The Terms of Reference were adopted.

Members of the Group are currently Mr Charles Barrington, Mr James Firebrace and Mr Adrian Melrose as non-Parish Council members; Mr Chris Chestnut has also agreed to be co-opted. The two Parish Council reps are Mr Colin Hedgley and Mr Eric Barnett.

### (ii) HNS – Sunila Osborne & Gillian Benjamin

Mrs Sunila Osborne spoke on the Housing Needs Survey. This has been a success with an above average response to the questionnaire. 60% of residents responding were in favour of affordable housing. 9 people in total had expressed a need for affordable housing though the level of provision would be limited to 3-4 units. The procedures to be followed were also outlined. Mr Charles Barrington commented that the Neighbourhood Plan for Great Bealings should be a holistic plan. The policies which govern and control development would apply equally to any proposals that come forward.

Mrs Gillian Benjamin said a separate meeting would need to be held about the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire. This could be sent out before Easter with a response by mid May and analysis/processing in June/July. Mr Charles Barrington and James Firebrace have a draft document which has been circulated to a number of people and will be used on a trial run to parish councillors before going public. The development of the questionnaire is a lengthy process and Mr Charles Barrington emphasised that it must read positively, be understandable and flow. Mr Julian Haywood Smith said “as long as you get the right result”.

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Mr Martin Cripps was interested how it would be analysed. He reported that most people in the village don't want any development – “Aren't we in danger of opening ourselves up to more pressure?” Mr Charles Barrington reported that being classified as “Other Village” strictly controls and limits development. Mr Charles Barrington urged parish councillors to read SP28 in the Local Development Plan will obviously guide and govern development but the Neighbourhood Plan will supplement it and can include its own policies. The Plan's shelf life is 4 years. The chairman reported that the Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group would be meeting the following week. Mrs Sally Johnston was asked if she could take a look at the trees throughout the Parish for the Neighbourhood Plan and she said she would be happy to do this.

#### **10. Highways – Hasketon Road, Woodbridge Road & the Bund, Boot Street**

The condition of the stretch of road along Woodbridge Road is being dealt with. Residents concerned on Lower Street are happy with the revised cost for the bund - £1,000; the Parish Council will act as paymaster. Mr Derek Oldham will be pressed to expedite the work. A letter has been received from Andy and Eunice Mayhew with photos depicting the state of the verges along Hasketon Road and Hall Farm Road. They request it be re-seeded and kerbs should be provided at the corner. Clerk to liaise with SCC Saxmundham. Mr Martin Cripps reported large pot holes in the Grundisburgh Road.

#### **11. Planning Applications**

**DC/14/0516/FUL**

##### **Woodend, Grundisburgh Road, Great Bealings**

Erection of rear/side extensions, alterations to Lounge and formation of chimney including demolition of garage, formation of projecting brick plinth to existing dwelling, front extension to form Garage/Workshop and extension of gravel surface area to serve new Garage (re-submission of DC/13/3204/FUL).

The Chairman asked the applicant Mr Root to update the Parish Council on this proposal in particular its effect on the lime tree which had now been felled. Mr Root explained how he had intended to pollard the lime tree but new rules meant that he had no choice other than to take the tree down completely.

While the Councillors saw no reason to object to the works they decided that SCDC should be asked to impose a condition requiring the re-planting of a suitable specimen tree. They were saddened to see that the lime tree has been felled and were concerned that SCDC failed to consider properly our request to protect the tree when the original application was lodged in November 2013 (DC/13/3204/FUL). Tony Fryatt said he would look into why our request hadn't been followed up.

**12. Correspondence**

The Parish Council went into closed session to consider correspondence.

A letter has been received from MP Dr Dan Poulter opposing the warding of Great Bealings with Woodbridge. Councillors agreed to oppose this proposal too and write to the Boundary Commission expressing their views.

A consultation has been received on changes to VAT rules which could see the full taxation of public bodies and activities in the public interest. Although unlikely this could mean that the Parish Council would not be able to reclaim VAT. Councillors agreed to object to this proposal.

Councillor Colin Hedgley has agreed to join; with Tony Fryatt, the group of parishes including Charsfield, Clopton, Debach, Letheringham and Boulge which is seeking to become more pro active in taming speeding.

The Chairman read out correspondence from Mr Root. This letter commented and complained about Mr Paul Norrris’s involvement and behaviour during the felling of the lime tree at Woodend, Grundisburgh Road. After extensive questioning of Mr Norris about his actions and his discussion with the Arboriculturist employed by Mr Root the Parish Council concluded that they were satisfied with his conduct. They affirmed their support for him and after further consideration decided that Mr Root should be given the opportunity to withdraw his letter and also offer an apology to Mr Norris. It was agreed that the Chairman should draft a letter to Mr Root to that effect.

**13. Any Other Business**

Two dates for Parish Council meetings have been changed to the 8<sup>th</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> September

The meeting ended at 9.45pm

**Date of next meeting:** 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The Annual Parish Meeting shall commence at 7pm in the Angela Cobbold Hall. The Annual Parish Council Meeting will follow immediately after this.

The meeting ended at 9pm