



STUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2006

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30 pm

ACTION

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Mr Wraight of 12 Cattsfield regarding the letter he received requesting the removal of the barbed wire on his boundary fence, said that he felt the Council had treated him unreasonably. He explained that the fence had been installed to prevent people taking a short-cut across his land. The Chairman apologised for not having contacted him personally.

Mrs Simpson asked when the new bus timetables would be available. The Clerk said that these had just been received and would be distributed at the end of the meeting.

Mr Cook requested a letter be sent to Mr Page of Pond Farm, Tattingstone to thank him for cutting back his hedge.

Clerk

D/Cllr David Wood confirmed that transport to Oak House was still free for those who could not afford, or did not wish to pay for it, and any problems could be referred directly to him.

POLICE REPORT:

PC Garrod did not attend the meeting.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

District Councillor Wood reported that District Council had been working to resolve the gap left by the withdrawal of the First Eastern bus service at the end of the year. A new contract with Carters coaches would commence from 2nd January 2007 with a slightly revised timetable. It was also hoped that from April, the service might be extended to Manningtree.

The recently reported loss of Middle Schools would only affect the west of the county, but we may well benefit from the building of a 6th Form College in or around Ipswich.

A £22 Million shortfall in budget was undoubtedly going to affect Social Services and the poor and needy.

Several new Fire Stations are to be built to replace old and worn out stations in Ipswich, Hadleigh, Needham Market, Clare and Lowestoft.

Stutton will not have a dedicated PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) but will benefit from Babergh's Safer Communities Initiative.

D/Cllr Wood also wished to personally express his thanks to the former Clerk, Peggy Mitchell for all her help and assistance.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllrs Leach, Bales, Baxter, Fishwick, Kennell, Knight, Lusher, Watts and Wilson.

REGISTER OF INTERESTS:

None

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

The time of the site meeting at Mevagissey was amended to 9.30 am, and the word 'dent' was corrected under Matters Arising, after which the minutes were agreed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING:

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Babergh – Notice of meetings
2. Babergh – Dog Fouling Notices – **20 to be ordered** Clerk
3. Babergh – Tree Warden Scheme
4. Babergh – Register of Electors – **Order full register** Clerk
5. Babergh – Christmas Office Hours
6. Babergh – Parish Precept 2007/8 Form – **To be completed and returned** Clerk
7. Royal Mail – First Class People Award
8. Email – Scout Summer Camp
9. SCC – Rights of Way in Suffolk
10. Suffolk Coasts & Heaths – Connect Conservation Fund – Application Form
11. NALC – Town & Parish Councils White Paper

FOOTPATHS:

Footpath 38 is reported to be collapsing due to continued ploughing in same direction. Letter to be written to farmer Roger French, and owner John Suckling. Clerk

LIGHTING:

SCC have been observed checking condition of lights and lampposts in Cattsfield.

HIGHWAYS:

A letter was received from Suffolk Police concerning the hedge opposite the school. Their view was that the hedge could not be further cut back without affecting the integrity of the hedge, and that the hedge itself did not actually overhang the tarmaced section of road.

VILLAGE SHOP:

Next meeting of steering committee in Gardeners Arms on 6th January 2007, when the election of officers would take place, after which bank accounts and grants could be applied for.

It was emphasised that the steering committee had never had any intention of asking the Parish Council for any money towards the set-up costs.

PLANNING:

B/06/01808/FHA/MF – Mevagissey, Holbrook Road.

REFUSAL of permission recommended following site meeting, for erection of two-storey and single-storey side extensions and front porch, due to concerns of overdevelopment, proximity to fence, and blocking out natural light.

B/06/01760/FUL/RC – Gardener's Arms.

APPROVAL of permission recommended for erection of shed/barn with carport.

PLAY AREA:

A meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th December with the school representatives and a manufacturer of play equipment.

A rotted post was noted which is due to be repaired during the Christmas holidays.

Funding and grants are certainly available for a new play area, but these are dependent on a 10 or 15 year lease being in place. There is no more money available from the Parish Council apart from £400 which has already been set aside.

OAK HOUSE:

Babergh are waiting for a public enquiry on Footpath 37, as this was a pre-planning requirement that has not been complied with. It was felt by the Council that they were making no further progress in spite of the number of letters written.

VILLAGE PLAN:

A meeting was held on Thursday 30th November, where the Village Plan Committee was formed. Neil Mordey agreed to stand as Chairman. A Treasurer is still required. Cllrs Leach and Kennell will represent the Parish Council.

PARISH CLERK:

When a new Clerk's pay scale was published, it transpired that Peggy Mitchell had not been paid at the correct rate for over seven years. Cllr Baxter proposed and Cllr Lusher seconded a proposal that we back-pay her £567.35 (1st April 2006 to 30th November 2006) as recompense. This was approved.

Cllr Knight agreed to arrange a collection for Peggy to be presented at the next meeting on 8th January 2007.

Rik Bond, as incoming Clerk, has no use for the PC provided for Peggy 3 or 4 years ago, and would use his own equipment. The options available to the Parish Council include: selling it; storing it; giving it to the school to use; loaning / giving / selling it to Peggy Mitchell. The issue arose about the PC being listed as a Parish Council asset and the legality of whether it could be sold or given away. Further clarification on this matter will be sought from SALC before a decision is made.

**Clerk or
Vice
Chairman**

ANGLIAN WATER – SCOUT JAMBOREE:

This event celebrates 100 years of scouting, and the Splash 2007 event will be held at Alton Water over a seven day period involving up to 4000 scouts on each day. Cllr Kennell had spoken to the Scout Liaison Officer, and they are aware of the disruption this will cause, and are happy to come to a Parish Council meeting and discuss their logistical arrangements. It was agreed that they should be invited to the meeting in March.

Suffolk Police are aware of the event and signs will be put up to direct traffic.

Clerk

PRECEPT:

Cllr Bales presented the suggested precept figures for 2007/8, which have to be submitted to Babergh by 5th January 2007. The full figures are presented as Annex 1.

Cllr Bales proposed, Cllr Wilson seconded an increase from 2005/6 - £8300 to 2006/7 - £9000 with Section 137 Precept of £3465 totalling £12465. All agreed. The most significant increases relate to Clerk's Salary (back pay due to Peggy Mitchell) and Street Lighting (as cost to replace one lamppost approx £1000).

Clerk

ACCOUNTS:

November

Stutton Community Hall	£60.00
SALC – 2 x New Councillors' Training	£105.00
Bottle Bank (Income)	£80.92

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr Fishwick has a history of the village to be published on www.stutton.org.uk
Annual Parish Meeting to be booked for April, and Chairman to invite someone
from the Recycling Plant at Great Blakenham to give a talk.

Clerk
Clerk
Chairman

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 8th January 2007 – 7.30 pm Community Hall

Chairman:

Date: