



STUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th DECEMBER 2009

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30 pm. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman wished to offer his sincere condolences to the families of the two people tragically killed in a road traffic accident in the village on Saturday 5th December.

ACTION

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Two residents of neighbouring properties to land south of High Lodge, Church Road spoke of their concerns regarding the proposed development.

POLICE REPORT:

One crime was reported in the village during November. A car was broken into at the church car park and a Nintendo Wii stolen.

Generally, there has been a small increase in house burglaries. PC Austin advised extra vigilance with home security and reminded that crime prevention advice is freely available to all from the Police.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

David Wood reported that Babergh District Council is facing a £1.5m shortfall and is looking to save money whilst increasing income.

Car parking charges will be levied in Hadleigh, Sudbury and Lavenham.

Discretionary rate relief could be cut on village and church halls.

The Boundary Committee has made its recommendation for unitary local government for Suffolk to the Secretary of State. Further news will become available after Christmas.

Stutton is in the top three primary schools in the county for Key Stage 2 results.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllrs. Leach, Wilson, Fishwick, Kennell, Baxter, Masters, and Watts.

IN ATTENDANCE:

John Wesley – Clerk; PC Gary Austin; District Councillor David Wood; 9 members of the public.

219/PC/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor Paul Lusher

220/PC/09 REGISTER OF INTERESTS:

Councillors Watts & Kennell – Planning considerations B/09/01249/FUL and B/09/01391/FHA respectively

221/PC/09 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

222/PC/09 MATTERS ARISING:

The hedge obscuring the school sign has been cut back.
The phone box is still working. Chris Foti, Babergh - Head of Community Development will object to BT on our behalf, regarding new proposals from BT to remove it.

223/PC/09 CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Safer Neighbourhoods Police report – October & November 2009 (Circ)
2. Babergh DC – New C.A.B. kiosk at Hadleigh offices (Circ)
3. Babergh DC – Affordable housing newsletter (Circ)
4. Babergh DC – Copy of letter regarding review of planning procedures (Circ)
5. Environment Agency – Planned vegetation clearance on sea walls fronting RHS (Circ).
6. Dept. for Communities and Local Govt. – War memorials and penalties for vandalism. (Circ)
7. Suffolk County Council – Mobile library timetable (Notice Board)
8. Freston Parish Council – request for meeting to discuss problems at Freston X roads (actioned)
9. East Babergh Safer Neighbourhood Team – Notice of public meeting, 15th December, Pinewood Community Centre (Circ)
10. Stutton Community Hall Secretary – Letter of thanks for support and proposed future spending plans.
11. Stutton Seals Playgroup – Request for grant.
12. B Girling/A Bouttell – Copy of letter to Oak House proposing to reduce trees in height at rear of No. 7 Cattsfild.
13. Mrs Bailey, Rosevine House – Re. Planning application B/09/01249

Chairman

224/PC/09 FOOTPATHS:

The lid of the dog waste bin outside the Gardeners Arms is broken. Clerk to arrange repair or replacement.

Clerk

225/PC/09 LIGHTING:

None

226/PC/09 HIGHWAYS:

Councillor Baxter noted that the wall outside Barley Cottage has been knocked down. This is the seventh incident in seven years. There is no pedestrian walkway and is a very dangerous stretch of road.

227/PC/09 PLANNING:

Considerations:

B/09/011319/FHA – Stanton House, Manningtree Road Stutton

Erection of garden shed.

No objections raised, recommend approval.

B/09/01391/FHA – Grove Lodge, Lower Street Stutton

Construction of tennis court and erection of green chain link enclosure.

No objections raised, recommend approval, with the comment that a separate application should be made if in future, floodlighting is required.

B/09/01249/FUL – Land south of High Lodge, Church Lane Stutton

Erection of two-storey detached dwelling, detached garage and vehicular access
After listening to concerns from neighbouring residents, councillors decided to make a site visit on Saturday 12th December at 10am.

Babergh Planning committee will also be requested to make their own site visit.

This will be done via David Wood/ Trot Ward. Clerk to action.

Clerk

Decisions from Babergh District Council:

B/09/01054/FHA Ty y Tarw – Enlargement of existing rear dormer and balcony – permission granted.

B/09/00667/LBC Stutton Hall – Sundial restoration – listed building consent granted.

228/PC/09 PLAY AREA:

A meeting will be held with the school play area committee on 16th December.

Suffolk County Council has advised the committee to apply for money to purchase an item of multi-ability equipment.

It is also possible that additional S106 funds could be available.

The new bark is reported to be very successful.

229/PC/09 OAK HOUSE:

The Chairman has held two meetings with Nick Ward (Babergh) and John Goodyear (SCC). Babergh are adamant that there is no money available from them towards the footpath project.

Quotes for the brick wall have been obtained from local builders, ranging £6k - £11k.

David Wood has pledged a minimum £2k from his budget.

Provided Housing 21 and Suffolk County Council keep their promise of funding, this would leave a shortfall of £4.5k, required from the Parish Council.

After discussion, councillors voted unanimously to allocate a maximum of £4.5k from Parish Council reserves.

Hopefully, the full amount will not be required but whilst being extremely disappointed by the lack of funding from Babergh, it was recognised by all that unless this decision is taken, the opportunity to build the footpath will be lost.

230/PC/09 VILLAGE PLAN:

The Council voted unanimously to adopt the village plan.

Printed copies will be made available to residents on request.

A presentation of the plan combined with a neighbourhood watch meeting will be held on 26th January 2010.

The Council wish to note their gratitude to the committee for their hard work in producing the plan.

231/PC/09 COMMUNITY HALL:

New aluminium doors for the front lobby have been ordered.

The new storage heaters have shown a great improvement.

Clerk to investigate possibility of S106 money being made available for disability access ramp.

Clerk

232/PC/09 CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING:

Trees can be left at the Community Hall in a designated area over the weekend of 9th & 10th January. Collection Monday 11th January.

233/PC/09 ITEMS FOR STORING IN COUNTY ARCHIVE:

It was agreed that old Parish Council meeting minute books (up to 1990) should be stored in the Suffolk County Archive.

234/PC/09 2010/11 PRECEPT:

The Clerk presented estimated figures for expenditure in 2010/11.

Requests for funding donations were received from Stutton Seals playgroup and the Community Hall committee.

After discussion, it was agreed to request further information from the playgroup before deciding on their request.

Clerk

Councillors recognise that the economic climate remains difficult for residents and businesses in the parish. However, the precept has not increased over the past two years and whilst the Parish Council's share of the Oak House footpath project can be initially funded from reserves, these will need to be replenished. The Council voted in favour of increasing the precept for 2010/11 to £11000.

235/PC/09 ACCOUNTS:

Payments:

Clerk: Salary £309.42, postage £0.60, Broadband £25.00, Total £335.02 (chq 881).

236/PC/09 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

Village Plan action points

237/PC/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 4th January 2010, 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman:.....

Date:.....