

Edingale Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting commencing 7.30pm, Monday 11th July 2011 at the Village Hall, Edingale.

Present;

Cllrs J. Stonehouse (Chair) M. Cliffe, H. Dhillon, J. Lacey, J. Startin & C. Wesley.

In Attendance;

District Councillor Sue Arnold.
Mr Ray Smythe, Clerk.

Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

Cllr J. Startin and Cllr S. Arnold were welcomed to the meeting.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr N. Mason MBE.

2 Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items.

There were no declarations.

3 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th June 2011.

Approval of the minutes was proposed, seconded and agreed.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes.

Cllr J. Startin reported that he would prefer to be replaced as the Village Hall representative. Cllr J. Lacey volunteered and was duly appointed.

5 Planning.

Applications for Consideration

11/600 - The Barn, Edingale Fields Farm, Lullington Road, Edingale - The painting of exterior woodwork of existing property to cream colour.

No objection.

Applications Approved by the District Council.
There were no reports.

6 Councillors' Reports.

Cllr C. Wesley. Overhanging trees on the A513 were still causing a problem for farmers and the harvest was due. It was agreed to check with the County Council.

Cllr S. Dhillon. It was agreed to update the Council noticeboard.
The next Village Hall Meeting was on Wednesday 13th July. At 7.30pm.
There had not been any reports of anti-social behaviour.
The Village Hall had applied to the Big Lottery for funding for refurbishment.

Cllr M. Cliffe. It was agreed to ask Greenlands to attend to the weeds in Moores Croft.

Cllr J. Stonehouse. It was agreed to repair or remove the damaged bench in Croxall Road.
It was agreed to check on the signs at Croxall Hall and Blakeways Close.
There had been discussions about the provision of bus services in the area but as yet, no decisions.

It was agreed to investigate the viability of installing a skateboard ramp, which a resident had discussed donating to the village.

It was agreed to undertake a Land Registry search on the Village Hall.

It was agreed to discuss the options with the Village Sign at the next meeting.

The Harlaston Footbridge was closed for safety reasons and would be assessed for repairs by the County Council in due course.

It was hoped to put some photographs of local gardens on the website.

Owing to the lack of space on the noticeboard, it was agreed to reduce the four page abridged minutes to a single page of bullet points and to indicate that the full minutes could be viewed on the website.

7 Clerk's Report.

The Clerk's Report was noted with the following additional comment.

Following an audit request to explain the reasons for the high amount of reserves, it was agreed to consider the matter further.

8 Best Kept Village - Current position and developments.

There were no developments.

9 Village Hall

Consideration of action concerning anti-social behaviour on the field.

It was reported that there has not been any instances since the last meeting and it was

agree to keep the situation under review and to monitor the situation.

- 10 Management of the hedge on Council owned land at Blakeways Close, Edingale and consideration of quote for maintenance.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to accept the quote for £640.00. It was hoped to reclaim the cost under the Lengthsman scheme and that in future, maintenance would be easier and less costly. It was also agreed to inform all the relevant residents of the plans.

- 11 Review of financial and banking arrangements and initial consideration of the factors affecting the 2012-13 precept.

Consideration of donation of scanner to R. Catmur.

As the scanner was obsolete and incompatible with existing equipment, it was proposed, seconded and agreed to donate the scanner.

Consideration of maintenance and purpose of funds held on deposit.

No decision was taken at this point.

There was an initial discussion about the factors affecting the precept and it was agreed to discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

- 12 Consideration of support or not for a proposal from Leiston Town Council regarding planning arrangements for Parish and Town Councils.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to support the proposal.

- 13 Consideration of the position with the "Village Sign" and any further action.

It was agreed to report on the known position and consider the matter at the next meeting.

- 14 Correspondence.

Incoming.

The list of incoming post was noted.

Outgoing.

The list of outgoing post was noted.

- 15 Accounts for Payment.

The payments totalling £1,662.69, listed in Appendix A, were presented for authorisation. Authority to pay was proposed by Cllr C. Wesley, seconded by Cllr S. Dhillon and agreed. The Council noted income of £18.05 (Bank Interest).

16 Items for Information and Future Agendas.

Agenda - Christmas Lights.

Agenda - the Smartwater marking system.

17 Date of Next Meeting.

The date was agreed as 8th August 2011. Cllr Stonehouse declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm and thanked those present for their attendance.

Edingale Parish Council

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Clerk's Report - July 2011

1. Agenda for Next Meeting.

The agenda for the August meeting will be printed on 1st August. If any matter is required to be included, could I please be informed by then.

2. Future Meetings & Events - Provisional List.

11th July - Parish Council Meeting
8th August - Parish Council Meeting
22nd August - Neighbourhood Highway Team
12th September - Parish Council Meeting
10th October - Parish Council Meeting
14th November - Parish Council Meeting
Sunday 13th November - Remembrance Day
12th December - Parish Council Meeting
19th December - Neighbourhood Highway Team
9th January 2012 - Parish Council Meeting / Precept
13th February - Parish Council Meeting
12th March - Parish Council Meeting
2nd April - Annual Parish Meeting / Parish Council Meeting
14th May - Annual General Meeting
11th June - Parish Council Meeting

2. Election Expenses.

Lichfield District Council has sent a reminder that the three remaining Councillors that stood for election and have not yet submitted their election expense forms to the Returning Officer, should do as soon as possible.

The duty for this lies solely with the Councillor and cannot be completed by a third party. (Section 90c Representation of the People Act 1983).

4. Bromford Housing.

I have the contact details for the Liaison Officer for Bromford Housing. If there are any specific issues that need to be reported, please let me know and I will keep a record and report the matters to Bromford.

As at 7th June, there were no reported anti-social behaviour issues with 27 Croxall Road. Bromford Housing is aware of the untidy nature of the garden and is installing a fence to improve the appearance of the garden.

5. Financial Issues.

5.1 At the present time, the Council banks with NatWest. Perhaps the Council might wish to consider the arrangements.

On a deposit of £100,000 annually, NatWest pays £180 interest. The Bank of Ireland would pay £2,100.

Also, at the present time, the Council's funds are not covered by the FSA indemnity. If the deposit was held at the Bank of Ireland, it would be covered by a guarantee from the Irish Government.

Online banking and Post Office facilities are available.

5.2 There is some VAT outstanding from the 2010-11 financial year and this will be reclaimed shortly. I am having to go through all transactions for the 10-11 financial year and it is time consuming.

5.3 I have registered the Council as an employer with HMRC.

5.4 Roy Catmur has informed me that he has a scanner that the Council bought. He has offered to purchase the scanner from the Council.

5.5 A query was received from the Audit Commission about the high amount of reserves that the Council holds. This has been asked and answered before. The lack of purpose for the funds may become a point of contention with the Audit Commission at some point and perhaps the Council might wish to consider ring fencing some of the funds for a future capital project.

6. Traffic Issues.

6.1 The Neighbourhood Highway Team will be in the area on 22nd August and 19th December. If there are any tasks that you would like attended to, please let me know.

6.2 This is the reply from Mrs Julie Bullous about the parking at the school.

“Thank you for your letter. Parking outside the school is an issue which we regularly address through our weekly newsletter and I will remind parents again to consider other road users.

PCSO Costas Gourda is also regularly in and around the village, I will ask him to have a look at the problem.

The children have all completed road safety walks and made posters about road safety, which they were encouraged to discuss with their parents.

Other than these measures, there is very little else available for us to do, however, should you think of something, please let us know.”

7. Public Sector Mapping

The Council is registered with Ordnance Survey under the Public Sector Mapping Agreement. This allows access to map data online, CD or DVD. Mapping data can show anything from one building to a national view. All at a cost and dependent upon the level and amount of detail requested. Registration is free.

8. Training.

8.1 From the SPCA.....Skills Training Courses - 2011

Please find attached the training programme for the above series of seminars. All the courses start at 7.00pm and finish at 9.00pm. The dates, venues and subjects are as follows:

Module 1 - Tuesday 28 June - "Chairing A Meeting"- Room 3, Peel Building, St.Chads Place, Stafford ST16 2LR

Module 2 - Tuesday 5 July - "Professional Conduct" - Rooms 9/10, Peel Building, St.Chads Place, Stafford ST16 2LR

Module 3 - Tuesday 12 July - ""The Public and The Media" - Rooms 9/10, Peel Building, St.Chads Place, Stafford ST16 2LR

Module 4 - Tuesday 19 July - "Conduct and Other Challenging Issues" - White Room, County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford ST16 2LH

Module 5 -Tuesday 26 July - "Chairing A Difficult Meeting" - Rooms 9/10, Peel Building, St.Chads Place, Stafford ST16 2LR

The cost of the courses for affiliated members are: £20 for the first delegate from the same council, £15.00 for the second and £10.00 for additional delegates. The prices are doubled for unaffiliated councils.

7.2 If any Councillor has undertaken, or wants to undertake any training, could you please let me know.

9. Police.

I have sent the information and the minutes to PC Allsopp and he is going to keep the Council aware of developments.

10. Blakeways Hedge.

I have informed Mrs Wilde about the proposed work.

A quote of £640.00 has been received from Greenlands. Assuming the Council accepts the quote, I will liaise with the contractor and the residents about the proposed work.

11. Miscellaneous.

11.1 I emailed the Good Councillors Guide to Cllrs Dhillon, Lacey and Stonehouse on 8th June.

11.2 If any other Councillor has an email address that can be used, could it be passed on please.

11.3 The River Tame Flood Risk Management Strategy has been finalised and is available for public viewing.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/130017.aspx

11.4 "Staffordshire Cares" was introduced on 13th June. It is aimed to help people to lead fulfilling, healthier and more independent lives. Information is available on www.staffordshirecares.info.

11.5 Edingale Council is registered with Ordnance Survey as part of the Public Sector Mapping

Agreement.

11.6 Leiston Town Council Proposal.

The following is the text of a request for support. The matter is on the agenda. If any further information is required, please let me know.

An opportunity has come up regarding a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act that would help Parish and Town Councils. I am writing to you to ask that your council please add their support to this proposal.

Leiston Town Council have drafted the proposal. It is all about why the campaign for the Sustainable Communities Act was originally started - ending 'Ghost Town Britain' and empowering local people. Leiston face a Tesco application and their proposal is generic and a very reasonable suggestion to amend planning policy and guidance in a way that would help locally elected decision makers. In summary, the proposal is to require applicants of major developments to

- attend a meeting of the local Town or Parish Council, or of a duly called Town Meeting, to answer questions on the application for development; and
- fund the council or duly called town meeting to commission an independent report on the application and critique of any reports that the applicant has submitted in support of the application for development.

The rationale being that local elected representatives and local people should be making their decision on whether an application should go ahead based on the best evidence, and this would help ensure that evidence was available. I have pasted full proposal and rationale.

I would appreciate if you could let me know if your council supports this proposal as soon as possible. This is an urgent matter as Leiston Town Council are trying to push for the Minister to give a response within a month as any later and it will not effect the application. A number of leading organisations of Local Works, the coalition that campaigned for the Sustainable Communities Act to become law, also support the proposal.

Yours sincerely, Steve Shaw

Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council, Proposal Pursuant to the Sustainable Communities Acts 2007 and 2010

Introduction/urgency

This proposal is designed to apply to all large planning applications that the Town Council thinks will have a significant impact on our town. There is currently an application to which we would like this to apply - hence our request for an urgent decision. This application (from Tesco Ltd) arouses strong feelings in the Town. But there is one issue on which both the 'antis' and the 'pros' agree: it will have a significant impact on Leiston. Some say that will be a bad impact: others say it will be for the good.

We have to make up our minds on our response by reading the application, listening to both sides, assessing any other evidence we can gather and in the end using our judgement. This proposal is to help us get as much evidence as possible on which to base our final judgement.

The Resolution passed by the Town Council on 7th June 2011

We ask the current Minister at the Department of Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark MP) to make the following planning policy/guidance to apply to large planning applications in the area of a Town or Parish Council

1. That any applicant or representatives of any applicant who submits such an application that will have a significant effect on an area must, if requested by the Town or Parish Council attend a meeting of

- (i) that Council to answer questions from elected councillors; and
- (ii) a Town Meeting, should one be duly called, to answer questions from all electors.

2. That any applicant who submits such an application that will have a significant effect on an area must, if requested by the Town or Parish Council, or a Town Meeting, pay for the Council or Meeting to get an independent assessment carried out as to how the proposed development will affect the sustainability of the local communities.

2A. That if we agree the above or either of the above that we communicate this to Suffolk Coastal District Council with the request that they delay determination of the Tesco application for a reasonable amount of time to enable us to act on this proposal and to get a decision from the Minister.

3. And if we agree 1 and 2 above, we seek the support of other Town and Parish Councils.
Rationale

Re Proposal 1 above. The current application referred to above is about 10 inches thick running into thousands of pages with numerous specialist reports from consultants. Some of our councillors have read some of it; they will have many questions. As a Town Council we need them answered to enable us to make our best judgement. There is no way that this can be done by letter or email., It is reasonable, and indeed necessary to enable us to make the best judgment (whichever way that judgement goes), to seek the right, using the SCA, for us to require any such applicant to attend our meeting.

Re Proposal 2 above. The current applicant, to which we refer above, has spent hundreds of thousands of pounds on this application. The consultants they have used do not come cheap! Inevitably their evidence supports the application: there is nothing wrong or improper in that. But there may be other views that 'other' consultants may take. Indeed, we need an alternative view, or even a 'critique', so we can make the best decision based on a fair weight of evidence from both sides. There is no way we can afford this amount of money. The current applicants have spent hundreds of thousands of pounds presenting their case; they will almost certainly have budgeted for an appeal if one should be necessary. They are going to significantly affect our town. It is reasonable that they pay what will be a far smaller amount (perhaps circa £25,000) to enable us to get evidence to carry out our quasi-legal duty regarding assessing this application. There is no way that we can afford to pay for this ourselves.

Re Proposal 2A above. This is a reasonable request to enable us to get more information and to involve our electors. We have checked with the Planning Officer - it is not against the law for this reasonable delay to be agreed - but it is more likely to be so if the process that we have requested in place, as this would give the local planning authority a good reason to postpone their decision.