

STOKE BY NAYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 19th February 2013 in the Village Hall, at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Oakes (Chairman), Mr. Cook, Mrs. Klimowicz, Miss Reece, Mr. Sedgwick, Mr. Shrosbery, Mr. Slater, Mrs. Smith and the Clerk.

Also in attendance: three members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence – Mrs. Ennew-Hayter.

2. Granting of Dispensation – Councillors RESOLVED to award the Clerk the delegated power (*under LGA 1972 S101(1)(A)*) to grant a dispensation to Councillors where the Council would be inquorate following the declaration of pecuniary interests.

3. Declarations of Interest – all Councillors declared a pecuniary interest in item 5 as residents of the parish. It was noted that following legislative changes outlined in NALC's Legal Topic Note 80 paragraph 34, the setting of the precept could be considered a prejudicial interest.

4. Dispensation Request – all Councillors had signed a request for dispensation to discuss, participate and vote on the setting of the precept for their remaining term of office. This is requested on the grounds that without such dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in this business would be so great a proportion of the Council as to impede its transaction and was awarded by the Clerk under delegated powers.

5. 2013/2014 Precept – the precept agreed at the meeting of January 15th 2013 was reconsidered in light of new information from Babergh District Council received 8th February. This highlighted the implication of the 2013/14 figure on future years' precept levels if the government brought in legislation to trigger a referendum when Parish Council precepts were increased above a set percentage. The Clerk outlined the 3 options given by BDC:

Option 1 - a total of £11,000: £10,059 precept + £941 grant. (Band D Council tax £35.05)

Option 2 - £11,000 precept + £941 grant. (Band D Council tax £38.33)

Option 3 - £11,000 precept and not request the discretionary grant (Band D Council tax £38.33)

After discussion, it was RESOLVED by a vote of 5 to 3 to take option 2. **Action** – Clerk to inform Babergh District Council and to write short piece for Community Newsletter to explain the decision taken.

6. Middle School Site – since the January meeting SCC had sent a letter to all residents explaining that a private school had made enquiries about the site requesting comments. The Parish Council discussed its view and agreed the following points:

- i. The prospect of a continued educational use was welcomed in principle
- ii. SCC should be asked to reveal the identity of the potential purchaser
- iii. The recognition by SCC of the possibility of some of the site being available for community housing was welcomed

- iv. There was a need for the Parish Council and Lady Anne Windsor Charity to have an option on a site for housing to allow time to work up plans
- v. Babergh DC to be asked for advice on the housing need of the village
- vi. Any new social housing should be controlled by the Lady Anne Windsor Charity or a local equivalent
- vii. There was a need for a high standard of design
- viii. The Parish Council was willing to work with the Lady Anne Windsor Charity and anyone else willing to help develop properties to meet the village needs
- ix. SCC to be asked to recognise the community purpose of the plans and adjust the terms of the sale of the land accordingly
- x. If the educational use of the site fell through, the Parish Council would support minimal density housing on the part of the site not required for community housing purposes or a mixed residential / employment development

The Clerk read out a letter, received that evening, from the Headteacher at Stoke by Nayland Primary School which contained concerns about the affect of a private school on the primary school.

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow representative of the Lady Anne Windsor Charity to speak. Mrs. Bosman explained that the Chairman of the Almshouses Association would be advising on what could be achieved on the site.

The Chairman had been informed that the Schoolmasters House shared its water supply with the Middle School and that the occupiers had not been advised by SCC on how this would be affected by the closure of the school.

It was agreed that a group of Councillors would be required to progress the project, including contact with architects, developers and financial sources such as a loan from the public works loan board. Mr. Cook, Mr. Shrosbery, Mr. Slater, Mr. Sedgwick and the Chairman agreed to take this forward. **Action** - The Chairman and Mr. Sedgwick would place an item in the Community Newsletter.

7. Other Business

- i. Path behind the Primary School - Mrs. Klimowicz reported that SCC would be willing to adopt the path if it met the required specification which included it being 1.2m wide with an edging to allow it to be used by mobility scooters.
- ii. Scotland Street sewerage pipe replacement – the Chairman had been informed by Anglian Water that a new pipe would be laid under the quoits field and field behind properties and therefore disruption to road users would be minimised. The work was due to start in May and be complete by August.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m

Chairman