

# STOKE BY NAYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 in the Village Hall, at 7.30 p.m.

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

**Also in attendance:** PCSO Coleman, District Councillor Cave and County Councillor Finch (until after item 8) and three members of the public.

**1. Apologies for Absence** – Mr. Cook, Mrs. Ennew-Hayter and Mr. Slater

**2. Declarations of Interest** – Mrs. Klimowicz declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 12(e) as a member of the Recreation Ground Committee.

**3. Public Forum** – three members of the public were present to raise the ongoing issue of sewage overflows and particularly the most recent incident on December 15<sup>th</sup> when sewage escaped onto a resident's patio area. Anglian Water were called and attended promptly to rod the system. Large deposits of fat were evident when the manhole cover by the village hall was lifted. **Action** - The Clerk to contact Anglian Water to thank them for their prompt action but to request information about what maintenance had been carried out during the last 6 months as regular jetting of the system had been promised. Mr. Cave agreed to speak to BDC Environmental Health officer with regard to checking the fat disposal procedures being carried out by the Angel and the Crown Inns.

**4. Minutes** - the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

### **5. Matters arising from Minutes**

(a) Land behind 19 Crossfields – Mr. Cave reported that BDC classed this area as informal open space and had no management plan for it, including any work to the trees to allow more light into neighbouring gardens. He thought that there currently was no rubbish on the site. **Action** – Mrs. Klimowicz and Mr. Cave to visit the site to decide whether any action was required.

#### (b) The Downs

i. *Sycamore Stump* – Councillors considered whether to allow the stump to resprout and cut down each year or to level and poison the stump. **RESOLVED** to level and poison the stump. **Action** – Mr. Sedgwick to organise.

ii. *Clearance Work* – Mr. Sedgwick reported that SCC was willing to cut the overgrown area by the road opposite Down House and to add it to their cutting schedule.

iii. *Lady Anne Windsor Trust* - a letter had been received requesting that the Parish Council improve the condition of the path linking the village green with the almshouses as the Lady Anne Windsor Trust considered that it presented a safety risk. **Action** – Mrs. Klimowicz to look into whether funding for this would be available from 'Paths 4 Communities'.

iv. *Moles* – the Clerk had organised for these to be dealt with

**6. Police** – PCSO Coleman reported on 6 crimes since the previous meeting and the speed check in Thorington Street in November. She had spoken to Rix Farms informing them that lorries must not be directed through the weight restriction area.

**7. County Councillor's Report** – Mr. Finch had previously circulated his report. He informed the meeting that the decision to close the A12 central reservation gap at

Hughes Corner had been taken and work was to be carried out in the Spring. Mr. Shrosbery reported that the hedgerows had not received an effective cut back this year. Mr. Finch replied that hedgerow maintenance was only done once a year but would look into why an insufficient depth of the hedges had been cut.

**8. Middle School Site** – Mr. Sedgwick had circulated his report from the meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup> which he and Mr. Slater had attended with SCC, planners from BDC and the Lady Anne Windsor Trust. He said that SCC would be looking to get the highest value for the site if alternative educational or community uses were not found. BDC were not currently proactive about the site's future; planning controls, however, would be used so that it was unlikely that the playing field outside the designated built up area would be built on. Mr. Finch stressed that the purpose of the meeting had been to share thoughts between the different interested parties. He would produce a formal article about the site from SCC for publication in the Community newsletter. The Chairman and Mrs. Klimowicz pointed out that many residents had voiced concerns about the future of the site and it was decided that the Parish Council would also place an informative item in the newsletter.

**9. District Councillor's Report** – Mr. Cave had sent a report containing the vision statements that had been agreed following the Community Engagement exercise. The Clerk would circulate this to Councillors. Mr. Cave also reported that integration of staff between the two District Councils would be completed by the end of April.

#### **10. Chairman's Report**

- (a) Suffolk Village of the Year – the Chairman reported that Mrs. Klimowicz, Mr. Shrosbery and the Clerk had attended the presentation ceremony on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The plaque and certificate received were displayed in the Village Hall committee room.
- (b) Annual Parish Meeting – consideration should be given to asking a speaker to the meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ideas to be brought to the March meeting.

#### **11. Clerk's Report**

- (a) Village Lock-up - the Clerk raised the issue of maintenance of the village lock-up situated on the edge of the churchyard in School Street. She reported that it was not listed as a Parish Council asset but it was unclear whether responsibility for it lay with the Parish Council or the PCC. Mrs. Klimowicz thought that previous work to it had been carried out around 25 years ago instigated and funded by the Parish Council. **Action** – the Clerk to contact NALC for advice on the ownership of the lock-up and if necessary to visit the Suffolk Records Office to examine past minutes.
- (b) Bins - the new bin near the war memorial had been installed and that the dog bin in Scotland Street had been moved to Park Road. Mrs. Klimowicz added that the Recreation Ground Committee felt that the bin on the fence of the play area was not well used but should remain in place.
- (c) Grit Bins – 3 new wooden grit bins were now in place and the £450 cost had been covered by the locality budget from SCC. The Clerk reported that a further £321 locality budget was available but would be lost unless spent by March. **RESOLVED** to purchase two further bins, one to be placed on the site of BT telephone box at The Blundens when it is removed and the other for either Clipt Bush Corner or at the bottom of School Street.
- (d) Website – the Clerk had attended a training session at SALC and had since set up a new website. This currently contained only Parish Council information but could be extended into a village website if required.

**12. Blundens bus shelter** – the bus shelter was completed in December. Mrs.

Klimowicz read a letter of appreciation for the new shelter from a resident and reported that three trees would be planted in the spring by BDC. The Clerk had chased BT for a date for the removal of the telephone box but had been told that this would not be done soon as problems with contractors had pushed work behind schedule.

**13. Village of the Year** - The Parish Council considered what to use the £200 prize money for. Mr. Shrosbery suggested the purchase of an annually awarded Community Cup. This idea was not supported and the decision was deferred to a future meeting.

#### **14. Financial Matters**

(a) Invoices paid since last meeting - the Parish Council noted the following:

Ray Slack (new grit bins)	£450.00
Glasdon UK Ltd (new bin)	£304.41
Chris Mortimer Grounds Maintenance (work to bins)	£168.00

(b) Invoices to be paid –

SALC (training)	£54.00
B. Philbidge salary and expenses Nov and Dec 2012	£603.03
Ray Chisnall (bus shelter)	£4776.00

RESOLVED that the accounts be paid.

(c) Financial Statement - the Financial Statement as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 was noted.

(d) Precept 2013/2014 — the proposed budget was agreed. RESOLVED that application be made to Babergh District Council for a precept of £11,000 to be paid in two equal instalments to meet the expenses payable by the Parish Council.

(e) Section 106 Funds - £1155 was available to the Parish. The Clerk had been informed by BDC that the funds could not be used to purchase a bird hide as it was considered that bird watching was a specialist pastime. Mrs. Klimowicz presented a proposal from the Recreation Ground Committee to spend the funds to purchase and install one piece of adult exercise equipment. RESOLVED to request that the Recreation Ground Committee first seek grant funding from an alternative source to purchase a number of pieces of equipment but to return to the Parish Council if unsuccessful.

**15. Electricity Supply Interruptions** – Councillors stated that since October electricity supply interruptions had occurred at least once a month. **Action** – the Clerk to contact E.ON to ask what was causing this and to report that residents were experiencing disruption and damage to equipment.

**16. Litter Picking** – Mr. Sedgwick reported on the litter picking session on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Two further sessions in February and March were planned.

#### **17. Reports from Representatives**

(a) Planning Committee – the Clerk would circulate the minutes of the January and December meetings

(b) Traffic Working Party – Mrs. Klimowicz reported that the Recreation Ground Committee was willing to look favourably on the proposal to create a passing space between Blundens Corner and Clipt Bush Corner using land from the Recreation Ground. The owner of the orchard on the opposite side of the road

was also prepared to speak with SCC about this. Mrs. Klimowicz also reported that at a meeting about the closure of the central reservation at three A12 junctions including Hughes Corner, SCC had mentioned the possibility of extending the weight limit through Stoke by Nayland back to the A12; SCC would look into this.

- (c) Streetlight Working Party – due to meet with Mr. Finch later in the week.
- (d) Footpaths – Mr. Shrosbery had arranged to meet with SCC to identify missing signs and a damaged stile. Mr. Shrosbery, Mrs. Ennew-Hayter, and Mr. Slater were working towards producing a 3 mile footpath route together with a leaflet.

#### **18. Correspondence**

- (a) SALC – notification of potential changes to tax base due to changes to Council tax support arrangements – discussed during item 12(d).

#### **19. Babergh DC and Suffolk CC Matters**

- (a) Scotland Street road closure for bridge replacement – 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Feb and 29<sup>th</sup> April – 6<sup>th</sup> June – Clerk to check what each road closure was for.

**20. Community Newsletter** – items to be included were the Middle School site, dumping of rubbish, sewerage and electricity supply issues and the closure of Hughes Corner exit from the A12 – **Action** – UO/ ASe/ VK/ Clerk.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m

Chairman