

STOKE BY NAYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 10th September 2013 in the Village Hall, at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Ennew-Hayter (until item 11), Mrs. Oakes (Chairman), Miss Reece, Mr. Sedgwick, Mr. Shrosbery, Mrs. Smith and the Clerk.

Also in attendance: District Councillor Cave, County Councillor Finch (until item 4), PCSO Bignell and 2 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence - Mrs. Klimowicz and Mr. Slater.

2. Declarations of Interest – none declared

3. Public Forum - Mrs. Bosman and Mr. Lightfoot had attended to speak about the Parish Council's proposal to discontinue street lighting in the parish. Mrs. Bosman suggested that a final decision should be delayed in order to assess the need for lighting in the winter months. Mr. Lightfoot suggested that individual residents should be able to finance particular street lights if they wished for them to remain. He also questioned the Parish Council's suggestion that crime levels were reduced by the removal of lighting.

4. County Councillor's Report - Mr. Finch had circulated a report prior to the meeting. This included details of highway resurfacing in the area, the Focus School which had opened on the Middle School Site, educational standards and apprenticeships as well as National Grid's consultation and the traffic working party public meeting to be held on September 16th.

5. Streetlighting – Mr. Sedgwick spoke about the public meeting held on the 13th August. Two main concerns had emerged:

- Road safety, particularly around Blundens Corner
- Social cohesion if access from the Sudbury Road, Blundens and Butt Road area to the centre of the village was affected by reduced lighting

It was RESOLVED that further advice would be sought regarding the effect on road safety of removing street lighting. It was also agreed that consideration should be given to starting a voluntary 'We'll Help' type service to offer lifts to and from events and amenities in the village centre. It was noted that letters had been received both for and against the removal of street lighting – the Clerk was asked to reply to these. Mr. Cook felt that consideration should be given to lighting the B1068 through the village centre.

6. Minutes - the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. Matters arising from Minutes

- (a) The Downs Footpath - Mr. Slater had spoken to the Estate regarding the overhanging branches which had been removed. The Chairman would speak again to request that the brambles and nettles above the path be cleared and that the sycamore stump be removed. Action - UO
- (b) Condition of assets – Tony Klimowicz had sanded the seat in the bus shelter – the Parish Council thanked him for this. A conservation architect had examined the well-housing and lock-up as part of an inspection of the church. The well-housing had

been secured following the inspection and a report was expected to follow.

- (c) The Blundens – the BT kiosk had been removed and a wooden grit bin installed in its place. The Parish Council extended its thanks to Tracey Clark and the Days for watering the new trees during the summer.

8. Financial Matters

- (a) Invoices - The Council noted that the following had been paid since the last meeting:-

BDO LLP (audit fee)	£120.00
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The Clerk reported that the following invoices had been received:-

Chris Mortimer Grounds Maintenance (2 cuts, work to footpaths)	£330.00
B. Philbidge salary and expenses July and August 2013	£581.35
V. Klimowicz (reimburse cost of paper)	£5.50
Village Hall rental	£50.00
A. Sedgwick (reimburse cost of display boards)	£72.00

RESOLVED that the accounts be paid.

- (b) Audit of Accounts for the Financial Year Ended March 31st 2013 - the Clerk reported that the completed Annual Return had been received from the auditors and that no issues had been raised. The Parish Council accepted the Return.

- (c) Financial Statement as at 31st August 2013 – noted

- (d) Village Amenities Insurance – Mr. Cook suggested that the Parish Council and other village organisations such as the Recreation Ground Committee and Community Woodland group arrange for joint insurance cover which may result in reduced premiums. Mr. Shrosbery reported that he had spoken to ACRE regarding this and did not think it was possible unless common insurable interests existed. Mr Cook thought that in the case of the Recreation Ground Committee this was the case and therefore it was agreed that he would look into this further.

- (e) Insurance Policy – Mr. Shrosbery reported that the insurance policy renewable was due on October 1st. He informed the meeting of the various options and it was RESOLVED to enter into a 5 year agreement which would cost £318.09 for 2013/2014.

9. Path behind primary school – Councillors noted that planning permission had been granted to resurface the path and that the application for a grant from Paths 4 Communities had been submitted and had been successful. Mrs. Klimowicz had circulated a report on this prior to the meeting and it was noted and agreed that the Parish Council would have to meet the cost of a tree survey and £48.50 for the discharge of planning conditions. It was also noted that a condition of the grant was that the work should be paid for in full before the grant was released. It was RESOLVED that the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman be authorised to raise a short term loan of £35,000 from the public loans board to cover this if necessary.

10. Welcome Pack – Councillors were asked to update the Welcome Pack which was circulated. Mrs. Klimowicz would make the necessary changes. Miss Reece suggested, and it was agreed, that Councillors should print and deliver a copy to new residents moving in near to them.

11. Broadband – Councillors had received information from County Broadband about entering into a partnership for a high speed broadband connection via a transmitter on the church tower. Mr. Sedgwick informed the meeting that a competing proposition from Buzzcom was the preferred option of the Focus School and the golf club. It was agreed that Mr. Sedgwick would find out more about the Buzzcom option.

12. Clerk position - following the resignation of the Clerk the position had been advertised. Those who had responded had been asked to submit a CV by September 13th. It was agreed that interviews of any suitable candidates would be carried out by the Chairman with either Mr. Sedgwick or Mrs Klimowicz.

13. District Councillor's Report - Mr. Cave asked for feedback from Councillors on the Parish and Town Council Newsletter produced by BDC. He also asked that Councillors support a petition asking central government for fairer funding for rural communities. He reported that the land behind 19 Crossfields had not been cleared of rubbish and that on following this up he had been told that this was because the contractor was unable to work where nettles were present.

14. Reports

- (a) Planning – Mr. Shrosbery reported on that evening's committee meeting.
- (b) Traffic Working Party – Mrs. Klimowicz had circulated the results of a speed check carried out in Thorington Street.
- (c) Recreation Ground Committee – Mr. Cook reported on the Fun Day.
- (d) Village Hall – Mr. Cook reported that there were 2 new committee members and that quotes were being sought for a new heating system. The '100 club' was well supported.
- (e) PCC – Mr. Sedgwick informed the meeting that a service to rededicate the refurbished chapel would take place that weekend. Mrs. Smith added that a collection point for the Sudbury food bank was at the church.
- (f) Footpath Maintenance – Mr. Shrosbery reported that he had requested for 2 paths to be cleared.

15. Correspondence

- (a) Local History Society – request for letter to support Heritage Lottery Fund grant bid. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter of support.
- (b) Lady Anne Windsor Trust – notification that Andrew Norman-Butler's 4 year term as trustee would expire in December. It was decided to consider this at the November meeting.
- (c) Housing Needs – Mr. Sedgwick reported that the Lady Anne Windsor Trust had contacted BDC regarding carrying out a housing needs survey and the possible involvement of the Parish Council. It was decided that the possible setting up of a group of Parish Councillors to take this forward should be discussed at the November meeting.
- (d) Focus School – Mr. Sedgwick had been asked by the Focus School for a suggestion of a local charity that the school jumble sale could support. It was agreed that the Community Woodland would be suggested.

16. Community Newsletter – items to be included were the grant for the path behind the primary school and broadband. It was also agreed that the Parish Council should include thanks to the volunteers who organised and the distributed the newsletter locally.

The meeting closed at 9.55 p.m

Chairman