

STOKE BY NAYLAND PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
1 FEBRUARY 2022, 7.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Martin Nielsen (MN) – Chairman
Sean Fry (SF) – Vice Chairman
Linda Goodman (LG)
Fred Grosch (FG)
Adam Sedgwick (AS)

Apologies: Stevie Bezencenet (SB) – (via videolink)
Vivienne Klimowicz (VK)

In attendance: James Dark - Clerk(JD)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

See above

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY AGENDA ITEM

AS declared a Local Non-Pecuniary Interest in matters raised in correspondence relating to almshouses owned by the Lady Anne Windsor Charity (agenda item 8.2). AS is Chairman of the charity's Trustees.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

4 MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2022 were approved.

5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

5.1 Applications CC/COL/106/21 and DC/22/00050 – Boxted Bridge

The committee considered that the applicants had not made a case to replace the bridge and repair would be a more suitable option given the evidence provided. Therefore it was agreed to object to the application on the following grounds:

- Authoritative reports related to the application do not support replacement (e.g. the heritage report and report from the Morton Partnership).
- Replacing the bridge to support the potential movement of refuse vehicles and fire engines is not required – the bridge is not on a route that either type of traffic would use.

It was agreed that it was not necessary to request a traffic order at this time to help preserve the bridge as HGV traffic over it is minimal, and farm vehicles would need to be exempted.

Action: MN and AS to draft and circulate a response objecting to the applications, and provide the final response to the clerk for submission to planning authorities before the 8 February deadline.

5.2 Application DC/21/06672 – Bury to Colchester pipeline

SF highlighted significant concerns over the impact of the proposed route on the landscape and residents during and after construction. MN outlined an alternative route which would minimise the impact on of the works on Stoke by Nayland and neighbouring parishes.

As the application related to a scoping report it was agreed to respond highlighting issues that would be caused by construction of the pipeline on Anglian Water's planned route. Alternative

routes could be proposed at a later stage of the planning process and any such proposal would need to be agreed with neighbouring parishes.

Due to technical issues with the online documentation, the District Council had agreed an extension to the consultation and to pass comments directly to Anglian Water.

Action: SF to supply the clerk with concerns to forward to the District Council.

Action: MN to contact Higham and Shelley parish councils to discuss taking a co-ordinated approach where appropriate when responding to forthcoming consultations on the pipeline proposal.

5.3 Application DC/22/00108 - The Crown

It was noted that the application included one electric car charging point. Further installations would be desirable to provide assurance to guests over availability. In addition it was agreed that new development of this type should be designed for net zero carbon operation as far as practical.

It was unclear whether the application would be subject to any planning gain levy.

Action: Clerk to respond to the consultation requesting that the District Council consider placing conditions on the applicant to increase the electric charging points and require that the new building is designed for net zero carbon operation.

Action: SF to investigate whether any planning gain payment to the parish council will arise from the development.

6 PLANNING DECISIONS

None received.

7 PLANNING CONTROL

SB reported that clearance work had taken place in the garden of the Cottage, School St, including hedge removal.

Action: SB to investigate whether this activity had been approved under the planning application related to works at the property.

8 PLANNING TOGETHER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

8.1 Bramford-Twinstead powerline plan/Offshore Transmission Network Review

Notification of the statutory consultation on National Grid's Bramford-Twinstead reinforcement proposal had been received and circulated in the week before the meeting. As the deadline for response is 21 March, the proposal will be considered at the March planning and environment committee meeting.

It was considered that it was unlikely to be practical in the time available to arrange a drop-in location in the parish to display consultation material, so none would be requested.

8.2 Access to LAWC almshouses on The Downs

Correspondence from the Lady Anne Windsor Charity in relation to access to the almshouses was discussed and advice from NALC considered. It was noted that LAWC is expecting to apply to Homes England for grant funding for remodelling work on the almshouses, and that access requirements may result from this. Therefore it was agreed that the parish council should consider the issues raised by LAWC further when these requirements are known.

Action: Clerk to respond to LAWC explaining this position.

8.3 Support for litter picking volunteers

SB reported that the litter picking group had contacted her to request funding to replace existing signage and to inquire whether they would be covered by parish council insurance when on

picks. The clerk reported that the litter pickers would need to agree to carry out picks on behalf of the parish council in order to be covered by the insurance. It was agreed that the parish council would arrange this coverage subject to written confirmation from the litter pickers that they would be acting on behalf of the parish council and subject to the clerk being satisfied about any conditions the insurers may have.

The previously agreed position on funding was that the parish council would provide the funds if grants are not available.

Action: Clerk to contact SCC and BDC re potential grant funding.

Action: Clerk to check with insurers whether there are any conditions for putting the litter pickers on the parish council's insurance (e.g. minimum numbers, need for hi viz vests etc) and whether the pickers would be covered for both public liability and personal injury.

Action: SB to ask litter picking group to confirm in writing whether they are content to carry out litter picks on behalf of the parish council.

8.4 Mill Lane signage scheme

The clerk reported that he had informed both SCC and Polstead Parish Council of SBN PC's views on the proposed scheme. SCC had apologised for failure to consult the parish council and will contact the clerk when Polstead PC has fed back to SCC.

Action: Clerk to contact SCC for the latest position on the proposed scheme.

Action: Clerk to discuss communication with SCC on highways issues with VK.

8.5 Committee's Terms of Reference

SF suggested that the parish council should consider whether the committee's Terms of Reference should be strengthened to provide spending authority up to an appropriate limit.

Action: MN to discuss with SB and report back to the March parish council meeting.

8.6 Additional refuse bin

LG reported that she had been in contact with residents to gauge their views on the potential installation of a dog bin at the top of Scotland St. A report and recommendation would be presented to the March parish council meeting.

9 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

9.1 Maintenance of footpaths

Footpath cutting schedule

MN reported that he had submitted the proposals agreed by the parish council in January to SCC and that SCC had accepted them.

Footbridges on path from Rowley Wood to Nayland

A report on the condition of footbridges was noted and proposals agreed with expenditure subject to ratification at the March parish council meeting.

Action: MN to contact the Community Woodland Group to request that the volunteers install stepped access to the footbridge below Rowley Wood.

Action: MN to arrange repair to the footbridge opposite the temple and fitment of anti-slip materials to bridges (subject to ratification of expenditure at the March parish council meeting).

Action: MN to investigate whether AONB grants would be available to fund this work.

It was clarified that the parish council has construction/maintenance responsibility for the footbridges.

Action: Clerk to place the bridges on the parish council's asset register and insurance.

9.2 Arboreal conservation

AS reported that maintenance work required on a mature sycamore at the top of The Downs path would be arranged/carried out Tendring Hall Estate/UKPN.

SB reported that Tendring Hall Estate had notified her that Nayland Road would be closed during w/c 28 February while contractors carry out tree works.

10 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following would be placed on the agenda for the committee or parish council meetings as appropriate:

- Bramford-Twinstead powerline consultation
- Anglian Water pipeline consultation
- Footpath maintenance
- Committee Terms of Reference
- Communication with SCC on Highways issues

11 DATE AND TIMING OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 1 March 2022 at 7.00pm – Venue: Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.