

STOKE BY NAYLAND PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
4 JULY 2023, 7.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Martin Nielsen (MN) – Chairman
Sean Fry (SF) – Vice-Chairman
Adam Sedgwick (AS)
Fred Grosch (FG) (7.25-7.55)
Stevie Bezencenet (SB)

Apologies: Vicki Gibbins (VG), Vivienne Klimowicz (VK)

In attendance: James Dark – Clerk (JD), Isabelle Reece (IR) – Babergh District Councillor, James Finch (JF) – Suffolk County Councillor (7.20-7.55)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

See above. Apologies and the reasons given were accepted.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY AGENDA ITEM

None declared.

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 6 June 2023 were approved and signed.

4.2 Actions from the previous meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda

- AS and the Clerk would be starting work on issues related to land registration
- MN reported that the AONB Project's current expectations are that the Box Valley North undergrounding scheme should start in the autumn.

5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

5.1 Application DC/23/00669 – Stoke by Nayland Club

Concerns were expressed including in relation to noise and the way data had been presented in the application.

Action: SB to draft a response to the application, circulate, and submit to the Clerk for submission by the deadline (end of 6 July).

SF raised issues relating to additional traffic accessing the site in relation to discharge of conditions for application DC/23/02356.

Action: Clerk to contact BDC to ask if comments can still be accepted on this application. SF to draft a response if comments can be accepted.

Action: MN to contact the Stoke by Nayland Club to inform them that the parish council is intending to raise concerns over the transport plan.

5.2 Application DC/22/06309 – Anglian Water (AW) Pipeline re-consultation

MN reported that AW and SCC had agreed, without consultation, a plan for road closures on the B1068 during three consecutive weekends in the summer. It was noted that the proposed diversionary route on country lanes was not suitable for the expected traffic volume and would risk damage to the lanes and nuisance to residents. MN had arranged a meeting with SCC Highways and AW to discuss these concerns. In addition JF said he would arrange for MN to meet with SCC Highways separately for a more focused discussion.

It was noted that AW had responded to the parish council's objections to the initial consultation and the council's alternative proposal arguing that a more beneficial route is available. However, it was not clear under planning law whether a basis exists for challenging AW's planned routing.

It was agreed that these issues and a potential response would be considered further following the meetings with AW/SCC. The response would be delegated to MN/the Clerk should BDC not agree an extension of the time to comment on the application to beyond the date of the next committee meeting.

Action: MN to contact BDC to request an extension beyond the current 14 July deadline. If the timescales do not permit a response to be considered at the August planning committee, MN would draft a response and send a final version to the Clerk for submission.

Action: JF to arrange a meeting between MN and SCC highways.

5.3 Application DC/23/03044 – Wasses Farm

No comments to be submitted in response to the consultation.

6 PLANNING DECISIONS

6.1 Applications DC/23/00882 – The Bauble

Approval of the application was noted

6.2 Application DC/23/02040 – Lower Fen

Approval of the application was noted

6.3 Applications DC/23/02046/47 – Thorington House

Approval of the application was noted

6.4 Application DC/23/01991 – The Crown

The decision on discharge of conditions was noted

6.5 Application DC/23/01089 – 5 Sudbury Road

Refusal of the application was noted.

7 PLANNING TOGETHER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7.1 National Grid Bramford-Twinstead powerlines proposal

MN reported that the alliance of six councils (including SBN) that had objected to the proposal previously would do so again, and there had been no material changes to the proposal in relation to SBN parish.

Action: MN to provide the response to the Clerk for submission before the 18 July deadline.

7.2 Boxted Bridge

Essex County Council's decision to close the bridge due to safety concerns, and the lack of supporting documentation for this decision, was noted. It was considered that closure to pedestrians and cyclists appeared particularly unjustified.

Action: JF agreed to contact Essex County Councillor Lewis Barber to request:

- Information on the reason for the closure of the bridge and related documents
- Information on when the bridge would be reopened, and whether it could be reopened earlier for pedestrians and cyclists.

It was agreed that if/when ECC agreed to release the relevant information, engineers preparing reports for the Save Our Bridge campaign would be asked to consider grounds for challenging the closure.

7.3 National Grid Norwich-Tilbury power line proposal

JF reported that a full consultation event would be held at Langham on 13 July, 2-7pm. MN reported that the amount of undergrounding around Dedham and in Horkesley had been increased under the latest proposals.

8 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

8.1 Maintenance of footpaths

MN reported that he had contacted SCC to request clearance of footpath 27 which the contractor had missed from its cutting schedule, and he would be seeking further conversations with SCC.

Action: MN to report at the August committee meeting on whether SCC would be acting to maintain the path before the next scheduled cut in September.

The order relating to the diversion of Footpath 35 was noted.

8.2 Tree works

It was noted that a copse of trees had been felled on Tendring Hall Estate land at the eastern end of Beacham's Lane, and that the parish council had not been informed despite an undertaking that the Estate would do so.

Action: AS to draft a note to the Estate reminding them of their commitment to keep the parish council informed of planned tree works and ask what their intention is regarding management of the land where the copse had been felled.

9 DATE AND TIMING OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 1 August 2023 at 7.30pm – Venue: Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55pm.