

STOKE BY NAYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 20 January 2015

Present: Mr J. Bloomfield, Ms N. Bray, Mrs V. Klimowicz, Mrs U. Oakes, Miss I. Reece, Mr A. Sedgwick and Mrs J. Smith.

Also in attendance: Mrs S. Gray (Clerk), Mr J. Finch (County Councillor), S. Longhurst (Locality Officer), Suffolk Constabulary and 62 members of the public.

1. Election of Chairman

In the absence of a Chairman and Vice-Chair, the Clerk asked for the proposal of a Chairman for the meeting. Mr A. Sedgwick was elected Chairman, proposed by Miss I Reece, seconded by Mrs Una Oakes; all in favour.

The Acceptance of Office for the duration of the meeting was signed. The Chairman thanked the outgoing Clerk, Sandra Gray for her work on behalf of the PC, and welcomed Anita Robinson to the meeting as an observer; she will take up the post of Clerk on 1 February 2015.

2. Apologies for Absence – Mr R. Cave and Mr A. Shrosbery
The Council consented to these absences

3. Declarations of Interest – Mrs V. Klimowicz declared an interest in Agenda Item 10(e) as Chairman of the Recreation Ground. The Declarations of Interest Book was signed.

4. Public Forum

The Chairman introduced Sue Longhurst to the Council and she explained to the Council and members of the public her role as Locality Officer in Babergh.

The Chairman invited the members of the Public to speak for their allotted time of two minutes each.

A large number of members of the public raised their individual concerns regarding the proposed removal of the street lighting from the village. A letter had been received by the Clerk from a resident of Crossfields. A letter from the Headteacher of Stoke by Nayland Primary School was read by a resident. The letter highlighted her concern for the safety of the children leaving school in the winter months.

The concerns raised were many, including the safety of residents at Crossfields garages, the cost of a loan and accidents, particularly with regard to elderly residents.

Several parishioners asked the Council to reconsider their decision of September 2014 and to look at alternative options such as LED lights and sponsorship of lights. Names of websites for further information were given to the Councillors.

It was also suggested that a Working Party be created with some residents and owners of businesses in the village.

A member of the public posed a question to the Clerk of whether Mr A Sedgwick should declare an interest when street lighting was discussed; as a member of the Dedham Vale Society he had contributed an article stating that the lights in the Parish

would be switched off. The Clerk said that she believed no interest, either financial or non-pecuniary interest applied in such a case, but she would seek advice from SALC.

The Chairman answered some of the questions with recent information from Suffolk Highways and the Lanterns Project.

Mr J. Bloomfield explained to the Council and the members of the public the main problems facing the village with regard the present street lighting system. One such problem is that contractors will not maintain lights within one metre of a power line; this affects 15 lights. The Council cannot just replace the old lights for new; a new connection will also have to be paid for and, with the lights not being maintained, there are safety issues, which the Parish Council would be liable for. Suffolk County Council are the present contractors that the Parish Council employ to maintain and repair the lights but the Parish Council could consider UK Power Network who do work on lights near power lines.

A member of the public asked Mr. J Finch for his view on the decision to remove the street lighting. Mr J Finch explained that all Parish Councils in his ward had been discussing the replacement of the mercury light bulbs, disconnection and upgrades in their villages over the last three years. Some had no lighting after midnight and some had reviewed the geographical position of lights but no village had switched their lights off totally.

The Councillors were in agreement that Agenda Items 11 and 12 could be discussed before Agenda Item 5 onward. The Chairman advised the members of the public that, at the close of the Public Forum, they were not to speak or cause a disturbance.

11. Street Lighting and Material New Evidence

The Street Lighting Working Party had discussed fully the papers from the Street Lighting Support Group and had drawn up and circulated to the Lighting Support Group a draft resolution to be presented to the full Council meeting.

Councillors discussed the views raised from the Public Forum and Mrs N. Bray reported that the only residents at Crossfields who had contacted her were with regard to the Street Lighting Support Group.

Mrs V. Klimowicz proposed the following two motions:

1) In the light of Parishioners' representations and material new evidence, Stoke by Nayland Parish Council rescind its decision of September 2014 item 12 (B) 1 and November 2014 (6) and halt the process of switching off the street lights.

2) To set up a Working Party involving both Councillors and Parishioners to revisit the needs of the Parish using a similar approach as the Parish Council did with the Traffic Working Group to reach an appropriate consensus.

The motions were seconded by Mr J. Bloomfield.

The Chairman informed the Council that, in view of his position in this matter being brought into question, he would abstain from voting.

Mrs V. Klimowicz requested that the names of Councillors be recorded for the vote.

Five in favour (Mr J. Bloomfield, Mrs N. Bray Mrs. V. Klimowicz, Mrs U. Oakes, Mrs J. Smith).

Two abstentions (Ms I Reece and Mr A. Sedgwick).

It was agreed that Street Lighting would be an Agenda Item in March.

12. Street Lighting Public Loans Board Application

This was not discussed as a result of the Council's decision at Agenda item 11

5. Councillor Vacancy – Three Parishioners had put their names forward to be considered for co-option, Mr P. Cooper, Ms S. Bezencenet and Mr. M. Nielsen. Councillors interviewed all candidates and agreed to co-opt Mr Paul Cooper. The Declaration of Office was signed and the Clerk agreed to arrange for the completion of the Register of Interests.

6. Minutes – The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th December 2014, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. County Councillors Report – Mr J Finch had circulated his report to the Council prior to the meeting. Mr J Finch told of young people caught in the Ipswich truancy sweep

New Econ gritters are to replace the old ones. He confirmed that the winter twice across the County had significantly improved. With regard to the cold weather, he told of the Warm Home Healthy People Scheme for vulnerable people and families.

On the subject of better broadband, Mr Finch confirmed that Stoke by Nayland was due to go live with High Speed Broadband by March 2015.

Mrs V. Klimowicz asked Mr Finch about the lack of grit in the grit bins around the Parish and, in particular, the new grit boxes at Crossfields and the Recreation Ground which had not been filled despite a request from the Clerk. Mr J Finch said that he would investigate.

District Councillors Report – No report was given.

Mrs V. Klimowicz asked the Clerk to note for the November meeting that the future refuse collection programme should be printed and put in the LSPN and on the Notice board. This is as a result of Babergh no longer circulating the programme households but will send out copies if requested. The PC to ask for enough to put in LSPN.

Suffolk Constabulary – In the absence of PCSO A Coleman, the Clerk had circulated the latest report to the Council, indicating that two crimes had taken place since the meeting in November. These were criminal damage on Sudbury Road on 28/11/14 where a window of a bungalow had been broken and theft of heating oil from a residential property.

8. Highways

(a) Report from Traffic Working Party

Mrs V Klimowicz reported that £3000.00 from the Locality Budget of Mr J Finch would go to Kier for the 20mph signage design planning in the village.

The traffic works at Blundens Corner would commence on 9th February for two weeks. The Clerk had circulated the notices to Councillors prior to the meeting.

The cost of the car park signs were not known at this time. It was agreed for this to be an Agenda item for the March meeting.

Mrs V. Klimowicz requested that the discussion of the levelling and removal of the Dragons teeth at Clipt Bush Corner be an Agenda item for the meeting in March and that the Long Term Finance Working Party consider the cost of the work in their budget discussions.

(b) Sewers in Park Street

The problems encountered in Park Street with the sewerage system had been reported to Councillors prior to the meeting. Mrs J. Smith confirmed to the Council that the Environmental Services were handling the situation. Mr Alan Shroseybury was thanked for keeping in touch with the problem despite being absent from the Parish at the time.

9. Footpaths

(a) Downs Footpath

The Clerk reported to the Council that she had received a letter from the Estate regarding cutting of the vegetation. It was noted that Mr A Sedgwick was awaiting a meeting with Mr Steve Merry to confirm the approval of any work with Highways.

Due to the time constraint, it was agreed that this item should be discussed more fully at the meeting in March

(b) Proposed Footpath NW of Stoke by Nayland

Mr A Sedgwick reported that progress had been made with this proposed footpath. Mr Neil Benson, farm manager of Rix Farms, had volunteered to clear the verge and cut the hedge back and offered to help maintain clearance of the path in the future.

10. Financial and Audit Matters

(a) The Clerk reported that the following invoices had been received:-

SALC	Councillor Training	£117.60
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RESOLVED that these accounts be paid.

(b) Bank Account and Authorised Signatures – the Clerk reported that Barclays had confirmed that V. Klimowicz, N. Bray and J. Smith were the authorised signatories for the Parish Council Accounts.

(c) Response from Barclays re complaint – It was agreed to for the Clerk to pursue the complaint as no reply had been received from Barclays.

(d) Recreation Ground Donation – Mrs V. Klimowicz asked that the Long Term Finance Working Party consider a donation from the Council as funding was needed.

(e) Donations and Section 137 – The Council agreed that donations would be made to local organisations only.

(f) Budget/Precept 2015/6

The Council discussed the proposed budget and, with the proposed future work to

be undertaken with the street lighting, it was agreed to increase the precept for 2015/16 to £11,246.00 from £11,000. It was noted by the Council that this was the maximum the Council could ask being the calculation of the Band D multiplied by the tax base without risking a referendum.

Proposed by Mrs V. Klimowicz, seconded by Ms I. Reece; all in favour

13. Village Lock up

Adam Sedgwick reported that a second quotation was in progress and would be available for the March meeting.

14. Emergency Planning Working Party

It was agreed for Mr J. Bloomfield and Ms N. Bray to help form an Emergency Planning Working Party and a request for volunteers would be advertised in the LSPN. The Clerk advised the Council of the dates of the two day Workshop.

15. To receive Reports –

Due to time constraints, it was agreed for the reports from the Planning Committee, Representatives of other bodies and Longer Term Finance Working Party would be reported at the March meeting.

16. Outstanding Issues – The Council agreed for Mrs V. Klimowicz to attend the meeting of Chairmen and Vice Chairs of Councils in the division of Mr J. Finch.

17. Community Newsletter – The items to be highlighted are Street Lighting, road works, road closure and volunteers for the Emergency Planning Group.

18. Clerk's and Chairman's Correspondence –

The Clerk informed the Council that she had received Clerks and Councils Direct and handed to the Councillors their copy of the SALC magazine

19. Future Meetings & Agenda Items

10th March 2015

Annual Parish Meeting 7th April 2015

12th May 2015 Annual General Meeting following Local Election

14th June 2015

8th September 2015

10th November 2015

The Council agreed to meet on the second Tuesday of alternate months until further notice

The Agenda items for the March meeting:

- Outstanding Issues
- Street Lighting
- Car Park Signs
- LSPN Delivery
- LSPN Content and layout- May 2015
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting closed at 10:10 pm.

Date

Chairman