

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5th MARCH 2012 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

1. PRESENT- Mr P Mortimer, Chairman, Mr G. McEvoy, Mr P. Schwier, Mrs S .Hatchman, Ms S Harris, Mrs B. Vidion, Mr T. Godbold.

District Councillor Marilyn Curran , PCSO Steve Long and 5 members of the public

2. APOLOGIES - Mr R. Williams and Mr Elliott

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

4. PLANNING

The Clerk reported that the following applications have been approved by Mid Suffolk.

Pear Tree Cottage – Extension
Street Farm –Driveway and garage
Captains Farm – Alterations
William Cottage - Reduction of Ash tree

0568/12 MILL VILLA – Alter link connection between house and barn and convert barn to residential use.

Mr Gooderham, the architect, introduced the application and showed councillors the plans. The footprint of the building does not change but one new window will overlook a right of way. The link will enable the storage barn to be incorporated into the house.

Councillors approved of the plans.

0560/12 The RED HOUSE. –Erection of conservatory (demolition of existing). Erection of summerhouse.

Mrs Loveday explained to councillors what was proposed. Permission is already granted to demolish the present single storey building.

Councillors looked at the plans and had no objections.

The Clerk will contact the district council with the decisions.

5. MINUTES – The minutes for the meeting held on 9th and 31st January and 21st February 2012 were approved and signed.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Bus Shelter – The clerk has contacted Karl Savage to engage him for the repair of the bus shelter. He will start the repair after the completion of his present job, hopefully before the end of the month.

7. REPORTS - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MARILYN CURRAN

Mrs Curran reported that there will be no increase in Council tax this year as the council will receive a grant from the Government to compensate.

The results of the Joint Housing Board election will be this week.

The appointments for the amalgamation of Babergh and Mid Suffolk are nearly complete.

Bramford Recycling centre has now closed we must use the one at Broome or this too may close.

Mrs Curran has made enquiries as to the status regarding the new house at Guildhall Cottage. Before work can continue the owner will have to submit a new planning application.

PCSO STEVE LONG

PCSO Long reported that there have been 3 incidents recently – 2 oil thefts in the village and damage to posts on a verge. He said that there have now been oil thefts to the west of the A140.

Fressingfield residents are concerned about speeding and are considering measures to be taken. There have also been vehicle break-ins.

There were no comments in OPEN FORUM.

8. FINANCE

a. The following payments were approved.

£320 – Mrs L. J. Silvester, Clerks salary
£80 - HMRC, being the PAYE tax payment

Proposed by Mr Godbold, 2nd Mr Schwier

b. Website – It was decided to donate £50 towards the hosting and domain fees for the village website. Up till now Metfield Stores has paid these fees. It is hoped that advertising fees and other donations will make up the rest of the money.

c. STREET LIGHTING CONTRACT

The Clerk told the meeting that a survey of the parish's lights has been carried out by the County Council and that to bring them up to present standard there will be a total cost of £2372.95. The Intelligent lighting system can then be fitted (cost £450), turning off the lights between 12midnight and 05.30am. This would bring our lights in line with those owned by the county. Residents seem to want this.

Councillors felt that it was sensible to have all the lights maintained by the county scheme and after some discussion decided that we would have all the work on the lights completed now.

The Clerk said that instead of a monthly standing order and direct debit we would be billed 6 monthly.

This was proposed by Mr Schwier, 2nd Mrs Vidion and agreed by councillors.

The Clerk will contact the County Council about this decision and write to Pearce and Kemp and the bank.

d. The Clerk informed the meeting that the hire charges for the village hall have been raised by £1.

9. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

a. The Clerk said that she had registered our Beacon for lighting on June 4th Jubilee weekend. Lighting times will be between 10pm and 10.30pm.

The Village Hall Committee is going to organise an 'event' for that day.

Mrs Wareham has expressed dismay that after the recent work by the electricity company there are now 13 wires off the pole by the church.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Most of the correspondence was circulated between Councillors.

The list of appointments of officers joint between Mid Suffolk and Babergh was read out.

The clerk acknowledged the poster for the oil bulk buying scheme. Leaflets will be put in the phone box.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10TH APRIL 2012 AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT – Mr P. Mortimer, Chairman. Mr R. Williams, Mr P. Schwier, Mrs S. Hatchman, Ms S. Harris, Mr G. McEvoy, Mr G. Elliott., Mrs B. Vidion.

16 members of the public (6 from Metfield, 10 from St James)

APOLOGY – Mr T. Godbold.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – Mr P. Schwier – Item 1

1. APPLICATION NO. 0711/12 - LAND SOUTH OF DOCKING HALL

Erection of 50kw wind turbine on 36.4 metre mast, meter cubicle and creation of access track.

Mr Schwier introduced the application saying that his farm had a high usage of electricity for his pig rearing business and grain drying. After research they had decided that a wind turbine would help keep down the costs and lessen the carbon footprint.

The chairman closed the meeting and invited questions and comments from the public.

Mr McKeen contested Mr Schwier's figures on the economics of the wind turbine. He objected to this proposal on many points – highly visible for a long distance all round, the wildlife would be adversely affected by the turbine, Christmas Lane is a busy lane and there could be 'turbine gazing' which could cause an accident, surrounding properties could suffer a loss in value, flicker could cause a nuisance and the noise of the turbine could be disturbing to humans and wildlife.

Mr McKeen was also concerned that there had been no publicity in the villages about this meeting apart from the leaflet he had produced.

The Chairman responded by saying that a notice had been posted giving more than the required notice for a meeting. These were put up in the usual places. All Parish Council meetings were open to the public.

Mrs Elliott asked why there had been no prior consultation with the relevant bodies. She also felt that neighbouring Parishes should have been informed. She asked why there was no environmental assessment.

Mr Schwier said that the MOD had been consulted and that the turbine was sited away from hedges therefore the impact was lessened.

Mr Hayward was also disappointed at the lack of consultation, especially as St James was affected probably more so the Metfield. He also said that a test turbine should have been erected before the application. He said that transportation of the equipment during construction might be a problem along the narrow roads.

The Chairman read out an email from Mr Gooderham who also asked why there was no environmental assessment or consultation with Suffolk Wildlife. The proposal threatens wildlife such as over wintering birds and resident birds such as barn owls, marsh harriers and thrushes. The turbine will form an unwelcome backdrop or foreground feature and be detrimental to two listed buildings.

Mr Glaysher said there were 7 turbines in the near area plus the mast at Linstead Magna and they are not intrusive. He felt that the proposed turbine would soon be accepted. He also felt that the sound would not be noticed.

Mrs Wareham was concerned about the noise of the turbine.

Mr Schwier then left the meeting.

The Chairman then reopened the meeting.

Comments were then invited from the parish Councillors.

Mrs Vidion said that the effectiveness of wind turbines depended on what you read but we have to embrace wind power in the country's efforts to increase renewable energy. She felt that the turbine would have no negative impact on Metfield but realised that there had been no consultation with other villages. She said any response by Metfield should include criticism of Mid Suffolk in this.

Mr Williams said that although some wind farms are an eyesore, one smallish wind turbine would not have a negative impact on this area.

Mr McEvoy said he had an open mind on wind power but had no problem with this turbine.

Mrs Hatchman and Ms Harris were in favour of this turbine.

Mr Elliott was concerned about this application. He said the Landscape officer has questioned the lack of information. He too questioned the lack of consultation with St James and Linstead. He felt as the turbine would be visible from a wide area there should be much more information available.

The Chairman brought the discussion to a close.

The proposal – The Parish Council supports the application but is concerned that other Parishes in Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, have not been consulted officially.

This was proposed by Mr McEvoy, 2nd by Mrs Vidion. In the following vote five councillors were in favour and one against. Therefore the application was approved.

The Clerk will send the comments to Mid Suffolk.

2. APPLICATIONS 0639/12 AND 0695/12 - HATTENS FARM. – Erection of agricultural store and greenhouse and creation of a new driveway. Retention and continued use of residential caravan.

Mr Krutysza introduced the application and showed councillors the plans. He said that since Mr Eden's estate had been settled he had been made homeless and hoped to live in the caravan so as to continue with his nursery business.

Councillors then discussed the plans and looked at the position of the caravan.

The application was approved. The Clerk will notify the planning dept.

3. FINANCE

- a. Insurance. The bus shelter is now repaired and the Clerk is awaiting the settlement cheque from the insurance company. When this is received the Clerk will pay Karl Savage. This was agreed and the cheque was signed.
Proposed - Mrs Hatchman, 2nd – Mr Williams
- b. It was agreed that the council would give a one-off donation of £56 towards the repair of the gravel area opposite the Church. This cost is a quarter share of the cost.

Metfield Parish Council

Proposed - Mrs Hatchman, 2nd Mr Williams.