

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2017 AT 7.15 PM
THE MEETING ROOM, ST GEORGE'S ROAD**

Present : Cllrs D D'Lima (Chair), J Catchpole, H Godfrey, J Godfrey and J Orlopp, District Councillor R Barker and County Councillor J Storey. Mrs A Bryant (clerk) was also in attendance. Members of the public also attended.

- 1 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr N Kaines.
- 2 **Declaration of interest:** Cllr J Catchpole expressed an interest in the Stowlangtoft Hall Nursing Home applications listed under agenda item 12.
- 3 **Minutes of the last meeting:** The Chairman summarised the minutes for the benefit of members of the public who had not read them. Cllr H Godfrey proposed that the minutes of the meeting dated 21 November 2016 be approved. Cllr J Catchpole seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.
- 4 **Matters arising from the last meeting:**
Litter and parking in triangle by The Spinney: Cllr H Catchpole stated obstructions had not been installed. Issue was ongoing. **Cllr Catchpole agreed to place obstructions.**

Parish Council Website: A cheque for £60.00 would be signed under the financial report (agenda item 11).

St George's Road parking: The meeting noted that the grassed area was owned by the District Council and they should be contacted if the issue continues. **The meeting agreed that Cllr D'Lima would contact District Cllr R Barker to progress further.**

Common Room/Managers Office: Cllr H Godfrey stated that an application had been submitted with a deadline for a response of 9 February 2017. However, Stephanie Osborne had been in touch to state the room/office was not covered by the legislation. District Cllr R Barker stated that a meeting had been scheduled for 23 January to discuss options regarding the Parish taking responsibility for the Common Room.

- 5 **County Councillors Report:** County Cllr J Storey reported the following: -

A Cabinet meeting was scheduled for 24 January and would discuss: -

- The closure of Mill Meadow Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). Ofsted judged the unit to be in special measures. The cost of the refurbishing the accommodation does not represent good value and the Local Authority's preferred course of action is to close the provision and transfer pupils to other high quality settings as soon as possible. An alternative sponsor has not come forward;
- Admission Arrangements for the 2018/2019 School Year - All admission authorities must agree admission arrangements every year by 28 February, even if they have not changed from previous years. Cabinet will be asked to approve the County Council's proposed oversubscription criteria and published admissions numbers for maintained community and voluntary controlled schools as well as the co-ordinated admissions scheme;

- Resources Budget 2017 – 2018 and Medium Term Financial Plan - This report will summarise the Council's Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2017-2018 and will outline the background, financial environment, scrutiny and consultation arrangements. It will make recommendations to Council on the budget requirement and council tax for 2017-2018 together with the Capital Programme, its financing and prudential indicators. The figures have already been published as part of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 30 November; and
- RAF Mildenhall Vision and Prospectus – Cabinet will be asked to consider the Vision and Prospectus for working with Government to secure a positive legacy for RAF Mildenhall and surrounding towns and Villages. There has been wide consultation over a vision and prospectus during Autumn 2016 and the final document has been revised to reflect the consultation response. At Forest Heath District Council's Extraordinary meeting on 22 November 2016 it was agreed that the prospectus would be submitted to Government.

County Cllr J Storey also advised that an additional Cabinet meeting was scheduled for 31 January 2017 to consider Suffolk County Councils response to EDF Energy's Stage 2 consultation for Sizewell C. There have been numerous briefings over the last couple of months. Many people in Suffolk see this as an opportunity for economic growth but this has to be weighed up against the potentially detrimental effect on local wildlife and the local infrastructure. Devolution is an ongoing issue with negotiations continuing.

County Cllr J Storey advised that the social care precept would be listed on Council Tax bills again and, at present it was proposed to increase the precept by 3%. She added that she had discussed speed activated signs with David Irving regarding financial support and location of cameras. The meeting noted that County Cllr J Storey was supportive of the Parish Council installing cameras.

(As County Cllr J Storey was present, the Parish Council agreed to consider agenda item 10 – Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan)

6 **Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation**

County Cllr J Storey advised that the County Council have a duty to have a set level of gravel and sand available for building work. The current Issues and Options document is two documents combined. If there was to be an impact on Stowlangtoft parish then the Parish Council would be contacted directly.

The Parish Council noted the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Issues and Options document.

- 7 **District Councillor's Report:** District Cllr R Barker reported that the District Council are reviewing the budget with a possible increase of 1.5%. He explained that the sheltered housing had been re-categorised as general housing. Solar panels had caused problems but that had been resolved. The Common Room had been discussed earlier in the meeting. He would report back at the next meeting.

Finally, District Cllr R Barker advised everyone present to dial 999 if they saw or experienced hare coursing. He reiterated that they should not be approached, however a number plate would be useful to the Police.

8 **Police Report:**

The report available on the website covers 22 wards in the Stowmarket area and is dated December 2016.

“There were 789 incidents received and 332 investigations recorded.

You said:

1. Tackle ASB surrounding Tesco, Stowmarket.
2. Address increased theft from motor vehicles.
3. Dangerous speeding by motorists across the locality.

We did:

1. An evening operation held at Tesco and the surrounding area targeting offending vehicles. Worked closely with Tesco to introduce measures to reduce ASB.
2. Undertake crime research to identify vulnerable areas and establish trends. Raised awareness of vehicle security.
3. When repeated reports of speeding are received at dangerous levels we have deployed speed detection equipment. We have established new Speed Watch schemes and rejuvenated others.

<i>Figures for November:</i> Burglary Dwelling	12	Robbery	1
Violence with Injury	19	Serious Sexual Offences	8
Drug Trafficking	1	Anti-Social Behaviour	38

Future events:

Catalytic Converter Marking – Evergreen Garage, Gosbeck Road, Crowfield – Saturday 21 January 2017 at 9.00 am – 11.30 am.

Point of contact for your Safer Neighbourhood Team: Sergeant 1692 Martin

Tel: 101

Email: Stowmarket.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

9 **Speed Reactive Sign Procurement**

Cllr H Godfrey advised that no further action had been taken since the last meeting as a better idea of funding was required. He advised the meeting that a camera would cost approximately £3,000 each. He queried whether 1/3 would come from an increased precept, 1/3 from reserves and 1/3 from the County Cllr locality budget.

Cllr D D’Lima sought County Cllr J Storey’s view as she was present. She advised that the Parish Council should request more than £1,000 from her locality budget. Following a discussion about the location of a camera, it was agreed that one camera would be purchased and an additional camera purchased at a later date if it was felt necessary.

The Parish Council noted that the Highways Department would consider a proposed location. They would undertake a site visit.

The meeting agreed that Cllr H Godfrey would contact County Cllr J Storey to progress the application for funding the speed activated cameras from her locality budget.

During the discussions surrounding the speed activated cameras, it was proposed that speed gates be installed in Kiln Lane stating “children – please slow” or some equivalent wording. A member of the public offered to maintain the gates and plant flowers to

welcome people into an area which could be referred to as a Hamlet of Stowlangtoft. County Cllr J Storey added that the Highways Department would need to be involved in any installation.

The meeting agreed that Cllr D D'Lima would contact the Highways Department regarding the installation of speed gates in the Kiln Lane area.

(District Cllr R Barker and County Cllr J Storey left the meeting at 8.15 pm)

10 **Clerk's report:** The Clerk advised that the Community Action Suffolk (CAS) had taken over the responsibility for the Parish Council's website with effect from November 2016.

11 **Finance Report:**

Precept Increase: Cllr D D'Lima informed the meeting that the Parish Council had £1810.00 income in 2016/2017, of which £1650.00 came from the precept. He suggested that the precept be increased to cover additional clerking hours, contributions towards the churchyard upkeep, speed cameras and additional hours towards street cleaning. He noted that the Parish Council had reserves, however they would not last indefinitely.

The Parish Council discussed whether to increase year on year at a lower level or to increase in 2017/2018 at a higher amount. Cllr H Godfrey raised concern that the Government could restrict Parish Council's from increasing their precept in future years. The Cllrs felt that the precept could be reduced in future years if it was felt appropriate, however the cameras were a priority in the forthcoming year and funding needed to be raised.

Cllr H Godfrey proposed a precept increase for 2017/2018 of 100% to fund the speed cameras. Cllr J Catchpole seconded the proposal.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to increase Stowlangtoft Parish Council's 2017/2018 precept by 100%, which represented a precept of £3300.00 per year.

2017 – 2018 Budget Discussion: The Parish Council discussed the draft budget. It was agreed that the Clerk would increase her hours, the Parish Council would continue to support the Church with their churchyard maintenance, donations made by the Parish Council would be reviewed and an additional person to litter pick would be investigated. The following actions, for discussion at the next meeting on 20 March 2017, were agreed: -

The Clerk to suggest an increase in hours to support the Parish Council.

Cllr H Godfrey to speak to representatives from the Church regarding a contribution towards churchyard maintenance.

Cllr D D'Lima to obtain figures for the installation of the Hamlet/speed gate signs in Kiln Lane.

Councillors agreed the financial report and the cheques were signed.

12 **Planning matters:**

4793/16 – Stowlangtoft Hall Nursing Home, Kiln Lane, IP31 3JY. Works associated with conversion of storage rooms to residential accommodation with four bedrooms. Councillors raised no objections to the application.

4792/16 – Stowlangtoft Hall Nursing Home, Kiln Lane, IP31 3JY. Change of use and conversion of storage rooms to form residential accommodation with four bedrooms.

Councillors raised no objections to the application.

The Parish Council noted that an appeal had been made to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the proposed erection of a detached dwelling with associated construction of vehicular access at land adjacent Street Farm, The Street (reference APP/W3520/W/16/3158593). The appeal started on 2 December 2016.

- 13 **Highway matters:**
Cllr J Orlopp advised that a hole had appeared in Church View again. **Cllr D D’Lima agreed to report to the Highways Department.**

The Parish Council also noted that the St George’s Road street sign was damaged. **Cllr D D’Lima agreed to report to the Highways Department.**

- 14 **Correspondence:** The Local Councillor magazine was circulated.

- 15 **Councillors' Forum:** None.

- 16 **Public Forum:** The Parishioners advised that the pavement by Christmas Cottage/the post box was very narrow. It appeared that the bank had sunk across the pavement. **Cllr D D’Lima agreed to contact Suffolk County Council to investigate further.**

- 17 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 20 March 2017 at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Room St George’s Road.

The meeting concluded at 8.51 pm.

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Chairman

Date: