

**Minutes of Playford Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall
at 7.00pm on Wednesday 31st July 2019**

Present: Mrs Joan Metcalfe – Chairman
Mr Ted Herrington - Councillor
Mr Keith Carson – Councillor
Mr Colin Hedgley – District Councillor

In attendance: Mrs Marian Hedgley – Clerk

Also present: Mr Nick Deacon – Hasketon parish
47 members of the public

Apologies for Absence.

Mr Steve Hicks – Vice-Chairman
Mr Adrian Melrose - Councillor
Mr Mike Brewer – Councillor

1. **Declarations of Members' Interests in any items on this Agenda.**
Joan Metcalfe declared an interest as Treasurer of Playford Village Hall Committee and as a Trustee of Playford Village Hall. This information was duly recorded.
2. **Talk by Nick Deacon, organiser of the STOP the Northern Bypass campaign**
Nick Deacon introduced himself and outlined the aims of the STOP campaign, formed by himself and Nick Green, also of Hasketon as both were appalled by the proposals put forward by SCC for an Ipswich Northern route. The aim is to stop all routes being considered as they believe no basis for a bypass exists, there being no plausible evidence that this is required. He has contacted MP Dr Dan Poulter, declared to be in favour of the STOP campaign as he considers the Northern Route scheme may be a Trojan Horse for a new town to be build between Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds. The group so formed is intending to fight the SCC proposals from going ahead – it is considered that a consolidated approach will carry more weight than several smaller ones. A bank account has been set up and donations are being invited to fund the process – this may be done through the website. A traffic consultant has been employed to establish if there is a need for extra roads or whether other solutions may be more expedient.

It seems that only a small proportion of the population knows about the proposals. The project was made public at the beginning of the holiday season in early July and public announcements may have been missed. Part of the campaign is to raise awareness so that everyone can voice their opinion before the deadline of 13th September 2019. Dan Poulter is seeking legal advice about having a Judicial Review on the consultation as he believes that not enough time been allowed for parish councils to meet and discuss the proposals adequately before the deadline.

Signed

At the eleven Ipswich Northern Route consultations held in the area, 70-80% of attendees signed the STOP petition. The official questionnaire produced by the INR consultation is complex and difficult to understand – no provision is made for anyone wanting to reject all of the routes. It is an online questionnaire for which help would be required for some people to complete, e.g. the elderly and those not having access to a computer. Volunteers needed for this task.

Thirty one alternative solutions other than building new roads have allegedly been investigated but no details have been disclosed. A protest march may be organised to raise awareness – volunteers needed to help organise this.

Questions invited from the floor brought up the following:

- There was no overall advantage for people living to the north of Ipswich to have an Ipswich Northern bypass – these routes would blight people’s houses and devalue them. The only likely winners would be house-builders.
- A bypass would not resolve the problem of transport to and from the port of Felixstowe – this is flawed thinking.
- High-sided vehicles using the Orwell Bridge can be managed differently so that bridge closures caused by high winds may be minimal.
- Much of the traffic congestion in Ipswich is caused by people travelling to and from work in the town itself and from school runs etc. A bypass would not solve this.
- Suggested access routes to and from the proposed new roads is appallingly-thought-out in places, using narrow roads without pavements (e.g. as in Lt Bealings) which schoolchildren must use to access their primary school). This idea must have been conceived in an office and it would appear no-one has actually been to view the sites and to witness the lay of the land firsthand.
- Similar proposals were put forward 25 years ago and were quashed through too much local objection, mainly because of suggested routes travelling through green countryside. These proposals were rejected by the planning inspectorate, and following an appeal were rejected a second time.
- In 10 years’ time, there will be more electric vehicles and probably also autonomous cars using the roads – the needs and usage of roads may change drastically. It may not be cost effective to build new roads to cater for present needs, possibly only relevant for 10 years – has this been taken into account?
- If you build more roads, you will attract more traffic onto them – this has been proven.
- What are the rights of residents in regard to losing/devaluing their property? This needs clarifying.
- It makes a mockery of SCC’s quest to be a Green County.
- More use should be made of brownfield sites in Ipswich for extra housing and empty shops in town centre could be made into accommodation. Key infrastructure should be re-thought.

Signed

Joan Metcalfe proposed a motion against accepting the bypass proposals - by a show of hands, everyone present voted unanimously against the proposals for an Ipswich Northern route. She suggested Playford PC could possibly contribute £200-£300 from reserve funds to the STOP the Bypass cause but that SALC would need to be consulted before going ahead with this. Everyone present voted in favour of this motion.

It was then suggested that everyone (who wasn't already signed up) signs up to the local Gmail news circulation so that they could keep in touch with the latest happenings.

Anyone who has concerns about the bypass proposals should write to Cllr Matthew Hicks, leader of SCC: matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk

The official INR questionnaire may be accessed at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/INRConsultation/>

Help completing this may be found at: https://stopipswichnorthernbypass.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Consultation_Guidance_July19.pdf

3. **To agree the parish council's response to SCC's proposals for an Ipswich Northern Route**

It was resolved that the Clerk will convey the above to Cllr Matthew Hicks, leader of Suffolk County Council by letter on behalf of the parish council.

4. **Emergency Item: Planning Application: ref: DC/19/2666/FUL**

Address: Kesgrave Quarry, Sinks Pit, Kesgrave IP5 2PE

Construction of 2 no. new buildings and use of land for vehicle and plant hire operator(s) comprising offices, workshops, associated parking, drainage infrastructure etc to allow for hire, storage, sale, maintenance and servicing of vehicles, plant, machinery and equipment.

This complex application was discussed by parish councillors – the address of the site is in Little Bealings and Playford PC has been asked to comment as a neighbouring parish. Little Bealings PC has already investigated this in great depth and it was resolved to give them support by upholding their response to the application and to endorse their conditions of approval, as below:

It was resolved by LBPC that there was no objection to the application subject to:

- *the building of the acoustic barrier on the northern boundary of the site before any other development was commenced*
- *noise levels at the site being limited by the standard set by BS4142 (2014)*
- *the use of reversing beepers, including by visiting vehicles, not being permitted*

Signed

- *surveys regarding air and light pollution being undertaken and satisfactory to ESC Environmental Health Officers*
- *the operating hours remaining as at present, ie 7am to 7.30pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 1pm on Saturdays only.*

Joan Metcalfe proposed this motion which was seconded by Keith Carson.

5. **To confirm acceptance of quote for repair to Notice Board**

One of the glass doors on the village notice board has been damaged and the glass shattered. A quote of £54.00 for repairs has been obtained from Jeremy Hearle – Joan Metcalfe proposed acceptance and it was seconded by Ted Herrington.

6. **To sign mandate, adding more signatories to the Bank Account**

Keith Carson and Joan Metcalfe signed the mandate and the clerk will now pass this on to Mike Brewer for his details and signature as he was not present at the meeting.

7. **AOB**

It was suggested that the budget should be looked at before a decision could be made regarding a donation to the STOP campaign. Clerk to undertake.

A representative is required to liaise with the STOP the Bypass Campaign and to relay information to the council – the Clerk has volunteered for this post.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 4th September 2019 at 7.00pm

The meeting ended at 8.25pm

Signed