

PLAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Playford Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Friday,
15th April 2011 commencing at 6.30 pm

PRESENT

Dr John Day	-	Chairman
Mr C Lofts	-	Councillor
Mr R Herrington	-	Councillor
Mrs June Gosling	-	Councillor
Mrs Tessa Innes	-	Councillor
Mr Robert Coppillie	-	Councillor
Mrs Tracy Hanson	-	Councillor
Mrs S Cartwright	-	Clerk/RFO

In Attendance

Approx 20 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr Steven Hudson, Mr Peter Bellfield and Mrs Ursula Richards

2. TO RECEIVE COUNCILLOR'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA.

Mrs June Gosling declared an interest as a member of the Parish Hall Committee. This was written in the "Declaration of Interest" book and signed by the Chairman.

3. PLANNING APPLICATION:- C/11/0357

**Part of Playford Heath, Doctor Watsons Lane, Playford
Change of use of farmland to cemetery, construction of vehicular access & parking**

i) Public discussion

The Chairman welcomed everyone. The plans for the above had been displayed for half an hour prior to the meeting so everyone had had a good chance to inspect them. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council's process used to comment on planning applications is archaic and that this will be reviewed in future. He introduced the applicant, the Reverend Robin Spittle of All Saints Church, Kesgrave who talked for a while on their plans. He explained that their churchyard was full and that they had for many years been trying to locate a plot. The land Mr Fenton had donated to the Church filled this need. The Reverend Spittle said he would be happy to answer any questions. The Chairman opened the discussion up to the floor. What followed was a lively debate with objections to the "encroachment" of Playford by Kesgrave. The Chairman said that they needed to comment on issues of planning considerations only:-.

Signed
Chairman

There was further talk of the unsuitable access via Dr Watson's Lane. The Reverend commented that the cortège would not be going to the burial ground but in keeping with tradition mourners would walk this short distance on foot from the church. Mr Paul Gardiner asked how long the plot will last? The Chairman responded that there would be approx 24 burials a year and it would take 41 years before it was "full". Considerable concerns were expressed that approval of the proposal was in breach of the Parish Plan - Action 7 - Retention of green fields between Kesgrave and Playford. Chairman pointed out that Action Plans were advisory for parishes to consider, not mandatory. Furthermore Action 7 arose in the context of a possible large housing development around Kiln Farm at that time. This development had been abandoned and the application under discussion today was of a quite different nature. Mr Brian Seward was concerned that the boundary would "move" as in 1984 and that it was a worry. Mr Simon Hanson asked whether any thought was given to making space for burials in Kesgrave before all the building of houses there in the first place? Some members of the audience pressed for a vote - a show of hands revealed that the majority present were opposed to the proposal but with some abstentions. However the Chairman advised that councillors would certainly listen to and make note of recommendations from those present but would have to make up their own minds about the pros and cons of the application. The Reverend Spittle gave his assurance that their intentions were entirely legitimate however he could identify the concerns raised by residents of Playford. He apologised before leaving the meeting at 7.30 pm.

ii) Council Decision

Dr John Day then informed residents that the Parish Council would now discuss the matter and take a vote:- Mr Ted Herrington proposed that the Parish Council objects to this development. Mr Charles Lofts seconded this. Mrs Tessa Innes proposed an amendment that the Parish Council is in favour of this planning application. This was seconded by Mrs June Gosling. The amendment was passed with four in favour, three against. The Parish Council thus resolved to inform SCDC they had no objection to this development.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 12th May 2011. This will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting for Playford.

The meeting ended at 8.00pm

Signed
Chairman