

PLAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Playford Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Thursday,
21st January 2010 commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs S Herrington
Mr Robert Coppillie

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs Tessa Innes, PCSO Justin Moss, County Councillor Peter Bellfield

1. 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. Mr Charles Lofts declared an interest in the footpath from Playford to Bealings. This was written in the "Declaration of Interest" book and signed by the Chairman.

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 4th November 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2009 were approved as a true and accurate record of the discussion at that meeting. This was proposed by Mr Ted Herrington and seconded by Mrs June Gosling. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

Signed
Chairman

4. Matters arising from the minutes (not covered in Agenda items listed below)

Parish Plan

Googlemail is now up and running with 160 subscribers approx. Dr John Day as Playford's representative on the Action Monitoring Group reported that the next Parish Plan meeting is in six weeks.

Affordable Housing

REH reported that Playford has been categorised as "countryside". This means that no development can take place. Anyone wanting affordable housing in the village will find that Grundisburgh can accommodate them – they have provision for affordable housing. JD stated that he understood that exceptions could be made for "small villages". Mrs Tracy Hanson reported that the Guardian on-line had something of interest on Affordable Housing.

5. Co-option of New Councillor

After a heated discussion it was decided to co-opt Mr Robert Coppillie who had previously shown an interest in becoming a Councillor. REH suggested that it was possible to reduce numbers formally to five Councillors. The Chairman thought this was a very bad idea. REH abstained from voting Mr Coppillie on to the Council as he felt that the whole process of co-option had not been conducted properly. Mrs June Gosling voted for him coming on board and this was seconded by Mrs Tracy Hanson. Mr Robert Coppillie was given the "Declaration of acceptance of Office" form and "Register of Members Interests" to complete and return before the next meeting. Training, of course will be available.

6. Written report by PCSO Justin Moss

As per written Police Report there were no crimes to report. A questionnaire entitled "Suffolk Constabulary – Delivering the Policing Pledge" has been emailed to the Clerk. This was filled in and the Clerk will email back to the Constabulary. At present Playford does not have a visit from a mobile police station. The nearest one is in Little Bealings. REH said he would raise this at the next 12PT meeting.

7. Written report by County Councillor Peter Bellfield

This was read out by Dr John Day in his absence:-

The Clerk was asked to thank him for his report

8. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Councillors agreed not to pursue the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. To get it running includes, amongst other things, getting a 100% return on questionnaires and 80% support. This is very unlikely in a village that has no/very little crime. It was agreed that the on-line Neighbourhood Watch weekly newsletter detailing crime in the area would be "linked" to the Playford Website. Mrs June Gosling proposed that NWS could be covered in these other ways and this was seconded by Mrs Tracy Hanson.

Signed
Chairman

9. Local Government Review – Boundary Committee

The Boundary Committee’s preferred option for local government in Suffolk was one unitary council for the whole of the county. An alternative was one council for Ipswich and Felixstowe which would include Playford, and one for the rest of Rural Suffolk. The Clerk reported that she had written to the Secretary of State stating that a single Suffolk Unitary would be the most appropriate and obvious solution. Please see County Council Report for further information.

10. Highways

REH and JD reported the very poor condition of Church Road. The corner of Bealings Road/Church Road has been destroyed and the verges damaged. Anglian Water has been out to this location and had had to hunt for their man holes which were covered with 4 inches of mud. It was unclear as to whether the fire hydrant has been damaged. This is the responsibility of the fire brigade who will take matters further. REH has contacted Mr Peter Bellfield and Mr Derek Oldman of SCDC will inspect the road on Monday, 25 January 2010. Councillors asked what sanctions can be taken if any? The Chairman informed all that very little can be done about this. The farmer, in this case Mr Parkin, is allowed to leave his land and join the highway wherever he wishes. This can make the road very, very muddy. It is up to the farmer whether he tidies up after himself or not.

The hand rails have still not been erected to each end of the playing field. The Clerk has spoken to Mrs Debbie Adams who informed her that the contractors are visiting the site on Friday, 22nd January and will measure up.

The Clerk has heard back from Damon Bloomfield regarding the road from Culpho cross roads to the B1079 Hasketon. JD read out his email which said that this part of the road is going to be resurfaced in June/July 2010. The work should take 10 days and will be done under road closures in sections.

The street name sign which is damaged/down on Butts Road near where the Oak tree was felled has finally been reported to the correct persons/department and is due to be replaced in the next 2 to 3 weeks. Ref: 20100380 SCS 01394 444000.

Improvements to the Bealings to Playford Footpath are coming along nicely. Dr John Day reported that he and Mr Ted Herrington had been on site when SCC had started work on the footpath and they were impressed with the plans which involved taking down the barbed wire and instead erecting a wooden fence with post and rails. Mr Charles Lofts informed councillors that there is possibly going to be one or two gates off this section of fencing which will be self closing and will allow dog owners to exercise their dogs in his field. Signs saying this or to the effect will be erected by the landowner, Mr Charles Lofts. The kissing gates will be removed from this route which will improve pushchair/bicycle access. Mrs Tracy Hanson asked who will maintain the hedge in this section. It stands to reason that if the footpath is “upgraded” to a “Priority” route (since it is now part of the Fynn Valley Walk) it will be the County Council’s responsibility for maintaining. The Clerk will contact Mrs Debbie Adams.

Signed
Chairman

The Clerk reported that access to the recycling bins in the playing field is being dealt with by Mr Daniel Wareing and nothing has been heard. The Clerk to contact. Ref: WK200931209 SCS.

The litter tipping on Butts Road has been reported and cleared up.

An email has been received detailing the temporary road closure of C332 Main Road, Tuddenham St Martin. This will take effect from 15th – 19th February 2010.

REH reported that he had met with Luke Barber, Road Safety Engineer for East Suffolk, to discuss the junction at Church Road/Bealings Road. REH reported that some dead trees could be felled. The Clerk was asked to speak to Luke Barber or landowner (Mr Parkin) about removing the oak tree on the bank of Bealings Road and also some of the self-sown saplings/hedge which obscure visibility of vehicles approaching from Tuddenham. Another tree which possibly needed some attention was on Mr Fenton's land. Councillors agreed that if the work to these trees could be carried out at the same time the road was being resurfaced it would cause the minimal disruption.

11. Registering Parish Council Land with Land Registry

SALC have recommended registering land to avoid uncertainty in the future and especially if there is a dispute over ownership. The Clerk was asked to get a quote for having the freehold to the land officially registered. It is thought this will cost £150 approx. Mr Ted Herrington supported the proposal that the land is registered. This was seconded by Mr Charles Lofts. ACTION: To be an Agenda item at the March meeting. The Clerk to obtain quotes from solicitors.

12. Finance

Councillors have been sent a copy of the draft budget prior to the meeting. Very little change has been made since the last year and the Chairman proposed that we accept it. This was proposed by Mr Ted Herrington and seconded by Mr Charles Lofts. The precept will remain the same at £3,500 for the year 2010/2011. The budget was formally adopted.

The village sign has been added to insurance policy free of charge till June 2010.

The following cheques were reported:-

Cheque No. 605	£92.37	REH (equipment for probation team to renovate bench & equipment to renovate village sign)
Cheque No. 606	£321.40	SCC (County Grounds Service)
Cheque No. 607	£26.42	S Cartwright (Printer Cartridge)

Signed

Chairman

13. Correspondence

A Consultation on Waste Core Strategy has arrived. Should we wish to respond we have until 22nd February 2010. This will be circulated.

“Suffolk Open Weekend” – grants available to hold events in celebration of the 2012 Olympics. Suggestions were a possible pub night. Also Mr Charles Lofts offered Cricket Meadow to hold an event. Mrs Tracy Hanson said she would liaise with Mr Malcolm Watson of Little Bealings parish on the possibility of a joint village event. We have until 16 April 2010 to make a bid for up to £500. Mrs Tracy Hanson has agreed to put forward the completed grant form.

14. Any Other Business.

Clerk to double check postcode of Village Hall. Mrs June Gosling to check on the correspondence received from electricity bills/water rates etc.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

The next meeting: - Wednesday 3rd March 2010

Signed
Chairman