

PLAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Playford Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on
Wednesday, 25th June 2008 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT

Dr John Day	-	Chairman
Dr David Lewis	-	Councillor
Mr C Lofts	-	Councillor
Mrs T Innes	-	Councillor
Mr R Herrington	-	Councillor
Mrs S Cartwright	-	Clerk/RFO

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr P Gardiner
Mrs D Gardiner
Mrs S Herrington

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs Tracy Hanson and Mrs June Gosling. Councillor Peter Bellfield apologised in person that he would be unable to attend the meeting.

1. To receive Councillor's declarations of interest in any item on this Agenda.

No declarations of interest.

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 7 May 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2008 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 Tessa Innes. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

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

7. Footpaths/byways. The possibility of joining footpath 13 and 9 was still being pursued. The Council was waiting for a letter from Mrs Eileen Stennett. Footpath number 20 and footpath number 1 which run through the Alder Carr need attention. The clerk was asked to contact the Highway/Rights of Way Department at SCDC.

12. Neighbourhood Watch. The Chairman was going to ask Mr Ben Welham if he would like to attend the SNT meetings held in Wickham Market on a bi-monthly basis as a willing police volunteer for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Signed

Chairman

Welcoming new villagers was brought up once again and it was decided that each councillor should be in charge of a road or part of so they know who is coming and going. Briefly Mrs Tessa Innes would be in charge of Butts Road (her end) Mrs Tracy Hanson – Butts Road (the other end). Brook Lane - Dr David Lewis, Church Lane and The Courts - Dr John Day. Hill Farm Road - Mr Charles Lofts. This was to be formalised at the next Parish Council meeting.

7. Risk Assessment:- The new Risk Assessment 2008 was looked at. To be added was:- Hazard - Rabbits. Action - Dr David Lewis to monitor and report damage. The prospect of having dogs in the playing field was brought up, and for the record it was unanimously agreed by all Parish Councillors that dogs should not be allowed onto the playing field. Mr Ted Herrington said historically he had looked after the Village Notice Board and Seat. If Mrs June Gosling was willing to monitor damage etc Mr Herrington would be pleased to do repairs. Mr Herrington to talk to Mrs Gosling.

9. Correspondence:- Dr John Day reported that they had at last received a response from SCC re the verges in Church Lane. An email had been received on 23rd June. Mr Derek Oldham's colleague had been out on site twice to inspect Church Lane. On both occasions he was not able to identify any significant areas of verge damage due to vehicle overrun, however he did offer to meet up with Dr John Day and have a site visit. Dr John Day will get back in touch in October/November time when the roads will be muddy again and the problem verges will be more readily and easily identified.

4. Boundary Committee

After quite some debate Councillors agreed that the tripartite option of East Suffolk, West Suffolk and Ipswich was the most compelling and the Clerk should write to the Boundary Committee of England outlining our reasons for going with this option. For one, the council tax should be cheaper. Two, it allows villages to maintain their rural identity. Three, historically there has always been an East/West split. Four, more control for local people. This proposal was open to the floor where all unanimously agreed to support the tripartite option. We have until the 7th July to reply.

5. Parish Plan

The “Stakeholder Consultation Framework Draft for Review” questionnaire had been circulated to all Councillors before the meeting in order that at the meeting some answers could be formulated. It was felt unnecessary to go through every point since not all points applied:-

Housing. This had been looked at in detail in the Local Development Framework Core Strategy Potential Directions for strategic Housing Growth. It was thought that this would be fed into the Parish Plan.

Employment. One employee – The clerk. However we do contract out to grass cutters, mole catcher etc.

Signed
Chairman

Traffic and Transport. This is a common item on the Agenda of Parish Council meetings with the speed at which traffic travels through the village a constant topic. Other changes hoped for – apart from a reduction in speed is the size of lorries. Frequently seen are large buses carrying very few passengers, large oil tankers filling up people’s oil tanks and blocking the roads and large lorries on unsuitable roads where they have perhaps been navigated by SATNAV which fails to tell them of the suitability of the road. All agreed that some limitation should be imposed on large lorries which have no business in Playford and they should be restricted to Access only. Mr Charles Lofts felt very strongly that it was unfair to penalise farmers by saying they cannot have any larger lorries. They need to make a living and the lorries on the continent are vast. In order to compete with them they need to carry bigger loads of, say, sugar beet. Dr David Lewis suggested an Action Group where we could pre-empt a problem. Mr Ted Herrington pointed out that there was lorry restrictions on A1214.

Public Services and Utilities. The frequency of the buses running was discussed and the fact that they don’t seem to coordinate with the times people need to be at work in the morning. However at £4.10 a return ticket to Ipswich it was considered to be expensive.

Shopping. It was concluded that a village shop would be nice but unrealistic in this day and age with Tesco, the Co-op etc on our doorstep.

Health & Emergency Services. With a very good Accident & Emergency department just up the road and the Police Headquarters at Martlesham, Playford is in a good position which is very well serviced.

Sport & Recreation. With Boule and football plus the John Belstead playing field in neighbouring village again councillors felt Playford was very well serviced.

Communication. Mobile telephones frequently don’t get a signal in Playford. Neither is Freeview available. It was felt that a Broadband connection is important for keeping in touch and the possibility of putting Masks up was discussed.

6. Planning

3 The Courts. An email had been received from neighbours who were against this development however the Parish Council could see no good grounds for opposing. If the neighbours complain direct to SCDC (which they would have done) the planning application will go to Committee.

7. Risk Assessment

Covered earlier.

Signed
Chairman

8. Finance

The following cheques were reported:-

Cheque No. 533	£998.75	P A Moyse – Boules Court
Cheque No. 534	£ 21.56	Food & drink for AGM
Cheque No. 535	£ 14.99	Phil Holmes for website domain
Cheque No. 536	£ 77.06	SCDC – Welcome to Playford leaflets
Cheque No. 537	£297.15	Insurance
Cheque No. 538	£100.00	Vouchers for Probation Team
Cheque No. 539	£100.00	Salc 08/09 Subscription

The following cheque was authorised:-

Cheque No. 540	£250	Donation to village hall
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In passing the clerk had been told that new fencing had been put up on one of the entry/exit places in the playing field. The Village Hall Committee had paid the bill for this which came in at £460.

9. Correspondence

An email had been received from Mr Ted Herrington re; Foxhall Stadium letter. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Knowles reinforcing they do their best to restrict their noise.

Various meetings/workshops were coming up:-

2 July 6-8 pm - Community Emergency Planning Workshop being held at Council Chamber – SCDC. Dr John Day would try and attend.

8 July 7-9pm - Local Government Re-Organisation being held at Kesgrave Conference Centre. Mr Ted Herrington and Mrs Sarah Cartwright would be attending.

27 August 6.30pm - SNT meeting being held at Wickham Market Village Hall Committee Room. Mr Ted Herrington and Mrs Sarah Cartwright would be attending. Possibly Mr Ben Welham attending too.

10. Any Other Business

Mrs Diana Gardiner commented on the Bealings Walks Leaflet and asked if we could do something similar. Dr David Lewis asked if a copy of this Walks Leaflet could be circulated around councillors.

Signed

Chairman

It was noted that the footpath from Church Lane to Spring Meadow is more grass/weeds than "footpath". The clerk would contact Highways/Rights of Way.

There was an infestation of rats in haystacks however this land was thought to be Mr Bill Pipes land in Tuddenham.

Mr Ted Herrington had been housing a sand bin. He asked if he could swap it with the one on Church Lane which is broken. Mr Ted Herrington also enquired about the letter Mr Eric Metcalfe had written back at the beginning of the year about the overgrown hedges in the village restricting visibility whilst driving etc. These are being kept under constant review and the Chairman had spoken to Mr Metcalfe, in addition the Clerk was asked to write to Mr Metcalfe. Everyone was reminded that it was the landowners responsibility to make sure that their hedges were kept trimmed. In addition Mr Ted Herrington reported that he had been cutting down hedges obscuring sign posts. "Quiet lanes" were raised again. These were coming within the Parish Plans.

11. Date of next Meeting - Wednesday, 3 September 2008

The meeting ended at 10 o'clock

Signed
Chairman