

PLAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Playford Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday,
3rd March 2008 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr P Gardiner
Mrs D Gardiner
Mr W Stennett

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PC Wheddon

At the commencement of the meeting the Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

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

Dr David Lewis stated that he does have an interest in the matter of the Boules Piste (Item 6 on the Agenda). Mrs June Gosling declared an interest as a member of the Parish Hall Committee.

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 10th January 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2008 were approved as a true and accurate record of the discussion at that meeting. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

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

None

Signed
Chairman

4(a) Planning

C07/2122 Spindleberry, Church Lane, Playford. This planning application has been withdrawn.

C07/2304 The Millers House, Butts Road, Playford, Ipswich, IP6 9DX. Insertion of three dormer windows, and erection of new roof over bay window on west elevation. The Clerk had written to SCDC and informed them of a vote of no objection. The Council was waiting to hear the outcome of this planning application.

C08/0094 Colonels Farm, Playford Road, Little Bealings, Woodbridge, IP13 6NE. Erection of a shallow pitch cattle building. The Council raised a vote of no objection to this application and the Clerk was asked to write to SCDC and inform them.

4(b) Local Development Framework (also included under “Planning”)

Documents relating to the above had been circulated prior to the meeting, unfortunately these had not reached some councillors. It was agreed that the information (especially the map) was a bit vague and that a special meeting should be called to discuss this in more detail. The clerk was asked to put a notice on the public notice board informing residents that an open meeting would be held on Monday, 17th March 2008.

It was agreed that to view planning applications in the Clerk’s house was a bit intrusive and that councillors should revert back to the old “brown envelope” system.

5. County Councillor Peter Bellfield’s Report.

Councillor Peter Bellfield was asked to speak first as he was due to leave early. He reported that the council tax increase of 3.75% is less than inflation and that they had received £10 million more than expected so there will be no need to make service reductions. Bus services, care of the elderly and free travel for 16 year olds too and from school have all been saved. The Terms of reference from the Government are for unitary council which has it’s +’s and minus’s – one being that there will be less Councillors around. The timescale will cover 4 stages. The new authority starts in May 2010. Dr John Day asked about the numbers and sites of gypsy & traveller accommodation in the east of England in order that he can give comments by 16th May. The clerk was asked to write or phone Steve Brown on 01394 444632.

Dr David Lewis asked Mr Peter Bellfield re the state of the locality budget? Mrs June Gosling informed us that £1,000 had been promised to the Village Hall Committee from Mr Peter Bellfield’s locality budget to cover part of the cost of a new laminate floor in the village hall and lighting outside in the car park. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for this work so that the VAT could be claimed back; to be reimbursed by the Village Hall Committee after payment.

Signed
Chairman

6. Boules Piste

Dr David Lewis reported that it had been a very successful Season (which runs April to November). This year they have joined a Suffolk Coastal League. They have found over the past 18 months that the game takes longer than anticipated which involves them starting early and finishing late. The preferred option is to widen the piste by 50%. This would cost £850 plus VAT. In terms of funding the Boules players would be able to raise approximately £250 and Dr David Lewis suggested that they were looking for £600 plus VAT. In principle the councillors unanimously support this however will have to look at it under Finance (Item 14 of the Agenda). On the same topic the clerk was asked to contact SCC Grounds and find out how wide their grass cutter is.

7. Footpaths/Byways

Mrs Tessa Innes declared an interest in footpath 19. The “Ramblers Association” had contacted the Parish Council about the possibility of joining footpath 13 & 9 in Mr Stennett’s land. Mr Stennett was able to report verbally that he was pleased to dedicate a connecting footpath between 13 and 9. It was agreed to inform the Definitive Map Team in order to for this to be formally adopted.

Dr Day also raised the subject of potential difficulties with existing byways. Mr Stennett (as a landowner through which an existing byway passes) had received a letter from Ms Debbie Adams of SCC re: improving the surface of byway 19 thus making it more accessible for commuter traffic. “Commuter traffic” was not specified and the biggest concern is motorised access. Mr William Stennett was waiting to hear back from Ms Debbie Adams and would keep the Parish Council informed. The Parish Council shared Mr Stennett’s concerns and it was agreed that as a Parish Council he should ask that the route be subject to a “traffic regulation order”. Once a response was received from Ms Debbie Adams, Mr William Stennett would get in touch with the Chairman.

8. Grass Cutting/Hedge Cutting

The fallen tree in Brook Lane belongs to Mr Charles Lofts who agreed to have it cut up. Mr John Wesley and the probation team were coming to the village on Tuesday, 25th March to cut the grass. Mr Charles Lofts kindly agreed to put his trailer out for their use.

9. Website

Mr Phil Holmes was to be thanked for taking on the Playford Website. Dr David Lewis asked how much it would cost for the domain since if it was to be moved it would no longer be free. The clerk informed him that it was approximately £10 per two years.

10. Welcome Leaflet

This will be finished shortly and printed off at Suffolk Coastal District Council. It will then need to be distributed.

Signed
Chairman

11. Highways

Mrs June Gosling and Mr Ted Herrington reported back from the A1214 traffic management meeting. In April SCC intend to switch the traffic lights off at St Michael's roundabout in Kesgrave as a trial measure. In the interim they shall be gathering data amongst which a traffic counter will be placed on the Playford Road. It was agreed not to proceed with the Community Speed Watch scheme.

12. Neighbourhood Watch

The clerk had visited Mr Owen Goldsmith who had passed on a lot of information from the past Neighbourhood Watch scheme. The police would be in touch with additional relevant literature and pleased to support Neighbourhood Watch development. It was agreed not to make it too bureaucratic. One of our parishioners had expressed an interest in resurrecting this system and would be introduced to the Clerk for further information.

13. Parish Plan

Dr John Day and Mrs Tracy Hanson reported back on the Parish Plan. They had "walked" through all the questions on the Residents Survey and the final draft was about to be agreed on. The Stakeholder Survey will be complete in another couple of months.

14. Finance

The Chairman asked Councillors if the Parish Council would support the funding of the widening of the Boules Piste at a cost of £600 plus VAT. Mr Ted Herrington proposed that we do and this was seconded by Mr Charles Lofts. Mrs Tracy Hanson felt that we should try accessing some funding from one of the schemes, for example Mr Peter Bellfield's Locality budget or the Playspace scheme. As it was a matter of some urgency Dr Lewis was invited to again seek alternative funding but if he had no success within the next 10 days we should proceed. This was agreed nem con.

The following cheques were reported:-

Cheque No. 100627	£175.44	SCC Grounds (Grass cuts)
Cheque No. 100628	£893.00	E Jacobs & Sons Ltd

15. Correspondence

The Parish Council's new external auditors were Stoy Haywood. They will stay in appointment for 5 years.

Risk Assessment for the Village Playing Field needs to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting since it has not been updated since March 2005. The clerk was asked to call the insurers Allianz Cornhill.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm

Signed
Chairman