

PLAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Playford Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on
Wednesday, 4th March 2009 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT

Dr John Day	-	Chairman
Dr David Lewis	-	Councillor
Mr C Lofts	-	Councillor
Mrs T Innes	-	Councillor
Mrs Tracy Hanson	-	Councillor
Mrs June Gosling	-	Councillor
Mr R Herrington	-	Councillor
Mrs S Cartwright	-	Clerk/RFO
Mr Steven Hudson	-	District Councillor
Mr Peter Bellfield	-	County Councillor

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs R Herrington

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs Anne Seward

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

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. This was written in the "Declaration of Interest" book and signed by the Chairman.

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 7th January 2009

Under minute number 10 Mr Ted Herrington asked that there should be five categories of hierarchy not three as written. He also asked for clarification:- "providing three discrete services" should read "providing three distinct services". On a separate issue it was recommended that Mr Ted Herrington should have the initials REH in the minute taking process not TH as these are Mrs Tracey Hanson's initials as well. Subject to the above amendments the minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2009 were approved as a true and accurate record of the discussion at that meeting. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

Signed

Chairman

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

Play Space Fund.

TH informed Councillors that Playford has a 1/3rd share of the £1,900 in the pot which we agreed to forego earlier in the year and has been applied for by the John Belstead Playing Field Committee. In addition the Play Space “pot”, for Playford’s sole use, contains £1039.44. JG suggested having wooden rails at both ends of entry to the Playing Field. Mr Peter Bellfield commented that the money in the Play Space “pot” has to be used for play equipment. JG to discuss with Village Hall Committee.

4. Parish Plan Update by Phil Holmes

JD welcomed Mr Phil Holmes and thanked him for coming to talk about the Parish Plan. JD explained that he hoped Playford would hold an exhibition and he has provisionally booked Playford Village Hall for Saturday, 2nd May for a “transfer of exhibition” for the residents of Playford. He hopes that this will go ahead and if it is given the thumbs up by the Steering Group the suggested opening hours from 10 am – 4 pm will need to be advertised in Benefice Newsletter.

Mr Phil Holmes informed the Parish Council that the Steering Group is in the very last few stages before printing and issuing and a lot of data has been collated to get to where they are. The Plan is a summary of information that was collaborated from the results of a survey and as such contains photo’s, graphs, maps etc. An exhibition is to be held so that residents of the three Parishes can have a look at how they got to where they are and the themes of the Consultation. An Action Monitoring Group will be set up to monitor the points that have arisen from the Parish Plan consultation. This Action Monitoring Group will be a non Parish Council monitoring Group and will “badger” the various Parish Council to get the points actioned. Mr Peter Bellfield pointed out that Grundisburgh very much keep their Parish Plan alive by revisiting it (as a document) once a year and discussing progress. We are different in many ways because there isn’t one single Parish council to pass it too but three. Everyone will receive a summary of the Parish Plan which will be distributed house to house. It will also be on the website. Dr John Day thanked Mr Phil Holmes for his report.

Signed
Chairman

5. County Councillor Peter Bellfield's Report

There has been a tax increase of 2.45% which compares with the Consumer Price Index of 3.1%. This is the lowest ever tax increase from the County Council. Savings of £60 million have been made in the last three years and a further £12 million this year. This latter has enabled additional £3.8 million into safeguarding children and £1.1 million has also been ploughed into vulnerable adults. To help in current circumstances Suffolk County Council has been able to help the Citizens advice bureau and Credit Union. It is the top performing County Council in terms of efficiency savings and the most cost efficient council in England. Best performing council for quality of service in the East of England. Suffolk Coastal has a 4 star rating and reference libraries have been up graded from 2 stars to 4 stars and excellent rating. The Local Government Review has been delayed yet again. The new timetable is:- 19/3/09 Boundary Committee draft proposals - new terms of consultation – Clerk to check on SCC website and inform councillors. 14/5/09 End of consultation. (deadline for PC's fresh response). 15/7/09 Boundary Commission final recommendation to the Minister. The Minister has 6 weeks to decide. Mr Peter Bellfield suggested the Parish Council send in a copy of our initial response to the consultation with a covering note stating "our views have not changed". In addition SCDC will be holding a Town and Parish Liaison Meeting in the Kesgrave Conference Centre on 30/03/09 to report on the Boundary's draft proposals. Mr Ted Herrington will be attending. Because of the delay of the Boundary Committee County Council Elections will be held on 4th June.

6. District Councillor Steve Hudson's Report

JD congratulated the District Council and Suffolk County Council on how well they had handled the burial site application. Mr Steve Hudson said he felt that the Tuddenham Burial Ground would go to appeal. Mr Steve Hudson reminded us that the Parish Plan has no legal status and that although most parishes have done one it is a recommendation rather than a requirement. This may change. Dr David Lewis said that we went into this process because we wanted to be driven by what the Parish wants. The Boundary Committee for England's increasingly ill-fated review of local government in Suffolk is clearly having a depressing effect on senior officers at SCDC. It is taking the drive away from officers because they just don't know what is happening.

Signed

Chairman

7. Local Development Framework

JD informed councillors that the LDF has classified Playford as “other village”. No response had been required as it was decided not to challenge the hierarchy settlement given. A debate ensued on the use of emails and how we use them. REH and CL said emails are fine for sharing information but not for decision making. Decision making should be done either by paper correspondence or preferably at a meeting when the decision made can be minuted. There has been some muddle over the Site Specific Allocations and Policies Document that was circulated with the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies. It appears that this document along with the “wish list” to extend the village envelope to include development at Kiln Farm has been overlooked and thus no response was given. District Councillor Steve Hudson said it was not too late to make a response.

8. Planning Applications

**C08/1582 Site of former High Meadows, Butts Road
Relocation of existing timber stables/barn buildings parallel to Butts Road,
including surfacing to the front of the buildings.**

Notice was given re the Council’s South Sub-Committee meeting on 5th March 2009. It was not felt it was necessary to send a Councillor for representation. The Parish Council had previously written to SCDC complaining about movement of the shed.

9. Police Report

There was one crime to report for the month of February. This was theft from an unlocked car. Villagers were reminded to “Lock it or lose it”. Minutes from the last SNT meeting will be put in circulation. Councillors did not feel the need to make a donation for the “locks for bicycles”.

10. Highways

JD circulated a letter that had gone out to the three local farmers in the area asking them to clear up after themselves re: roads and footpaths. JD made comment to the footpath from Playford Mount to the Church. This runs through the potato field and has been almost impossible to walk along. CL commented on the flooding in Playford Road. This had left the road closed for several days. The clerk voiced her frustration over Highways lack of communication over the blocked drain in Playford village. The Chairman concluded that a letter be written to them outlining our concerns. REH commented that Footpath 5 should be 1 ½ metres wide. Farmers appear to be ploughing much nearer to the hedge. DL commented footpath 20 running through the wood was terrible. The clerk was asked to action these points and will take them up with SCDC. Re: Verge damage in Church Lane JD will arrange a visit with Derek Oldham (Highways) when roads are muddy and problem verges more easily identified.

Signed
Chairman

11. Finance

The following cheques were reported:-

Cheque No. 582 £255.07 SCC Grass cutting

The following cheques were authorised:-

Cheque No. 583 £82.92 Mrs Sarah Cartwright (salary)

Cheque No. 584 £111.00 Playford Parish Hall

Cheque No. 585 £14.02 Mrs Sarah Cartwright (stationery)

SCDC has been consulted and the Precept is to stay the same for 09/10 (£3,500). £51.52 has been received in interest for NS&I bank account. £40.95 has been received from Norfolk County Services – recycling credit which brings the total for the year to £235.34.

12. Climate Change

The Introductory evening had gone well on 10th February in Bealings Village Hall. Nothing else to report

13. Welcome Leaflet

The draft will be circulated electronically to Councillors for comment and the clerk will contact SCDC for a quote on having the final copy printed for distribution to each household (free of charge) in Playford village. It is hoped the welcome leaflet will be circulated with the Benefice Newsletter.

14. Correspondence

A letter had been received from SCDC re an organised Litter pick. Councillors agreed to each look after their own little patch and opted out of an organised Litter pick.

The Agenda and Minutes for the SALC Area meeting has been received. No one was able to attend and our apologies will be given.

A Letter from Mrs Veronica Bunbury has been received asking for a bigger Dog Litter Bin. Councillors asked the clerk to get a price for a new bigger dog litter bin. REH has offered to put the “No Dogs Allowed” sign up, one either end of the Playing Field. JG agreed to discuss the “placement” of the Dog signs at the next Village Hall Committee meeting.

15. Any Other Business

Mrs Tessa Innes commented that the Notice Board needs a new coat of varnish/oil. Previously Mr Ted Herrington had treated the wood. The clerk was asked to contact the Probation Team to see if they could help over this matter.

Mrs June Gosling asked if the July meeting could be re-scheduled to 15th July. This was noted and confirmed.

Signed
Chairman

16. Date of next Meeting - The Annual Parish Council Meeting for Playford will take place on Wednesday, 6th May 2009 after the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 7.30 pm in Playford Village hall

The meeting ended at 9.20pm

Signed
Chairman