

PLAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Playford Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on
Wednesday, 7th November 2007 commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr P Gardiner
Mrs D Gardiner
Mrs S Herrington
Mrs A Day

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from WPC Victoria Gilmore and Miss Kate Waddell
Apologies were received from Mrs T Laws

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

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 5th September 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 5th September 2007 were approved as a true and accurate record of the discussion at that meeting.

Signed

Chairman

3. County Councillor Peter Bellfield's Report.

County Councillor Peter Bellfield gave his report. He reported that the County Council had started "scrutiny meetings" re: the budget. It has been reported that the County Council has to save £25 million in the coming year. Certain financial points had been put to the government. "Means testing" was coming in for care of the ill and elderly. 95% of Councils round the country already do this.

Before leaving Mr Peter Bellfield asked if there were any other questions and said he was available to us all at any time on the phone.

4. Planning. Mr Philip Ridley - who had been asked to come and give a talk – was invited to speak. He gave a brief overview of the inside workings of the Planning Department at SCDC. He outlined that 2,500 applications are dealt with in the year of which 1,400 are from householders wanting to do extensions etc. 80% of these need to be determined within 8 weeks. He also informed us that 11,700 new dwellings need to be built by 2024. Some of these will need to be "Affordable Housing" ie. housing managed by a housing association. Dr David Lewis asked the question, "How much attention is given to Parish Councils comments?" Mr Philip Ridley answered that there is an ordered process in accordance with the Local Plan. Over and above this all interested parties including Parish Councils are equally important and their comments are assessed accordingly. He ended by saying if there are any items for further discussion he would be happy to help if he can.

Planning Applications.

C07/1567/FUL Mill Cottage, Butts Road. Erection of two-storey rear extension & double cart lodge. Permission had been granted by SCDC

C06/0898/OUT Part of Garden South of, Sevenoaks, Butts Road. Use of land for the erection of two dwellings and all ancillary works. Permission had been granted by SCDC.

C07/1944 Playford Mount, Playford, IP13 6PH. Reconstruction and refurbishment of existing conservatory. The Council raised a vote of no objection to this application and the Clerk was asked to write to SCDC and inform them.

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

(i) Parish Councillors Responsibilities – Tree Warden

A Tree Officer from the District Council had been out and done a survey of the trees in the village. It was however decided NOT to formalise this Inspection Report at a cost of £90. (£30 per hour). The Council's insurance company stipulated that trees should be checked annually by a councillor and after severe storms and their condition logged in a book.

Signed
Chairman

(ii) Parish Plan

An exhibition had been held in the Bealings Village Hall on Saturday, 3rd November to which there had been a good turn out of local residents. This was being repeated in Playford Village Hall on Saturday 10th November. The purpose of this exhibition was to find out the views/concerns of individuals in the Parish and follow them up with Focus Groups and individual questionnaires to be distributed to all householders in the 3 villages.

A new linked account had been opened for monies for the Steering Group.

6. Footpaths

SCC had done a really good job of clearing the overgrowth and replacing the stile with a little bridge in footpath number 5 and the Clerk was asked to write and thank them. It was pointed out that footpath number 20 was partly obstructed in bluebell wood. The headmaster at Bealings School would like to upgrade footpath 8 so that children could walk to school and/or mums could push buggies/children could ride bikes. It was agreed that the idea should be pursued. Councillors stated that if the footpath could be switched over the fence ie, from one farmer's land to another's, this would make the footpath more accessible to bikes and buggies. Dr John Day agreed to follow this up with SCC. Once more a good byway would cut down on car pollution and parking – which is never easy in Little Bealings.

7. Sand bins

These were bought in 1996 since which they have fallen into disrepair. It was reported that Grundisburgh have plastic bins at a cost of £126 per bin. After some deliberating it was decided that since the route on which the sand bins are placed are now a priority bus route, replacing them would not be necessary.

8. Recycling Credits.

It was reported that the Council now hold a total of £212.71 from recycling credits.

9. Fix Meetings for 2008

The following dates were put forward for meetings in 2008:-

10 January

5 March

7 May (AGM)

2 July

3 September

5 November

10. Welcome Leaflet

Dr John Day and the Clerk were in the process of getting this printed.

Signed

Chairman

11. Goal Posts

£400 had been received from Councillor Peter Bellfields' Locality Budget. The total cost to erect a new goal post is £750 + VAT. The village hall would be donating £350 towards the cost. Mrs Tracy Hanson proposed that we go ahead with this. This was seconded by Dr John Day.

12. Finance and Budget

An outline of expenditure for the year 2008/09, to determine the Precept was tabled for discussion and potential approval or otherwise at the next meeting in January. (see attached). It was noted that the Clerk's salary had been increased with effect from April 2007 from £1,630.56 to £1,670.92. With regard to our contributions it was proposed that we should leave these existing contributions unchanged, however the Chairman after indicating a declaration of interest had received a letter from the fund raising committee of the Village Hall asking for support for events within the Hall specifically for parishioners and the Chairman suggested we might make a yearly grant of £250. It was agreed that we did not require a mole catcher but there were concerns that the frequency of grass cutting was insufficient.

It was agreed that the Precept would be less than the last financial year as the Council was holding a very healthy bank balance. Dr David Lewis proposed that some money was spent on widening the Boules Piste by 50% which would allow players to play 4 games simultaneously. The cost of this is between £500 and £750. Councillor Peter Bellfield Locality Budget could also be "tapped" as could the Play Space Fund. Dr David Lewis declared an interest.

The draft budget was commented on and to be formally agreed at the next Parish Council Meeting.

The following cheques were reported:-

Cheque No. 100520	£141.00	Lubbock Fine
Cheque No. 100521	£100.00	Little Bealings PCC (Benefice)
Transferred	£ 69.62	Donation to Parish Plan

The following cheques were authorised for payment:-

Cheque No. 100522	£76.80	Clerk's expenses (£36.44)
		Salary increase (£40.36)

Signed

Chairman

13. Correspondence

The correspondence including Kate Waddell and WPC Gilmore’s report’s were to be circulated in the brown envelope.

14. Any Other Business

There had been a spat of burglaries in the village. Village Halls are being targeted. Some youths have been caught. However we were all advised to be vigilant.

The “Garage Sale” sign needs to be taken down. Dr John Day agreed to contact the concerned parishioner.

The Meeting ended at 9.50 pm.

Signed
Chairman