

MINUTES OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH OCTOBER 2021, AT 7.30 PM AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

It was agreed that the minutes would be taken by Cllr. G. Battye

Present: M George (Chairman), P Wilkie, L Erith, G Battye, N Cartwright, P Fuller, D Harris, M Barrett (District Cllr), J Finch (County Cllr) and 1 member of the public attended in person and Lorraine Brooks (Community Times) and 1 other resident joined by Video link.

Before Commencement of the Meeting

a. Public Forum:

i. Highways

A resident asked the Council for its current status in dealing with the HGV problem in Wiston Road. He reminded the Council that the previous Council had site meetings with SCC Highways and discussed possible 'Not suitable for HGV traffic' on Wiston roads. He recommended that whilst Campions Hill and Cawley Road were obvious candidates for banning such vehicles, he felt that the whole of Wiston Road and Bures Road e.g. Old Fox Corner, Rushbanks area and onwards to Bures were equally needing control, owing to the narrowness of the carriageway, poor verges and the number of bends. He reminded the Council that SCC had defended the status quo by saying that there was 'no other route for HGVs'. However, during the last year, many road diversions have been created by repair roadworks. He asked the Council to recognise that the Wiston/Bures Road was clearly an unsuitable road. He reminded the Council that there have been temporary signs for 'Not suitable for HGVs' in Nayland, caused by the works in Mill and Birch Street. At the least, he felt that Campions Hill and Cawley road should be restricted.

Cllr. N. Cartwright who had led on this for the Parish Council, identified 'local traffic' (tractors, trailers etc., bulk vehicles) being the most common form of HGV. Discussion took place about whether the problem was seasonal. Cllr. Cartwright commented that the agricultural traffic, generated by local businesses, needed to travel along the local roads in order to get to the wider road network e.g. beet lorries. Mr. Gant from Suffolk Highways had been involved during the process. Cllr. J. Finch will raise it at SCC as a 'Formal Request'. Cllr. Finch felt also that conversations needed to take place with local businesses to discuss needs, traffic patterns or alternatives. He promised to do this.

ii. Caley Green

Mrs. L. Brooks had emailed the Council, to inquire whether there were any intended changes for disabled access to Caley Green and the river as a result of the Council Working Party's discussions on site. The Chair had confirmed in her own email response to Mrs. Brooks query that no changes to access or plans to build some barriers existed or were envisaged that would affect wheelchair use.

b. District Council Report

Report

District Cllr M Barrett attended and reported that at the last full council meeting councillors rejected an increase of the salary scales for Assistant, Strategic Director and Chief Executive posts. This was brought forward because of apparent difficulty appointing to a new senior post. Pay rates for the 11 most senior staff could, after progressing to the top of the new salary scales have increased by approx. 20%. Council reviewed CIFCO, the investment company set up by Babergh. It was reported to councillors that interest on the investments were secure although retained by CIFCO currently. Since the inception of CIFCO in 2017 Babergh have had a net return of £2.9m although a capital loss was reported of £12.4m (reduction in value of £7.1m).

A motion was proposed to end the current cabinet system adopted by Babergh before the last election. With the agreement of the proposer this will be reviewed in the year when one option may be to revert to a committee system.

They adopted a Wellbeing Strategy which fits with their work in communities. Their October meeting has been delayed until Tuesday 2 November.

In relation to District Councillors Locality Awards, the application process is open for schemes that either create strong, thriving and connected communities, support communities in their response to the climate emergency or promote resilient and healthy communities.

i. Planning

In answer to Cllr. P. Fuller query concerning a previous Harpers Hill planning application, Cllr. Barrett had talked to Babergh Officers about the site and encouraged the Planning Officers to liaise with SCC. See 'Planning – Item 8' for information on further discussion about this site.

ii. Governance of District Council

Cllr. G. Battye asked Cllr. Barrett that any changes to the way decisions were made at Babergh, should promote a greater 'connect' between residents and the Council at a local level. He felt that there was a growing 'dis-connect' between residents and the three tiers of local government.

c. County Council Report

i. Report

County Cllr J Finch attended the meeting in person and his report covered the continuation of the upturn of Covid infections, however, death figures are very low due to the vaccinations success. Booster covid and flu jabs are starting. He again urged regular rapid flow tests. Wide scale improvements are planned to the Suffolk's Special Educational Need and Disability services following the review by experts from Lincolnshire. The Hold, a new archive and heritage centre on Ipswich's Waterfront was officially opened by HRH The Duke of Gloucester. A new online booking system has been developed to book slots for recycling. He is giving high priority to flooding issues. Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue.

ii. Drains – Birch Street, Mill Street

Cllr. James Finch explained that he had talked with the Director of Highways and emphasised the need to get the main project completed. Some legal issues were holding things up. He had also voiced his big concern that specific drains had not been cleaned. It was accepted that during recent weeks there had been two major storms where the flow rate was 10" per hour, which even a new and efficient system would find difficult to handle. The Chair commented that a specific drain in Stoke Road had been cleaned today as part of the periodic jetting. Within the day it had already showed greater depth of water and looked clearer, which indicated that it could be achieved.

Parish Council Meeting Opened

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. R. Thorogood was unable to attend owing to work commitments. The Clerk, Mrs. D. Hattrell attended to help set up the meeting and then needed to leave ahead of the start time.

2. **Approval of Minutes of 15th September Meeting:**

These were approved, (Proposed by Cllr. P. Fuller and seconded by Cllr. P. Wilkie) with two abstentions – Cllr. L. Erith and Cllr. N. Cartwright -who had both been absent for that meeting.

3. **Declarations of Interest by Councillors :**

Cllr. M. George will abstain from voting on village centre drainage issues, owing to the location of her property.

4. Consideration of Future Meetings:

a. **Ordinary Parish Council Meetings**

Important extraordinary date changes for two future Parish Council Meetings, owing to unavailability of the Village Hall – the Council agreed that **Tuesday 9th November 2021** and **Wednesday 16 February, 2022** would be the new dates for these two months. Notice will be given of the date changes – particularly the replacement November date.

b. **Caley Green Open Public Consultation Meeting**

Discussion took place concerning the upcoming Caley Green Open Meeting. It was agreed that this would be held in the *Village Hall at 7.30p.m. on Tuesday 2nd November, 2021*. The working party are currently considering a format that would be informative, inclusive and allow for public participation. Cllr. L. Erith suggested that a Powerpoint presentation as a way of introduction. Cllr. N. Cartwright would advise on technicalities. Cllr. P. Wilkie will co-ordinate with Chair.

5. Finance Report

- i) The Chairman read from the bank balances as at 1st October 2021 as £1000 in the Current Account, £71839.40 in the linked Account and £17260.57 in the Capital Investment Account making a total of £90099.97. Outstanding - Bank transfer from linked account to Capital Investment Account in accordance with agreed actions from last year's Finance Committee - **Action Clerk**. The balances were checked against the bank statements brought into the meeting. It was confirmed that we still have a year to go in our current insurance long term agreement, the policy was therefore renewed at the same rates. The half year budget review was issued to members ahead of the meeting showing administration expenditure at 48% of budget at this half year point and general expenditure at 21% , however, some invoices are received later in the financial year. Overall we are at 31% of budget.
- ii. Update on improvements to the turning circle. The Council is still seeking a further quotation for refurbishing the Turning Circle adjacent to the Fairfield and Cemetery. The project will appear on the *November agenda*. *Action: Clerk*
- iii. The External Audit Report had been received from the auditors with all matters approved by the auditors. The Report will be deferred to the November Council meeting.
- iv. With the yearly Precept Finance Meeting coming up, major issues *for further consideration for expenditure* in the coming months/year, include items relating to Streetlighting, Playpark refurbishment and the Village Hall roof. Councillors were asked to think about and assess what might be considered for work and projects during the next financial year.

v.) **List of Pre-agreed payments for the September period: -**

Mortimer Contracts (Litter/Grass & Recreation)	962.40
Employment Costs totalled	1235.45
Business Services at CAS Ltd (PC Insurance)	482.79
The Stevenson Centre (Hall hire)	25.00

These were unanimously approved (Proposed by Cllr. N. Cartwright and Seconded by Cllr. L. Erith)

6. Planning

1. **Decisions from the Planning Authority:-**

- A) Various Conditions were approved with the exception of 13. Fenestration at 100 Bear Street – **DC/21/03624**.
- B) Planning Permission was granted for garden store and pump house at Roziers, Cawley Road, Wissington Uplands - **DC/21/04125**.

6.1 - Planning (Cont.)

- C) A Condition relating to materials was discharged for the application at Stour House, 23 Court Street - **DC/21/03726**.
- D) The Planning Authority do not wish to Object to the Conservation Area tree application at 16 Birch Street - **DC/21/04965**.
- E) Condition 3 relating to Louvres/batons was approved at Townlands, Harpers Hill - **DC/21/05261**.

- 2. Bear House, Bear Street - DC/21/04109** - Application for single storey rear extension by way of infilling of a lobby area and alterations to fenestration on the ground floor west facing. This was considered between meetings to comply with the deadline. The Parish Council had **No Objections**.
- 3. 97, Bear Street - DC/21/04980** - Erection of two storey rear extension and single storey side extension. This was considered between meetings to comply with the deadline. The Parish Council had **No Objections**.
- 4. Lower Courtwood, 13A, Court Street - DC/21/05250** - Notification of works to trees in a conservation area. The Parish Council had been unable to contact the agent concerning some missing information in the application. No recommendation made.
- 5. 41, Bear Street - DC/21/05132** - Application to change use of ground floor to holiday let.
This application has been withdrawn.
- 6. 5, Birch Street - DC/21/05276** - Application for Listed Building Consent
There were no objections to the replacement of the worn cement render by new lime render and associated improvements. (Proposed by Cllr. N. Cartwright and Seconded by Cllr. P. Fuller)
- 7. 14, Church Lane - DC/21/05479** - Notification of work to trees in a Conservation Area.
The Council had been unable to contact the agent. No recommendation made.
- 8.** At the meeting, the notification of Planning Application at **Harpers Hill Farm, Harpers, Nayland, CO64NT for Variation of Conditions 1(Compliance with approved plans), 4 (Hours of Operation) and 8 (disposal of surface water) of Permission SCC/0099/19B** was still being awaited by the Council, although some residents had received notification. County Councillor, J. Finch emphasised the need for the submission of actual evidence by residents and businesses in commenting on this application. Unless there are substantive comments, then this matter could well be delegated and decided by the planning officers without recourse to Council. The application seeks to vary what has already been approved. Cllr. G. Battye informed the meeting that 4 Plans, which are part of the application, were unobtainable on the SCC website. Both Cllr. J. Finch and Cllr. M. George (Chair) would seek a postponement of the decision, owing to the tardiness of notification so that the application could be considered by the Parish Council. The problem with the missing plans will also be notified to SCC.

7. Recreation and Open Spaces:

(a.) Fairfield Recreation Ground and Playpark:

The Annual Independent Safety Inspection Report is now awaited, following the inspection that Cllr. G. Battye had attended. The Council has received a quote for replacing Safety Surfacing around the Slide/Log Climb Equipment but awaits more. In the meantime, the Council asked, Cllr. G. Battye to contact our contractor to assess the costs of temporary repair. Quotes and a plan forward will be in agenda for the November meeting.

7.(Cont.)

(b.) Caley Green Open Public Consultation Meeting

A Risk assessment was undertaken at the end of the meeting which identified that 50 seats could be safely distanced and made available to the public in the Village Hall. A booking system would be devised and advertised. As well as the Parish Council website, posters would be commissioned to display, so that bookings could be made. If the maximum number of seats were pre-booked and used then for safety's sake, no more participants could be admitted. The meeting will be Zoomed with links available from the Clerk nearer the time. Any participants seeking the Link should make it known to the Clerk by email.

Action: Clerk & Chair

8. Any updates from Community Response to Covid 19: L Brooks continues to update FaceBook .

The local surgery and other GP practices were offering 'Booster' vaccinations during the next three weeks. Cllr. P. Fuller commented how the Football Stadium had proved an excellent vaccination centre for these booster vaccinations.

9. Highways Safety:

The Chair raised the issue the lack of regular gutter/road weed killing by the County Council, despite incidence being reported through the SCC Highways Reporting Tool. The Council requested that the Chair contact SCC Highways to complain and seek remedial action. (Proposed by Cllr. G. Battye and Seconded by Cllr. P. Fuller and passed unanimously)

Action: Clerk, Chair

10. Burial Ground issues:

Cllr. G. Battye reported on his invitation by Cemetery neighbour to view the Parish Council's overhanging trees and northern boundary fence condition. He had taken photos and this matter will be included in the annual Cemetery Grounds Survey. This survey, conducted with the contractor had to be delayed owing to the prioritisation of diesel fuel during the current fuel crisis.

Action: Clerk, Chair & Cemetery Sub-Committee

11. Street Lighting:

The SCC lighting contractors had made a series of errors in erecting new lighting in the centre of the village.

- i. In Newlands Lane, the wrong lantern had been erected in the wrong position
- ii. Mill Street Bridge light not installed - they had discovered electric supply problems
- iii. The Birch Street/Mill Street junction light had not been replaced with new unit.

The Council agreed that after so long, this was a lamentable state of affairs. The whole project had been going on for years and the time and patience of the Clerk and Chair were both being tested. It was suggested that Cllr. J. Finch be involved again in order to seek resolution. The Parish Council had precepted the costs and this allocated money still remained in the Parish Council bank account.

Action: Clerk, Chair

12. Footpaths Matters :

Cllr. L. Erith had taken photos of the condition of Dead Lane, Wiston. Brambles had taken over part of the lane, part of the St. Edmunds Way. Residents and owners were frustrated. Cllr. L. Erith agreed to prepare a briefing paper for the Chair and Council so that the Council could make the AONB management team aware and ask for input towards resolution.

Action: Cllr. L. Erith

13. Allotments :

The possible increase in the number of allotments will depend on the number being vacated etc. Michaelmas (End of September) is the time for the new rental period. The condition of a few of the current allotments might be a factor.

Action: Clerk, Allotment Sub-Committee

14. Village Hall:

The Village Hall roof renewal will happen. Contractors are to weed around the hall. Gutters are to be repaired as are the floor tiles near the Fire Doors. The Heating Control is to be altered to make it more flexible for users. Consideration is being given to replacing the hall lighting. There are lots of bookings of the hall. Sadly, despite a number of visits by BT Openreach, the line and Wi-fi are still not installed.

15. Community Council:

The Minutes are regularly circulated. For the Parish Council, the Financing of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration mugs given to qualifying village recipients would need addressing by the Council and its Finance Committee during the coming months. The Village 5th November Bonfire event, is to be held this year.

16. Correspondence: The correspondence report had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting.

County Broadband are to hold an open Webinar for residents on Thursday 14th October, which will outline the process and terms of this company's proposal to bring Fast Fibre broadband to the village. N Cartwright was asked to observe, represent and report back to the Council on the presentation and issues as he sees them. He outlined the financing model used by the company whereby a minimum uptake will be required to make the scheme viable. Tempting offers of including free installation and free running costs for the Village Hall and pubs etc. would probably also be included to encourage uptake by residents. A possible Government voucher scheme is a possibility but much more information is needed. Cllr. N. Cartwright will report back.

Action: Cllr. N. Cartwright

The meeting closed in good order at **9.15 pm.**