

MINUTES OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH MARCH 2023, AT 7.30 PM AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

Present: R Thorogood (Chairman), O Brown, N Cartwright, L Erith, P Fuller, M George, D Harris, M Barrett (District Cllr) and two members of the public attended in person and L Brooks (Community Times) and two members of the public plus Cllr. Treharne joined by Video link.

Before Commencement of the Meeting

a. Public Forum:

Chairman of Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) reported on current situation re funding for Village Hall Roof. Babergh District Council had introduced additional hurdles and will not consider grants until ALL funding is in place in advance and new deadline for work to be considered. A Teams meeting with Chairman and Babergh District Council has been arranged. Babergh Cllr. M. Barrett will also attend. Cllr Barrett had granted £2,600 locality budget funding for the Picnic in the Park fundraising event. National Lottery had suggested applying for increased grant of £175,000 following policy change. Current estimates £280,000 plus Photo voltaic panels and batteries. If National Grid can be 'plugged in' to energy generation this would provide an income as these will generate four times energy needed for the hall. The Beatles event had made a profit of £2,275 for the hall roof. Festival in September will involve all groups using the hall. Refreshments outside an activities inside to be used as publicity for the hall. Current hirings are better than pre-covid levels. Hire charges are being increased. The Chairman thanked the VHMC for all their work.

A resident and close neighbour of Rushbanks campsite outlined his objections to the application to formalise the increased number of tents, motor homes and caravan at the site. The scale of use is inconsistent with the natural environment, increase in visitor numbers causing noise, disturbance, litter, disturbing his cattle. "The quiet tranquility of AONB" is being ruined.

A resident asked the Parish Council to consider forming a Planning Sub Committee to deal with planning matters to avoid items being missed. Cllr. George explained that there had been a sub-committee at one time, but other councillors felt that they had been excluded from detailed discussion about controversial plans at a time when they were not available online. All applications were examined by all councillors between meetings and prepared their comments before full discussion at meetings. If any items had been missed in the past, it was because Babergh had not notified the Parish Council in the normal way. This concern had been covered in the recent correspondence to Planning Department from the Parish Council.

b. District Council Report

The local elections take place on Thursday 4 May, the pre-election period for Babergh starts on 24 March. As residents need to take photo ID to the polling station on 4 May many may opt for a postal vote instead. The deadline for applying for a postal vote is Tuesday 18 April. Forms are available on the government website, just search 'apply for a postal vote' or visit the Access Point in the Library, Sudbury on a Monday or Thursday and speak to a Babergh officer if you are unsure.

DC/22/00050 - The decision of the application to replace Boxted Bridge has been deferred until after May as officers have not seen elevational scaled drawings of the existing and proposed bridges to ensure like for like comparison can be made. This is a controversial application and will go before a planning committee.

Following an in-depth, internal review, the Council's referred itself to the Regulator of Social Housing regarding concerns about compliance. This relates to overdue health & safety checks in a small proportion of its properties. In response to this, the Social Housing Regulator has issued a Regulatory Notice, which means that it will now monitor Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils and meet regularly to ensure the necessary changes are being made, and that they are sustainable in the long term. The Regulator acknowledges that Babergh have an urgent programme underway to rectify the problems and considers there is no need for them to take statutory enforcement action against the Councils at this stage, as it has the assurance that the breach of the standard is being remedied.

Although they have tackled the outstanding lists it still stands as follows:

Asbestos 0

Electrical Testing 109

Gas inspections 66
 CO Detectors 146
 Smoke Detectors 1013

They have a lot of work to do to satisfy the Regulator. We are told that many of the checks were not done due to in the main to the tenant withholding entry to the officer.

In relation to CIL applications, decisions are expected this week for the current round although there are none in this ward.

Cllr Barrett asked whether the letters sent to Babergh Planning Department by the Parish Council and Conservation Society asking for a joint meeting had been raised as a complaint or as a concern. Mike Hunter, Chair of Conservation Society, and Cllrs. Erith and Harris confirmed that the word 'complaint' had not been used. M. Hunter explained that it was hoped that a face to face meeting to air concerns would be a better first step than invoking complaints procedure, but if no meeting was offered, then a formal complaint could be made.

Cllr George asked if there had been adequate publicity about the ID requirement when voting at Polling Stations in May. Cllr Barrett said that a notice was being put in all Council Tax letters so that all households would be aware of the new requirement to provide ID at the time of voting. An alternative is postal voting.

Cllr Barrett gave her apologies for the Annual Parish Assembly as it was on the same evening as her final District Council meeting. She would not be standing at the next election. The Chairman thanked her for her work on behalf of the Parish.

c. County Council Report

County Cllr J Finch had sent his apologies due to a family matter. No report available.

Parish Council Meeting

1. **Apologies:** were received and accepted from G Battye, D Hattrell (Clerk), S Treherne (attended via zoom) and County Cllr J Finch.
2. **Approval of Minutes of 8th February Meeting:** These were accepted as a true record. Proposed Cllr Fuller, seconded by Cllr Harris. All in favour.
3. **Declarations of Interest by Councillors :** No interests were declared.
4. **Finance Report**
 - i) The Chairman read from the bank balances as at 1st March 2023 as £1000 in the Current Account, £76248.22 in the linked Account and £34638.63 in the Capital Investment Account making a total of £111,886.85.
 - ii) List of Pre-agreed payments for the February period: -

Funds Transfer	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£685.20	Litter, BurialGround/Allotment
Funds Transfer	Employment Costs totalled	£1357.69	Salary, NI and Pension
 - iii) Fairfield Works Spreadsheet of proposed Capital and Maintenance works had been provided by Working Party. Maintenance had been approved and included in the precept budget plan. Capital items of £14,400 included £7,700 received as a legacy from Margaret Underwood's family. Other funding included funding earmarked in Capital Investment, Section 106 funding. New Playpark items included a trampoline, basket swing and a playpark gate. The Parish Council resolved to go forward with the purchase of this new equipment. Proposed Cllr. Erith, seconded Cllr. Fuller. All in favour. **(Action Clerk and Working Party).**
 - iv) PC Website Quote – Awaiting additional quote. Deferred. Agenda item for April **(Action Clerk)**
 - v) Any other urgent Finance Matters. None

5. **Planning**

1. Decisions from the Planning Authority:-

- a. The Planning Authority do not wish to object to the application for works to trees in Conservation Area at The White House, 16 Church Lane - **DC/23/00151**.
- b. An Appeal was allowed against the refusal of side and rear extensions at Rushbanks House, Bures Road - **DC/22/00804**. The Chairman read out the Inspector's reasons for overturning the decision by Babergh Planning Department. There are conditions to be applied. (Full decision letter on Babergh website).

2. 22 Heycroft Way - Notification of works to Conservation Area tree - DC/23/00615.

Both the Parish Council and our Parish Tree Warden had No Objections between Meetings.

3. 17 Stoke Road - Erection of two storey side extension - DC/23/00568.

The Parish Council had No Objections between meetings and noted the Highways comments were awaited in relation to the design of the splay. The Parish Council supports the idea of off road parking at this point. The design of the extension seemed in keeping.

4. Rushbanks Farm Caravan Site - Full Planning Application - Continued use of land as touring caravan and campsite - DC/23/00221.

There was lengthy discussion about the proposals. Concerns included: excessive traffic on single track winding road, scale of proposal, river congestion, impact on wild life, sanitation, noise across the valley late at night, disturbing amenity of Wiston residents. Evidence given of anti-social behaviour, litter on footpaths, thefts from front gardens in Wiston Road. Previous permission was for ten caravans only. Subsequent application to increased caravans had been refused (2016). Aerial photos of the site were shown to Council via the new screen in the meeting room. The Parish Council resolved to object to the scale of this application because of the detrimental impact on the environment and the AONB. Proposed by R, Thorogood. Seconded by D. Harris. All in favour. Objection letter delegated to M. George to send to Clerk to meet deadline the next day. **(Action M. George and Clerk)**

5. Any other urgent Planning matters - Confirmed our letter/paper was sent with the one from the Conservation Society requesting a Meeting . Agreed that a copy should be sent to Babergh District Council CEO. Further action to be taken if no response is received by 23rd March 2023.

6. **Highways:** New Highways monitoring responsibilities. Cllr George had met with new councillors S. Treharne and O. Brown to draw up a new spreadsheet sharing out areas of the eastern end of the parish. This had been circulated and approved. Updates regarding the speed survey - No update available. Cllr Finch had reported a change of criteria. Chairman of Conservation Society had reported over 60 messages of support from membership. Defer to next meeting to await additional information and clarification. Request for site meeting at Wiston Rd ditch. No date had been received from SCC Highways County Broadband works. Raised by Cllr George. Complaints about the chaotic arrangements for installed County Broadband have been received from residents on Heights and Harpers Estate who had been blocked from property without any advance warning to residents. Reports from G Battye and M. George. (S. Dalton offered information that installation near Caley Green had been carried out without too much impact on neighbours) Photographs had been circulated showing what appeared to be temporary boxes taped to telegraph poles with coils of wire without removing advertising posters. It had been noted today that on the one.network roadwards website, more closures and traffic lights were planned in centre of village. No notice had been received by Council or residents about these works. Cllr. Brown felt it was unreasonable to expect residents to seek out information on websites without any warning. Council resolved to contact County Broadband to explain their plans with a timescale. Proposed N. Cartwright. Seconded D. Harris. All in favour. Delegated to Cllr. D. Harris to contact County Broadband. **(Action D. Harris)**

7. **A Lasting Royal Memorial for the Village:** The landowner has given written permission for the memorial tree and bench on Caley Green. This was reported to the Parish Council between Meetings. The next stage will be to cost, also to check details with our Grounds Maintenance Contractors of any aspect of the proposal that may affect the maintenance and finally to consider any other potential

contributors such as the Community Council. Cllr. George to discuss with contractors when meeting on another matter and report information to Council. Cllr. Harris to seek costings when detailed plan approved. **(Action Cllrs. George and Harris.)**

8. **Street Lighting:** We are now up to date with the billing from the County Council. Arrangements for the final lantern replacement outstanding, still awaiting input from resident.
9. **Recreation and Open Spaces:** Caley Green progress report from working group. No progress had been made as Council is still awaiting a date for site meeting with Suffolk County Council following reminders. Councillors agreed that these delays were not acceptable. The erosion, long reed bank, culvert issues need to be resolved. There has been no report re Socket Alley from the same department. Cllr. Harris offered to contact Suffolk County Council in Debbie's absence to seek further information. **(Action D. Harris)**

Updates on the locations of new bins and correspondence received including complaint in Fen Street. Cllr George had arranged to meet contractors re litter bins at Caley Green. Fen Street bin discussed. The bin had been placed in front of a long, extremely high, brick wall next to other street furniture such as telegraph pole and grit bin. It was several metres away from any entrance to private property. It was felt that this had no visual impact on the house and garden behind the wall. Council would monitor the use of the bin over the next few months but as there is a secure lid it is unlikely to create any smell within the adjacent property. The bin had been placed there to service the High Street and deter dog walkers from using the open litter bin beside the seats in the High Street. **(Action Clerk to respond to resident)**

Stour Valley Marathon: Request from organisers to use Popp's Piece as a refreshment point as before. Agreed, subject to a warning that this area is used extensively for parking at the Anchor. **(Action Clerk to reply)**

10. **Village Hall:** including roof project. (see public forum report from VHMC Some Parish Councillors had attended AGM.
11. **Community Council:** Some Parish Councillors had attended AGM and minutes had been circulated. Community Council an VHMC had arranged for hall and field to be available for a Coronation event but volunteers were needed to organise a more informal event than the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in 2022.
12. **Allotments:-** update from Sub Committee, The two-monthly inspection was done at beginning of March. A draft letter to all tenants reminding them of cultivation obligations and the meeting on 20th was approved and will be circulated by the Clerk. Individual letters for any tenant in breach of regulations will be sent later. The gate to the grazing meadow was discussed as contractor felt a new one is needed rather than moving the existing one back to the posts. This old gate is now obsolete. The permissive path is now used by people on mobility scooters who would find a gate difficult. The locked gate at Candy Lane exit is enough to prevent access to grazing meadow by unauthorised vehicles. Parish Council resolved not to replace gate. Proposed Cllr Brown, seconded Cllr Erith. All in favour.
Parish Councillors will attend the annual meeting with allotment holders at the Church Hall if available. The trees commemorating 70 years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth had been planted. Councillors had been circulated with the design and cost of the commemorative plaque and this would be ordered **(Action by Clerk/Cllr M George)**
13. **Burial Ground:** including progress report in relation to required tree surgery Requests for site meeting and quotations had been requested but no response has been received apart from the quote from our own contractor. Decision deferred to April.
14. **Footpaths:** Parish Council had received information from Parish Footpath Warden and SCC PROW Officer about a footpath closure and broken footbridge in Wiston. Chairman had inspected as this is on boundary of his land. He had repaired footbridge and met with PROW officer who was about to put up closure notices. This path will now remain open.
Chairman also reported on behalf of Nayland Land Company that extensive work had been done on the permissive footpath beside the Conservation Meadow, thanks to a grant from Dedham Vale and Stour Valley AONB Team.

15. **Correspondence:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The items had been picked up under the various agenda items.
16. **Annual Parish Assembly Arrangements:** Poster approved. Cllr. Cartwright to print and laminate by weekend, Cllr. George to display in usual areas of parish. Councillors need to arrive at 7.30 pm to get hall ready for meeting at 8 pm. Councillors allocated individual areas for reporting. Main topics, planning concerns and new play equipment plans, as well as usual District and County reports. Discussion about format for future meetings as attendance was very low at the first post pandemic meeting in April 2022. Meeting is early this year because of elections in May .
17. **Parish Council Elections:** Nomination forms now available online to download for completion. Councillors were reminded that those wishing to stand for re-election at the District, Town and Parish Council elections in May need to make face to face appointments with electoral officers at designated centres to hand in their forms as outlined on letter circulated earlier.

A ten minute extension was requested

The meeting closed at **9.40 pm.**