

# Sutton Bridge & Wingland Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 7pm Tuesday, 28 January 2020 in the Farmers' Room at The Curlew Centre, Sutton Bridge.

Present: Cllrs: S. Booth (chairman), Scarlet (vice-chair), M Booth, Brewis, Clery, Davies, Ebbs, Goodwin, York.

Clerk: Mr R Smith.

Public: 5

Cllr S Booth greeted everyone present.

One member of the public requested to speak during the public forum and the following item were discussed:

- Village signs need a clean.
- Picnic benches on the village green need attention as worn and rotten in places. It was suggested that nearby local businesses might be willing to contribute to the renovation costs.

It was **resolved** for the clerk to obtain written quotations for the above and for these to be raised for consideration at the next meeting.

### 20.001 Apologies (1)

Cllr Cook, Cllr Summers.

### 20.002 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests not previously notified to the Monitoring Officer and any written requests for dispensation. (2)

- Cllr S. Booth declared an interest in agenda item 21 as a tenant of the Parish Council.
- Cllr M. Booth declared an interest in agenda item 21, being related to Cllr S. Booth.

### 20.003 Signing of the minutes (3)

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting held 17/12/19 as an accurate record.

### 20.004 Police matters (4).

A police surgery had taken place on 19<sup>th</sup> January. More dates were awaited. Cllr M. Booth stated that there had been very little interest from the public with only one attendee, who raised the problem of illegal drugs in the village. It was **resolved** that the clerk suggest to the PCSO that the time allocated for the police surgery be split between attending the police room and walking around the village.

### 20.005 Chairman's remarks (5)

See appendix 1 and 2.

### 20.006 Clerk's report (6)

- The precept requirement had been submitted to the District Council as resolved.
- Pension contributions submission for 2020/21 had been submitted as resolved.
- The website had been updated.
- Planning comments had been submitted as resolved.
- The two new desktop PCs had been installed and were working well.
- A VoIP soft telephone account had been set up and was working, as resolved.
- The Parish Council's agency litter reclaim from the District Council (SHDC) had been paid.
- A meeting with SHDC to discuss Princes' Street Park and the play equipment was to be arranged.
- The fair had been booked and will be on site Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, open Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>. Another fair had asked about booking the park but withdrew the request as it would have been too close in time.
- A visit to further investigate the District Council putting in electric vehicle charge points in the car park would be taking place Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February.
- The buyer for Kenzie Drive was away until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in February when it was hoped that land sale completion could take place.

### 20.007 To receive reports from County and District Councillors (7)

Cllr Brewis' reported:

- SHDC road sweeper had been in evidence in the village. Despite advanced notice of its visits, the biggest problem to its effectiveness was parked vehicles. The chairman commented that it was good to see that the District Council had responded to the Parish Council's requests.
- The restored tarmac at the cemetery had been inspected and was now considered satisfactory.
- All road drains would be inspected annually by the County Council.

Cllr M. Booth reported:

See appendix 3.

### 20.008 Financial matters (8)

- Schedule of Payments to 28/01/2020:

Payee	Detail	Type	Net	VAT	Total
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charges	SC	£ 18.00		£ 18.00
TalkTalk Business	November Calls and broadband	DD	£ 26.95	£ 5.39	£ 32.34
TalkTalk Business	December Calls and Broadband	DD	£ 26.95	£ 5.39	£ 32.34
N Power	Electricity	DD	£ 118.98	£ 5.95	£ 124.93
Eurotrade Ltd	Litter Picking Hoop	CP	£ 6.66	£ 1.33	£ 7.99
Mr R Smith	Expenses Computer Equipment	BP	£ 1,095.83	£ 219.17	£ 1,315.00
Mr R Smith	Expenses Computer Equipment	BP	£ 1.67	£ 0.33	£ 2.00

Mrs K Croxford	Travel Expenses	BP	£ 8.91		£ 8.91
TalkTalk Business	January Calls and broadband	DD	£ 26.95	£ 5.39	£ 32.34
XBM Ltd	Photocopier	DD	£ 2.68	£ 0.53	£ 3.21
Sipgate	VoIP Phone Credit	CP	£ 8.33	£ 1.67	£ 10.00
Staff	Salaries	BP	£ 1,850.39		£ 1,850.39
Lincs Pension Fund	Pension Scheme	BP	£ 623.82		£ 623.82
Mr D Large	Tree works	BP	£ 180.00		£ 180.00
Cozens (UK) Ltd	Removal of Christmas lights	BP	£ 750.00	£ 150.00	£ 900.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>£ 4,746.12</b>	<b>£ 395.15</b>	<b>£ 5,141.27</b>

It was **resolved** to approve the payments as above.

- ii. The following receipts were noted: interest £135.53; SHDC litter picking reclaim £1,260.00; wayleave £197.93.
- iii. Delegated expenditure by the clerk of £7.99 on litter picking equipment was noted.
- iv. It was **resolved** to accept the quarterly budget review, noting funds remaining under individual headings. Also, to record thanks for the excellent financial information that the Council was receiving.
- v. There were no grant applications.

#### 20.009 **Recent correspondence (9)**

- i. East Elloe Good Neighbour Scheme. Cllr Davies would attend the next meeting for the Scheme and report back. It was **resolved** for the clerk to invite representatives of the scheme to address a future Parish Council meeting.
- ii. The receipt of information on wider requirements for water abstraction licences was noted.
- iii. Receipt of proposed coastal exclusion information was noted.
- iv. Information received on VE Day celebrations and Pride Award nominations was noted. It was **resolved** for a resident proposed by Cllr Brewis to be nominated by the Parish Council. Cllr Brewis to forward full details to the clerk.
- v. Information about the County Council's forthcoming upgrade of Parish Councils websites was noted. It was **resolved** for staff to attend training as required, it was to be suggested that the Curlew Centre be used as one of the training locations.
- vi. It was **resolved** to permit the Northern leg of the Student Cross to use the pavilion showers on the evening of Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020 as requested. The football club had been informed.

#### 20.010 **Planning matters (10)**

- i. New applications
  - H18-0046-20: Full. 6 New Road, PE12 9RQ. Internal alterations and extension. It was **resolved** to support the application.
- ii. Applications previously considered in accordance with the Parish Council's planning policy
  - H18-1215-19: Barn at land adjacent to Westmere Farm New Road, PE12 9QD. Modification to approved application H18-0751-19. No comment submitted.
  - H18-1211-19: 48-50 Bridge Road, PE12 9UA. Outline residential development for 4 x 3-bedroom terrace. No comment submitted.
- iii. Decided applications
  - H18-1149-19: Condition compliance. 8A High Street, PE12 9LH. Approved.

#### 20.011 **Highways & footways (11)**

- i. Update on outstanding matters
  - It was noted that Highways had stated that they would be taking no further action at this time regarding the damaged 30mph sign on edge of Village on New Road.
- ii. New matters to be reported:
  - Crumbled road surface at junction of Garner's Lane and Grange Road.
  - Large pothole on New Road on left as approaching village from the north.
  - Column light failure on Bridge Road zebra crossing.
  - Road surface of zebra crossing still requires completion.

#### 20.012 **Committees and working party reports (12)**

None

#### 20.013 **Outside bodies' representatives' reports (13)**

- i. A written report was read and received from the Parish Council's co-opted representative from the AGM of the South Holland Voluntary Car Scheme.
- ii. Minutes of the last meeting of the King's Lynn Joint Advisory Group of the Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership had been received, for a copy please contact the clerk. The next meeting of the group would be held on Tuesday 10th March 2020.
- iii. It was **resolved** to thank Mr John Grimwood for attending and reporting on the above meetings.

#### 20.014 **Car park (14)**

It was **resolved** to defer a decision until after the receipt of drawings of the proposals.

#### 20.015 **Bridge Road school zebra crossing (15)**

The matter was deferred until the next meeting, as further information was awaited from the

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.

20.016 **Bridge Hotel (16)**

- i. Following a discussion, a proposal to write to the mortgagees of the Bridge Hotel to request foreclosure of the mortgage in order to force the sale of the property was not supported.
- ii. It was **resolved** to take information regarding the matter to the District Council for its consideration.

20.017 **New pavilion and associated facilities (17)**

- i. Design and build quotations for the new pavilion were still to be arranged.
- ii. It was noted that a copy of the tenancy agreement for estate holding 126 had been received from Savills.
- iii. Receipt of an email from Savills was noted. The email concerned discussions between Savills and the football club about the provision of football pitches on land at Wright's Lane, within Sutton Bridge Estate Holding 126. It was **resolved** to arrange a meeting with Savills attended by the chairman, the chairman of the allotment committee, and the clerk.

20.018 **Parish office (18)**

A quote was awaited for extending the office's electrical dado rail. It was **resolved** that if the chairman, the vice-chairman, and the clerk agreed that the quote was reasonable, works were approved to proceed.

20.019 **To receive members' requests for consideration at the discretion of the chairman (19).**

- i. In discussions with the head of Westmere Primary School, Cllr York reported that he had been told that children were being targeted with the supply of drugs and being shown pornographic material at the Princes Street Park. It was emphasised that any reports of such activity should be reported to the police.
- ii. Cllr York also reported the offer by the head of Westmere Primary School for the School's main hall to be used as a youth club.

**Standing orders were suspended at 8.17pm to allow a member of the public to speak on the matter.**

Mr John Grimwood reported that £1,000 remained available following the closure of the former village youth club. Also, table tennis tabletops and other equipment was being kept in storage. While LCC had initially cut funding, the biggest problem in having youth club was the shortage of volunteers.

**Standing orders were reinstated at 8.22pm.**

It was agreed that Cllr York would liaise with the head of the school to see if volunteer might be found, possibility through the school's PTA. It was **resolved** that the clerk write to the school in support of a new youth club.

20.020 **It was resolved to move into closed session on the grounds of confidentiality by virtue of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2). (20).**

Five members of the public left the meeting at 8:25pm.

20.021 **Change in order of business**

It was **resolved** to change the order of business on the agenda moving forward agenda item 22.

20.022 **Staffing matters (22)**

- i. A verbal report received from the clerk was noted.
- ii. It was **resolved** that the clerk determine additional costs relating the purchase of a utility vehicle for use by the council for litter picking and outside maintenance purposes, specifically: insurance costs; the costs for adapting the old toilet block for suitable garaging and electrical recharging; costs for a diesel vehicle (costs for an electric vehicle having already been provided).

**Cllrs S Booth and M Booth left the meeting at 8:40pm having previously declared an interest in the following item:**

20.023 **Farm Business Tenancies (FBTs) (21)**

- i. A confidential written report from the clerk relating to proposals from land agents for the management of the Parish Council's FBTs was circulated.
- ii. It was **resolved** that the clerk obtain three quotes, fixed if possible, for the supply of suitable five-year FBT agreements, and a biennial periodic tenancy agreement. Other matters as recommended in the report.
- iii. Councillors returned copies of the report to the clerk.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8:52pm.

Signed: .....  
Chairman - Sutton Bridge Parish Council

Date: .....

## Chairman's report January 2020

Simon Booth

I have had correspondence from a councillor which I feel I should make council aware of in the interest of openness and transparency. This puts me in a difficult position As I have always declared an interest on this issue as a tenant of special holding 11 as it was originally called and also 3 acre of previous allotments.

Therefore I am not prepared to discuss the tenancy in detail and are only prepared to read you the correspondence as printed and to say that this has been issued to me individually and has not come via the clerk, the allotment and farm tenancy working party or its chairman which I would consider the correct route.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time I have received such communication from this councillor, in my opinion it is undermining and disrespectful to me as a chairman and to the council, and as such a copy will be issued to the monitoring officer.

Clerk's note: the correspondence referred to has been included with the minutes as appendix 2.

PETER CLERY  
Little Curlew, Guy's Head Road,  
Sutton Bridge, Spalding, Lincs. PE12 9QQ  
Tel: 01406 350848 Email: clery@curlew.fsworld.co.uk

Simon Booth,  
261 Bridge Road, Sutton Bridge,  
Spalding, Lincs. PE12 9SL

21/1/20

Dear Simon,

**55 acres (or thereabouts) of Council owned farm land known as Speechieys.**


I am writing to you as I am a concerned member of the Sutton Bridge & Wingland Parish Council on the above. There are 7 occupations and one vacant plot (16b of just  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre). The occupied plots, I shall call A, B, C, D, E, F1, and F2. Of these, the Council holds tenancy agreements for all except Holding B (14 acres in 2 blocks) and Holding C (1acre). It appears that the Council has no written record of a tenancy for Holding B but you are the occupier. There appears to be no record with the Council of the rent properly payable or the duration of your occupancy.

This is an irregular and unsatisfactory situation especially as you are the Chairman of the Council and owe a duty of care to the community to ensure that Council affairs are run with integrity in line with the Nolan principles. I also think it puts our Clerk in a difficult position. You may well have established some right to occupation perhaps by virtue of you paying and the Council accepting rent, but this surely should be regularized. The lack of a written agreement between you and the Council might also be a matter for the Internal Auditor.

To clear this up, may I suggest that you now pass to our Clerk any written evidence or professional opinion of your right to occupy this land so that your position may be properly considered and regularized. If you hold onto this land without your position being regularized, it could be said that you were putting your own commercial interests as a farmer in front of your duty as our chairman and I am sure that you would not wish this.

Alternatively, as all the other tenancies expire in October this year, you may consider it proper to surrender any rights you may have to occupy this land. The Council would then be able to review the whole 55 acres and perhaps decide to offer the (re-organized) land by open tender. This would seem to be the fairest solution in the public interest which interest the Council is here to serve.

Yours Sincerely,



## APPENDIX 3: CLLR M BOOTH'S DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT - TUESDAY 28TH JANUARY 2020

#### PCSO BENNETT - DROP IN SESSIONS

To discuss policing concerns - very little interest from the public.

#### APPLICATION H18/1099/19 -

Sutton Bridge Con Club development - 2 commercial units on ground floor with self-contained flats above - going to Chairman's Panel on Friday 31st January at 9.30 am in Meeting Room 3

#### PUBLIC LOANS BOARD

Is now not the best interest rates for Local Authorities

#### SOUTH HOLLAND LAUNCHES A CAMPAIGN TO SCRAP ROGUE TRADERS ON 13th January 2020

Working with partners across Lincolnshire which aims to fight the blight of fly-tipping in the County and to cut clear-up costs. People can avoid an unlimited fine by following the scrap code

1. Suspect all waste carriers
2. check with the Environment Agency on 03708506506 that the provider taking your waste away is licensed
3. refuse unexpected offers to have waste taken away
4. ask what will happen to your waste
5. paperwork should be obtained and get a full receipt

#### INDUSTRIAL UNITS

A full report will come to the Performance Monitoring Panel on Wednesday 29th January 2020 and this will include what they are being used for

MICHAEL BOOTH