

KIRTON & FALKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th February 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Recreation Ground Pavilion

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

PRESENT 8 Parish Councillors, Mr P Negus (PTLO), Mrs S B Harvey (DC), Mr R Kerry (DC), 2 Parishioners.

1. **Police Report**

A submitted Police report referred to 3 thefts of and from cars and a burglary in Kirton. Cars during January. Property had been recovered and an arrest made; such occurrences are rare in the Parish. Speeding offences continue to fall.

2. **Parishioners Questions**

Concerns were raised about the effects on footpaths due to the off-shore cable works, and a response from EAOW will be sought.

3. **County Councillor's Report**

Mrs O'Brien's written report outlined the County Council's proposals to save £26m in the 2nd year budget. The Council had over 100 local businesses and organisation signed up to its Stay Safe Scheme to protect vulnerable people, and proposals had been agreed to assist young people with discounted travel. The Realise Futures enterprise, which provided services originally delivered by SCC, was introduced and the County was pursuing bypass issues connected with Sizewell C; she had made representations to EDF about the siting of lorry parks for Sizewell.

4. **District Councillors' Reports**

Mr Kerry (DC) referred to the meeting later that week to introduce the Boundary Commissions investigations into District boundaries, which could result in a significant reduction in the number of District Councillors. He gave an update on the LDF negotiations with the Inspector on housing need. Mrs Harvey (DC) reported on progress on the Solar Array applications, and complaints over bird scarer noise.

5. **Community Shop**

The Chairman invited Mrs Harvey (EDC) to introduced the studies being made into the establishment of a Community Shop in the Parish. She outlined the enquiries so far made of established shops elsewhere, and a public meeting was to be held on 9th February, to gauge interest.

6. **PTLO Report** (attached)

Mr P Negus added that contracts had now been awarded and noted that buses would pass directly through Kirton during school term time and make the loop during holiday periods

The Chairman closed POF at 7.55pm and opened Parish Council meeting. District Councillors left.

PARISH COUNCIL

PRESENT: Messrs I Cade, A P Hutton, D Jacobs (Chair), M A Paul, G Walker, Ms EY Choi, Mesdames J L Matthews, J L Shaw, Mr P Negus (PTLO), Mrs S B Harvey (DC), Mr G A Harding (DC), Mr R A Kerry (DC), and 2 Parishioners.

1. **APOLOGIES:**

F Last, C M Cooper (business), E A Colville (sick), G Harding (DC), P M O'Brien (CC).
Pc G Bown.

2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2013 having been previously circulated were taken as read, approved and signed.

ACTION

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

i) Deben Estuary

Councillor Paul reported on the latest activities of the Deben Estuary Partnership. It had appointed a geologist to report on the condition of all the walls to bring them to 2050 standard. He had identified a speaker to make a presentation on the proposals at the Annual Meeting in April.

MP

ii) Tree Survey/Warden

The prospective warden had declined the offer. The Chairman had researched actions taken by other authorities regarding tree safety (c130014/40). A contractor had been approached and had submitted a quotation for surveys of trees on the Recreation Ground and Village Green. Councillor Shaw would pursue the suggestion the Woodlands group might monitor the remaining trees around the village.

JS

iii) Offshore Wind Farm cabling

Copies of the Orders for the cabling works had been received and were posted around the Parish (c130041). Councillor Cade had examined the documents and there may be nothing of direct concern to the Parish. Agreed Council should register an interest which he would deal with. Councillor Shaw would also see if there were any local issues.

IC/JS

iv) Sizewell C

The Council has made representations objecting to any the establishment of a lorry park at Seven Hills together with Mrs O'Brien and following

meeting with Mrs Coffey MP (c130026/30/46, c130038) An introductory letter had been received from New Build Project Manager (c130063).

v) Web site

Chairman had completed the set up and it had been well received.

vi) Highway Drainage

SCC had carried out works to the drainage ditch at the west end of Park Lane.

vii) Meadowlands plot

On-going.

4. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

i) Council Tax Reduction The Chairman had attended the meeting on 7th January and copies of the slides presented had been received (c130021)

ii) Community events An initiative by SCC spot to provide assistance to Community Events (c130039) had been circulated for information.

iv) Healthwatch

Questionnaire seeking views had been circulated (c130061). Suggested Councillors consider making individual responses; Councillor Colvill had responded on behalf of the Council on a previous occasion.

v) Social Media workshops

Meetings arranged by SCC for March 7th/8th noted (c130068).

vi) !953 Floods commemoration

SCDC had produced a commemorative booklet, 2 copies of which (c130071) had been received and were circulated.

5. **BOUNDARY REVIEW**

Councillor Colvill will attend briefing meeting on 6 February (c130052/65).

IC

6. **VILLAGE SHOP**

Proposed I Cade, seconded A Hutton and carried that the Council fully supported the initiative set up by parishioners to investigate the creation of a community shop.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Planning** (attached)

i) SCDC Core Strategy.

The Bar Council Pro Bono committee has assigned a very appropriate lawyer. Chairman and Councillor Cade have had two conference calls, which have been very informative. The lawyer agrees Council's concerns regarding the removal of planning policy protection for port related use is valid, and have not been properly addressed. A meeting with SCDC is being sought, and this will be followed up with a formal letter. Advice will be taken on possible further steps.

IC/DJ

ii) Felixstowe Port

Agreed Councillors Cade and Hutton would attend the next LALC meeting on 21st March at Cambridge (c130070).

**IC/AH
CLERK**

b) **Finance** (attached)

i) Review of effectiveness of internal audit & control

Proposed J Shaw, seconded G Walker and carried that the Review carried out by review committee (Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk, Colvill) is accepted.

ii) Reserves

Agreed a review of the allocation of Council reserves should be considered after the end of the financial year.

CLERK

iii) Invoices

Proposed J Shaw, seconded I Cade and carried that the invoice from SCDC (c10044) for replacement of RG dog bin at £145.07 and from Wildwood for provision of cherry picker to remove tree lights and trim tree (c130084) at £204 is approved.

CLERK

iv) Tree Survey

Proposed M Paul, seconded A Hutton and carried that the quotation from Wildwood for undertaking surveys of Recreation Ground and Village Green trees (c130084) at £450 + vat is accepted.

CLERK

v) Grants

Request from AgeUK for grant (c130053) deferred until next autumn.
Acknowledgement of grants received from CAB, Village Hall, Disability Advice Service and HomeStart (c130048/43/56/67)

c) **Environment & Transport**

i) Owl boxes Noted Suffolk Wildlife Trust has owl boxes available (c130064) and suggested sites invited.

d) Recreation Ground

Nothing to report

6. SALC REPORT

Notices received on Document Management (c130037), 2013 awards (c130050), Snow clearance and red diesel use (c130051), LAIS 1347 community infrastructure levy (c130054) (and concerns with government over Precepts (c130057)).

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Other correspondence as listed on agenda noted.

8. MATTERS FOR INCLUSION IN FUTURE AGENDA

Woodland Group re trees, Emergency planning, Deben Estuary, Scout community week, Wind farm cabling, Sizewell C, Annual Meeting arrangements

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 18th March 2013 in Recreation Ground Pavilion at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m..

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Following the Parish Council meeting, the Planning Committee met to consider the application

**18 Burnt House Lane, Kirton
Erection of rear extension**

Present I Cade (chair), M Paul, A Hutton, J Shaw, D Jacobs.

No objections to proposals.

Signed.....

Date.....

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING

C11/2802	The Cockles, Back Road, Kirton Construct new access to B & M concrete, close existing access, change of use of agricultural bldgs to B1 use, Remove Agric from “Cockles” and replace S106 on B& M dwelling.	Support with comment on access	Pending on S106
C12/2059	Land @ Walk Farm, Croft Lane, Stratton Hall Application for development of solar panels and ancillary works; inverter h’s, access tracks, security fences.	Support Monitor screening	
C12/2253	Equitation Centre, Swiss Farm, Falkenham Installation of 2 micro wind turbines (14.97m to hub, 5.6m dia. blades)	Object	Granted
C12/2507	58 Meadowlands, Kirton Proposed 1 st floor extension	Support	Granted
C12/2519	31 Burnt House Lane, Kirton Erection of rear extension.	Support	

New applications

C13/0097	22 Burnt House Lane, Kirton Erection of rear extension		
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Core Strategy Modifications are in their 6 week consultation. Expect approvals decision shortly after. After a phone discussion with Philip Ridley, I submitted on 25th Feb. a proposal to him to change the Warehousing & Containers affecting ‘additional modification, as advised and reviewed by our legal support. Gently chasing SCDC up for a response. Status catch up meeting of FPAG parish council representatives held.

Note that planning applications for major housing have gone in for Mushroom Farm and Walton Green (Trimleys)

FINANCE

Cheques written since March meeting:- Norse £1145.07 (dog bin), Wildwood £204 (VG tree work), Headway/MAGPAS/St Elizabeth Hospice/Victim Support/SARS £100 each (grants), C A Shaw £208 (Clerk’s salary), HMRC £52.20 (PAYE), G Walker £68.84 (Chist tree exp).

	Budget	
	£	£
Clerk's salary (incl £55 Tel rental)	3188	3188
Administration, post, tel audit stationary etc	800	820
Councillor's Expenses: Travelling, Courses	750	469
Insurances	2000	1246
Subscriptions SALC etc	600	457
Grants	1000	1050
Contingencies	700	540
Electricity - Christmas Tree	27	0
Publicity	500	110
Environmental Services	1730	766
Reserves	nil	0

	10595	8646
Less VAT Refund	100	206
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GENERAL ACCOUNT PRECEPT	10495	8440
RG GRANT	4500	4500
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TOTAL PRECEPT	14995	12590

Current account £16,601

Deposit account £14,850

RECREATION GROUND

Pavilion : I have received a quote to replace accumulator tank for £800 (plus VAT), which is considerably cheaper than last quote. Work should start over the next month. 2 new CCTV cameras installed to replace the faulty ones. 4 of the 29 emergency lights have packed up and been replaced.

Play-Area : No problems.

New Equipment : No problems.

Ground : The dog mess situation may have improved slightly, but still far too much is being left on the ground. I suspect responsible dog owners may be picking up other dogs mess to avoid the possibility of the Recreation Ground being closed to dogs !!! The flooding at far end of ground had virtually cleared as we have had almost 3 weeks of dry weather – however the rain Friday and Saturday (8th/9th) has again caused some flooding. J Beer March 2013

CLERK'S NETWORK MEETING 5th FEBRUARY 2013

Computer: This was passed to PC ownership by SALC so we are at liberty to do as we like with it. Jayne Cole will be sending me sources of refurbished machines, which many PCs appear to go for. SALC are still using many of the same machine I have.

Agenda etc: Legislation does allow us to circulate by Email, as long as Council agrees, by resolution. Even if someone claims not to have received it, the process is still valid.

Drainage This was interesting and arose from the presentation given by Derek Oldham, EArea Manager. He claims roadside ditches are not the responsibility of Highway Auth., but the adjacent land owner. His reasoning is that the highway is only up to the edge of the road unless the highway purchased the verge up to the hedge/fence line! He did concede that if problems with the ditch caused a highway problem then they would deal with it. I took up the matter of the trees with him, and in his view it would depend on the terms/agreement in which they were put in. Jayne Cole suggested that many trees under this scheme were planted by SCC. Perhaps we could research this, probably with Charles Posford. On the other hand he did acknowledge that the HA had a duty of care to road users, to ensure the safety of trees along the highway. I did put to him the complaint about the poor finish of grips and he agreed if specific complaints were put to him they would be dealt with

Trees: Jayne Cole will be sending me a briefing note on this issue, but pointed out this should be part of the normal risk assessments (with which we would not disagree); feedback on this was fascinating . One Clerk claimed that their insurers, Cayman, had assured them they were covered for any accidents, and professional inspection was not necessary. Another I spoke to, insured with Alliance, had told him they had to employ no-one less than a qualified arborologist if they wished to be covered. Their inspection cost them £600, and subsequent remedial work will raise that cost to £2/3,000. Something we have not addressed so far. I will check with our insurers to get their views. (SAcre has since confirmed we are going about things in the right way and as long as we accept the recommendations of the report are covered)

Reserves: Many councils I spoke to, have reserves similar to ours, and don't appear to find it worth the hassle to set up separate investment accounts, particularly if the money is earmarked for something specific. One Clerk I spoke to, who manages 3 or 4 Councils, has persuaded most to switch to Co-op Bank, having had similar experience to us with Barclays, thinks they are great, and get a reasonable bit of interest every month.

ECO services A presentation by this organisation promoting recycled plastic furniture signs etc etc founded around disadvantaged people also does landscape work; might be worth asking them for a quote for VG grass cutting. Catalogue of products and services provided.

There were other discussions on Winter Management, all of which can be researched and managed on line. The Sustainable Communities Act was a hot topic and largely comes down to encouraging Councils to lobby the minister to implement the perception of Localism, which Government appears to be lukewarm to, and the LGA opposed to, filtering it down beyond District level to PC/TC s. Clerk, March 2013

