

GT. BEALINGS PARISH COUNCIL
(www.greatbealings.co.uk)

**A Meeting of Gt. Bealings Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on
Monday 21st January 2008 commencing at 8.00 p.m.**

PRESENT

Mr Eric Barnett	Chairman
Mr Julian Haywood-Smith	
Mrs Sally Johnson	
Mr Ken Willcox	
Mr John Carter-Jonas	
Mr P Norris	
Mrs Emily Lynch	
Mrs Sarah Cartwright	Parish Clerk
Mr Ivan Jowers	District Councillor
Mr Peter Bellfield	County Councillor
PC Dan Wheddon	Community Police Officer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr Robin Sadler .

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

2. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS.

The Chairman advised that there was no formal declaration of interest.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
19th November 2007**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th November 2007 were approved as a true and accurate record of the discussion at that meeting.

Signed
Chairman

4. PC Dan Wheddon's Report

Pc Wheddon was asked to speak first since he had to leave early. He reported one crime since the last meeting. This was breaking and entering Seckford Golf Club – stealing cash and a video camera. Speeding was a hot topic and Pc Wheddon informed Councillors that there was not a stretch of straight road long enough to allow him to go out with a speed gun – that is, without endangering his own life. Mr Paul Norris informed Pc Wheddon that his driveway at “The Boot” would be an ideal place for a police officer to stand as it gave a clear view of a long stretch of road in one direction and also allowed for a car to be pulled over. He offered Pc Wheddon the opportunity to use his piece of land for carrying out this work. Pc Wheddon thanked him and said he would assess this site. A SID has been requested in the meantime – along Boot Street - and data from this will be fed back to us shortly. The other stretch of road of concern (and once again with a reasonable viewpoint at Finn Bridge Cottage) is the road between Bealings Village Hall and the white bridge on Lodge Road. Pc Wheddon said he would assess this and also get back to us. There was some concern that if there was no stretch of road long enough to warrant the use of a speed gun then what would be the point of purchasing a speed gun at a cost of £2,200 (under the Roadsafe Scheme) if volunteers were unable to use it due to health and safety/risk assessment factors. It was pointed out that whilst the police may pull over speeding cars, volunteers will not have the authority to do this. They will be asked merely to jot down the registration number, make, model etc of speeding cars caught by the gun.

Mr Paul Norris asked if scrap metal was still being stolen from churches, skips etc. Pc Wheddon informed us that it was.

A copy of Pc Gilmore's report will be posted on the website shortly.

5. COUNCILLOR PETER BELLFIELD'S REPORT

Councillor Peter Bellfield reported to us on County Council matters. The schools reorganisation - consultation with parents, governors and staff is continuing in the first two areas to change to the two-tier system. Waste incineration - the County Council will shortly be told which sites were considered for the plant, which one has been selected, and why. The Budget – the County Council was pleasantly surprised by the Central Government grant for the coming year. £155m was received which is £10m (7.3%) more than last year compared with their expectations of less than £4m extra. This will help to reduce the adverse effect of some of the £16m savings, which they were having to make.

Signed
Chairman

Unitary Status – At the very last minute a U turn was taken and Ipswich had not been granted unitary status. However the next stage in the process was dependant upon a review by the Boundary Committee for England. While the two tier system (ie. County & District) is not dead, it does appear that some form of Unitary is much more likely.

6. VILLAGE PLAYING FIELD – Progress Report

Whilst £2,000 had been earmarked from SCC’s Locality Budget this money still had not been received. Mr Peter Bellfield promised to chivvy the release of this money by contacting Mrs Ann Mc Pherson of Suffolk County Council. The Parish Council is still eligible to apply for funding from the Locality Budget for financial year 08/09. Mr Julian Haywood-Smith mentioned one possible item for funding would be a double boules piste on the playing field. He also reported that wet weather had held up work on the playing field although the circular path was in progress and the concrete seating area was going to be done shortly. The maze was nearly finished and seeding would take place in March. Mrs Emily Lynch asked about the sandy soil being washed away on the slope adjoining the all-weather pitch and to cut out erosion it was suggested that a retaining wall of timbers or paving slabs was needed.

7. PARISH PLAN – Progress Report

Mr Paul Norris reported that a questionnaire in draft format has been completed as part of the residents consultation process. When everyone is happy with that the Steering Committee will be sending out a test questionnaire. The final questionnaire will go out March/April. A similar process will take place for the stakeholders. Mr Eric Barnett offered help should they need it.

8. AUDIT REGULATIONS

Handouts were given on these regulations as specified by SALC. They recommend that every year the Parish Council should review the internal audit procedure and minute it accordingly. Mr Eric Barnett read out the salient points and concluded that Mr John Stroud is appropriately qualified to act as internal auditor. This was proposed by Mr Julian Haywood-Smith and seconded by Mr John Carter-Jonas. It was resolved that we should continue to use Mr John Stroud and he would be formally invited to continue his role as auditor.

Signed
Chairman

9. HIGHWAYS

The ditch alongside Lodge Road, near Bird’s Hill needs to be cleared and the drainage looked at. This is on the right side heading towards Woodbridge. On another note flooding at the hump backed bridge along Boot Street is much reduced. The paintwork on the Lodge Road bridge on the other hand, is in need of attention. This was scheduled for October but has still not been done. Pot holes will need to be looked at in Spring. It was agreed to draw up a list of works for transmission to Suffolk County Council.

10. WEBSITE

One website covering both Great and Little Bealings was discussed. Mrs Jenny Shaw (Little Bealings) had been approached casually and the next step forward would be for her to contact Mr Phil Holmes to further this joint approach. Lots of people have lots of information on Great Bealings as it was in years gone by though some may be reluctant to share this information with the website master.

11. FINANCE

The following cheques were reported as having been issued:-

SCDC Election Charges	£83.20
Phil Holmes (web domain for 2 years)	£10.53

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence from Suffolk Wildlife Trust had come in outlining money available for “Breathing Spaces”. If this scheme is to continue into 2008 the applications for a grant would have to be in by the end of the year. Mrs Sally Johnson was asked to talk to Suffolk Wildlife Trust and pin point exactly what a “Breathing Space” was and the Parish Council was asked to turn it’s attention to see if there were any sites in the village which might be suitable for this purpose.

The Ipswich Local Development Framework is being produced and the deadline for comments is Monday, 25th February. Various events are being held in and around Ipswich. The one of interest is the North East Area Forum on 29th January. Mr Paul Norris was going to see if he could attend this; also the Northern Fringe Forum on 6th February.

An e-mail had been received from Suffolk Acre asking for nominations for the High Sheriff’s Suffolk Volunteer of the Year Award. All agreed that Mrs Jenny Shaw should be put forward for this nomination on account of the tireless work she has done on the Village Playing Field. Little Bealings also supported the nomination of Mrs Jenny Shaw.

Signed
Chairman

13. PLANNING

No planning applications to report.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Julian Haywood-Smith gave out a plan of the Village Playing Field and the proposed site where the boules piste would/could be placed.

The meeting finished at 21.10 pm

Signed
Chairman