

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

**A Meeting of Gt. Bealings Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on
Tuesday, 9th March 2010 commencing at 8.00 p.m.**

PRESENT

Mr Eric Barnett Chairman
Mr Julian Haywood-Smith Vice Chairman
Mr Robin Sadler
Mr Paul Norris
Mr John Carter-Jonas
Mrs Sally Johnson
Mrs Sarah Cartwright
PC Justin Moss
County Councillor Peter Bellfield
District Councillor Ivan Jowers

In Attendance

Mr Martin Cripps

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr Ken Willcox

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

2. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS.

Mr Eric Barnett advised that there were no formal declarations of interest. This was noted in the Declarations of Interest book and signed by the Chairman.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
13th JANUARY 2010**

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the discussion at that meeting, and then signed by the Chairman

Signed
Chairman

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

5. REPORT BY PETER BELLFIELD

County Councillor Peter Bellfield reported that the LGR has been going on for more than 3 years and all the councils have spent very considerable time and money on the review. It has affected morale and recruitment of staff since people have not known what the future holds. He said he thought it was appalling what had happened. The minister was misinformed when he said that residents wanted a unitary council in Suffolk. It seemed that many residents would have preferred to have the option of voting for the status quo. Mr Peter Bellfield commented that should Labour win the election Suffolk would become one single unitary whereas if the Conservatives win they would halt it all.

He commented that the bad weather had inevitably affected the highways. However he thought that the staff had done a good job gritting priority one roads. The Councils had started off the winter with the salt bins completely full and up to mid January £1.1 million has been spent on gritting although they had virtually run out of salt. Staff had been working 12 hours on and then 12 hours off. The roads are in a very bad state and they are working hard to fill pot holes however because of the adverse weather the temporary repairs are not particularly hard wearing. Councillor Peter Bellfield thanked the Parish Council for their support in reporting the road conditions to the Highway Department.

Councillor Peter Bellfield reported that the County Council is extremely worried about future resources and over the next few years the Council will have to reduce costs by 20% - 30%. Inevitably this could impact on staffing numbers. One way of reducing costs could involve going into "partnership" with other state agencies. The "State" spent £4.9 billion last year in Suffolk alone.

Signed

Chairman

The Chairman invited questions for County Councillor Peter Bellfield and Mr John Carter-Jonas queried why - over the snowy period - he had seen a gritting lorry go up and down his road four times on a Saturday and four times on a Sunday but only once during the week days. Mr Paul Norris commented on the very poor condition of the highways overall. He asked why the roads been allowed to get in this state and expressed concern at the cost needed to bring the roads up to scratch. To cut costs Mr John Carter-Jonas asked if anyone had considered turning off street lights? Perhaps they should be asked to choose; do they want pot holes in their roads or do they want street lighting?! Councillor Peter Bellfield reported that turning off street lights had been discussed however it was perceived that crime rates might increase and although this was a misconceived perception the idea had met with resistance. District Councillor Ivan Jowers said that he thought that the roads in Hertfordshire were far superior to those in Suffolk.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR IVAN JOWERS REPORT

Mr Ivan Jowers reported that SCDC council tax for the coming year will see a 2.9% increase. One of the things they are pressing for is working jointly with other bodies. For example Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council's share a head of planning and a chief executive. This keeps costs low. Regarding the proposed Burial Ground in Tuddenham Councillor Jowers reported that the original inspector had been ill. Consequently a site visit had been carried out on the 23rd February and it would be a couple of months before we heard anything from the Planning Inspectorate.

7. POLICE REPORT

PC Justin Moss reported 2 crimes since the last meeting, involving an assault and criminal damage. Mr Julian Haywood-Smith informed PC Justin Moss that a crime had been committed that pm when a car window had been smashed and a purse taken from the vehicle. PC Moss was not aware of this crime and thanked Mr Julian Haywood-Smith for this information. PC Moss continued that Bealings and the surrounding area had seen a decrease in crime though the detection rates have stayed the same at 28%. Mr Eric Barnett asked about the community engagement meeting that the police hope to hold before the Parish Council meeting in September. PC Moss said the only thing they asked of the Parish Council is for it to organise the venue at the Village Hall while they will do all the advertising and publicity. The Committee Room was considered to be of adequate size as they don't expect more than 30 people to attend.

Signed
Chairman

Mr Martin Cripps asked PC Moss if the sign placed on the road in Boot Street - it illustrates a car with skid lines – was a police sign or one put up by the highways department? Mr Paul Norris confirmed that he thought it was Highways.

8. SUFFOLK OPEN WEEKEND

Mr Julian Haywood-Smith reported that the proposal to have a sports event on the 24th July 2010 has been advertised and publicised on the Playford and Bealings News Group. There will be inter village tournaments with the Bealings Cup as a prize for the winner. There will be tennis, football, netball, tug of war, boules etc. The bid for a £500 grant from SCDC has been made by both Great Bealings and Little Bealings separately.

9. PARISH PLAN

The Chairman asked that Councillors have a look at the latest Action Plan from the AMG meeting. This has been circulated and will be up for discussion at the May meeting.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

An email has been received from the SCDC Scrutiny working group asking for feedback on the Council's planning service. One anonymous resident has submitted a comment which has been forwarded to SCDC.

C09/1905 Gulpher, Boot Street. Erection of new roof incorporating dormer windows. Permission has been granted by SCDC

C09/0907 The Old Rectory, Hall Farm Road, Great Bealings Demolition of double garage linked to house and alterations to existing single-storey brick finish building. Erection of extension to form indoor swimming pool and associated facilities, including changing room, gym, family room, two additional bedrooms with en-suites, new basement to provide further plant and services accommodation. Permission and listed building consent has been granted by SCDC.

Signed
Chairman

Rosery Farm – Mr Derek Jarman (SCDC) reported that he had visited the site with a planning officer shortly after Christmas. He said that the householder will need to submit a planning application for:- a) the change of use of part of barn, b) the willow fence, c) a brick wall dividing the area between the farm house and the barn which has been heightened by a decorative fence – this may need listed building approval, d) a raised platform which has been built outside the barn. Mr Derek Jarman reported that the use of the stables as livery is a continuation of use that Lord Belstead had established thus does not require planning permission.

11. HIGHWAYS

The Bridleway sign on the Grundisburgh Road is due to be put up imminently.

The Chairman reported he had written to Lord Cranworth regarding the large size of agricultural machinery using the narrow roads in Great Bealings, and copied to SCC and SCDC.

He had also written to Lord Cranworth requesting a permissive footpath route from Grundisburgh Road/Boot Street to the Playing Field and School. Two options had been given (i) a path just inside the roadside hedge and (ii) another route going due south from Boot Street to link with the existing right of way which runs diagonally across the field towards the Village Hall. The latter had met with a definite no but it was thought that the roadside path might be acceptable if the Parish council supported the removal of an existing footpath. The Chairman and Clerk will pursue the matter.

A letter has been received from SCC Highway Service confirming that they will be cutting back the oak tree outside “Penny Gate” to 15 feet above ground level. This will be done in July when the road will be closed for the resurfacing of Boot Street.

A grit bin for Hasketon Road near the War Memorial needs to be sourced. The Clerk was asked to bring photos of wooden and plastic models plus costs to the next meeting.

Mr Paul Norris commented on the possibility of some sort of traffic calming measures in Boot Street. Would it be considered? Mr Norris agreed he would follow up this matter with SCC and it was decided that this topic might well form a major discussion item at the Annual Parish meeting.

Signed
Chairman

Mr Robin Sadler commented on the excess surface water in Boot Street which it is considered comes not from overflowing drains but from a “spring”. The worst area of flooding is down the hill towards the bridge in Boot Street. The BT man hole also fills up with water. It was suggested that the contractors who will resurface this section of road should be made aware of these problems. Mr Peter Bellfield suggested a councillor meeting on site with someone from the Highways Department. Mr John Carter Jonas and/or Mr Paul Norris to contact Mr Derek Oldham.

The stile (footpath no 15B) near the bridge at Boot Street needs replacing as it is rotten.

An email has been received from James and Zoe Firebrace commenting on the lack of a footpath sign in Orchard Lane. What is needed here is a repeater sign which will stop walkers ending up in their garden.

12. FINANCE

The following cheque was authorised for payment:-

Cheque No: 161 £438.67 S Cartwright (salary)

A letter from “Home Start” asking for financial help had been received and the Clerk confirmed that they had recently been helping two families in the village. Councillors were still undecided about giving financial assistance and the Clerk was asked to consult Dr John Day about this charity.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Robin Sadler reported back on the Suffolk Coastal Area Meeting who had given a presentation on Sizewell Nuclear Power Station.

A letter has been received from SCDC who are running Town & Parish Planning Forum sessions on planning processes and guidance on Thursday, 15th April and Thursday, 22nd April. 6.45 pm – 9 pm. Mr Julian Haywood-Smith showed an interest in attending as did Mr Paul Norris.

New Standing Orders have been published which the Council needs to adopt; this will be on the agenda for our July meeting. In light of these Standing Orders new legal topic notes have been updated. Both these documents will be circulated for discussion before our July meeting.

Signed
Chairman

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The notice board in Lower Street needs repairing and the Chairman also pointed out that perhaps it could be brought forward to give better accessibility for people wishing to read notices displayed there. Mr Paul Norris and Mr Eric Barnett will inspect the site.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:-

11th May 2010. The Annual Parish Meeting will commence at 7 pm followed by the Parish Council Meeting. Please note these meetings are to be held at the Angela Cobbold Hall.

Topics to consider at these meetings include:-

- a) Traffic calming in Boot Street – “come and let us know what you think” and invite someone from the Highways Department.
- b) The footpath from Boot Street/Grundisburgh Road to School/Playing Field.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

JCJ suggested having the Police Report before Councillor Peter Bellfield and Councillor Ivan Jowers Report.

Mr Cripps commented on the BT manhole in Boot Street and how Highways and BT just pass the buck time and time again and get nowhere with the water drainage problem from the spring. He also asked if the village had ever had allotments and enquired as to the possibility of setting them up.

Since we had been on the topic of Standing Orders Mr Cripps asked if we could perhaps have time for the public to speak before or at each Agenda item (like Little Bealings Parish Council). Councillors thought this would be acceptable especially on Planning and Highway matters as it would be relevant to hear people’s views.

Signed
Chairman