

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the Guildhall, Thursday 3rd August 2017 at 7.30 pm.

Present Mr C Reeve, Chairman. Mr P Gibson, Vice Chairman

Mrs J Baker, Mrs D Twitchett, Mrs G Banks, Ms N Smith, Mr T Sheppard and Mr B Panton,
Mr A Searle, Mr J O'Mahony.

Mr W Shropshire, Babergh District Councillor.

2 members of the public

Public Forum

Before the meeting commenced Mike Driver (Architect) and Robert Cubitt (Cubitt Projects Ltd) gave a brief outline of the planning application submitted in respect of land to the south of Howlett of Lavenham in Sudbury Road (DC/17/03100)

Police Matters – July 2017 Newsletter

(figures are for the Sudbury SNT area overall, there is no separate report for the parish of Lavenham)

May 2017 - 536 incidents received, 420 investigations recorded. Summary: Burglary Dwelling 7; Robbery 0; Violence with injury 33; Serious Sexual Offences 15; Drug Trafficking 0; Anti Social Behaviour 18.

Locations of the 7 dwelling burglaries were: Boxted, 3 x Great Cornard (including newly built properties, unoccupied), Long Melford and 2 x Sudbury (including 1 house being built)

County Councillor's Report, Mr R Lindsay – emailed report circulated to Councillors and taken as read in Mr Lindsay's absence (*report follows these minutes*)

District Councillor's Report, Mr W Shropshire – emailed report circulated to Councillors (*report follows these minutes*).

Discussion of matters arising from the report included the Boundary Commission decision; continuing lack of premises willing to take on the Post Office; observations from two residents of Water Street following the consultation event on 12th July (copies of emails to be forwarded to both County and District Councillors); concerns of resident of Shilling Street regarding loose gravel coming off the entrance drive to garages behind Water Street and being a danger to pedestrians.

The Minutes – Prop. by Mrs Baker, sec. by Mr Gibson, the minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2017 were approved. Carried.

Declarations of Interest – none

Apologies for absence received from Ms Paris and Mr Lindsay, Suffolk County Councillor.

Matters arising and update of outstanding issues

Mrs Baker said there was no meeting of the Friends of Lavenham Library to report but Lynne Chin was to be congratulated for organizing a very successful quiz night in the school on 13th July. Funds raised had been split between the school and library.

Finance and Strategy

Donation to SARS (Suffolk Accident Rescue Service) – living in such a rural area it was felt

that the Parish Council should support this service as it received no government support. It was proposed by Mrs Baker, seconded by Ms Smith, that a donation of £100 should be made. Agreed.

Ratification of finance working group recommendations – the group had met on 24th July and Mr Reeve gave a short summary of what had been discussed. Recommendations from the meeting had been circulated to all Councillors, as had a review of Earmarked Expenditure within the budget calculations. It was proposed by Mrs Baker, seconded by Mr Sheppard that the recommendations made by the group should be accepted. Carried.

The Christmas Lighting budget was discussed and it was thought that it might be advisable to purchase some new LED lighting strings as much time had been spent by the electrical contractor last year testing the lights and replacing worn out lengths.

Invoices received, for payment

Lavenham Literary Festival, donation [07(i)/17 p33] £100.00: idverde, public toilet works June £1,103.76: The CGM Group, grounds maintenance July £874.00: Ask Us Drain Services, call out to Prentice Street blockage 12/06/17 £204.00: Seago & Stopps Payroll Solutions, payroll services q/e 05/07 £90.00: Suffolk Tree Services, trim Yew trees beside pre-school building £720.00: Karzees Ltd, portable toilet at First Meadow 21/07 to 31/07 [06(i)/17 p26] £66.00: Payroll £664.20: Paul Holland, plumbing repairs at Church Street toilets £260.00: Kinex, phone a/c July £21.45: Gradco, pollution monitors for Water Street £76.80: British Gas, electricity for public toilets (Church St £42.31, Prentice St £132.68) £174.99: Petty Cash £100.00.

Paid by Direct Debit to BT for Broadband service to old phone box for July £65.88.

Electricity provider for the supply to the Prentice Street public toilets has been switched to Total Gas & Power and it was agreed to set up a Direct Debit in order to save £20 per quarter which is charged for paper billing.

A letter to the Bank requested the transfer of £4,500.00 between accounts.

Approval of the payment schedule was proposed by Mrs Baker, seconded by Ms Smith, and agreed.

Planning

Planning Applications Received:

DC/17/02712 17 Weavers Close, Lavenham

Proposal: Householder Planning Application-Erection of a front single storey extension

Prop. Ms Smith, sec. Mr Searle, recommend approval. Carried.

DC/17/02900 & DC/17/02959 61 High Street, Lavenham

Proposal: Householder Planning Application & Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of timber fence to rear (following removal of existing).

Prop. Mrs Twitchett, sec. Ms Smith, recommend approval. Carried.

DC/17/02737 6 Constable Court, Barn Street, Lavenham

Proposal: Householder Planning Application - Erection of single storey rear extension.

Prop. Ms Smith, sec. Mrs Twitchett, recommend approval. Carried.

DC/17/03100 Land South Of Howlett Of Lavenham , Melford Road, Lavenham, CO10 9PJ

Proposal: Outline Planning Application (with matters of appearance and scale reserved) -

Erection of 30 no. new dwellings and construction of new vehicular and pedestrian access to Melford Road.

After careful consideration it was considered that the proposal, as submitted, has three prime inherent weaknesses which would need to be satisfactorily addressed in order for the Parish

Council to agree to the planning application.

(i) The concentration of affordable housing in one cul de sac configuration is not an inclusive or coherent approach. The 'pepper-pot' approach to spreading these dwellings around a site is more common and is designed to be more successful in bringing about social inclusion.

(ii) The inclusion of one bedroomed accommodation needs to be revisited. Recent experience by Babergh officers and at Housing Associations is that one bedroomed accommodation is far from popular. Single bedroomed accommodation is too inflexible for modern living. Young families setting out at the start of life often soon require a second bedroom as they start a family: older family units may require a second bedroom as a care in the community provision sets in.

(iii) Thirty dwellings is an over development of the site and a figure closer to that recommended by the Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan (of 24) would appear more fitting, this may then allow common recreational/green space to be consolidated into one space. Recommend refusal of the application before the Council. Proposed by Mr Searle, seconded by Mr O'Mahony. Carried.

DC/17/03415 The Granary, Mill Hill, Bury Road, Lavenham

Proposal: Planning Application - Conversion of former granary to dwelling (resubmission)

Prop. Mrs Twitchett, sec. Mrs Banks, recommend refusal. Uphold the previous opinion that the dwelling proposed is not consistent with policy in that it is not adjacent to the Built Up Boundary. It is not a sustainable dwelling and is inappropriate in scale and design. Carried.

DC/17/03802 5 Barn Street, Lavenham

Proposal: Householder Planning Application - Erection of single storey side extension and installation of replacement windows and doors with application of render finishes to existing elevations

Prop. Ms Smith, sec. Mrs Twitchett, recommend approval. Carried.

Planning Decisions Received:

DC/17/02338 Well House, Bolton Street, Lavenham – planning permission for installation of soil pipe to front elevation and the erection of railway sleepers to conceal the same soil pipe (retention of).

Operations

Traffic and Road Management – Mr O'Mahony had obtained three prices from three contractors for the supply of a Speed Indication Device (SID). It was proposed by Mr Panton, seconded by Ms Smith, that the Truvelo Trusign SID be purchased at a cost of £3,495. Agreed. This was not the lowest price quoted (£3,241) but the Truvelo model is solar powered and half the weight of the others and will be much easier to move around locations.

Four of the five posts requested are in place, one still to be installed.

Pollution monitors have been put up in three locations in Water Street, these will be sent away for analysis after four weeks. It is hoped that the trial weight restriction will be implemented in time for the remaining monitors to be installed before their shelf life expires.

Cemetery Chapel proposed refurbishment – works to the Beech trees will cost £1,400 and will be part of the tree management programme.

Mr Sears will use the documents produced to start the process of looking for grants to support the refurbishment works.

Public Toilets – Mr Holland has carried out several plumbing repairs at the Church Street toilets. Further damage by a vehicle to the wall of the Prentice Street block has been reported to Babergh. Mr Shropshire will follow this up if there is no response from them.

Proposed bus shelter in Church Street – three prices had been obtained and it was agreed that further discussion should be on the agenda for the September meeting.

Gas Works – It would appear that use of the site as parking for residents might be acceptable but not for the general public. A temporary change of use planning application, renewable every 2-3 years, might be appropriate and a licence to use the space. The gas holder would be retained but there was a question over who would be responsible for the maintenance of this Scheduled Ancient Monument. Enquiries continue.

Housing and Social

CLT – the Community Land Trust now owns the freehold of the site. Demolition should commence the week after next.

LED lighting update – nothing further to report

Good Neighbours Scheme – today at the Common Room tea Katherine Eves, manager of Lavenham pre school, had talked about the new building nearing completion. It was hoped that this contact might lead to future visits between the two very different generation groups.

Correspondence had been received from:

Resident of Spring Lane regarding area known as ‘Mud Lane’ (path running from High Street to Lower Road between back of Spring Lane and Weavers Close) which is very overgrown. Trees overhanging back gardens of Spring Lane, phone wires etc. This will be brought to the attention of Babergh District Council who it is believed is responsible for this area.

Residents of Barn Street, bringing several areas of concern to the Council’s attention: the general dirty/untidiness of the road and gutters, dead leaves/twigs, wet leaves in Autumn etc.; constantly blocked drains; poor and inconsiderate parking, especially on pavements, which means that pedestrians, children walking to school, mothers with buggies, have to walk in the road. The Operations Group will address these issues.

Resident, firstly commenting on how much better Lavenham looks now that the grit bins have replaced piles of grit and the addition of smart rubbish bins. Secondly, expressing concerns about the recent roadworks at Great Waldingfield and on the Bury road causing road closures and diversions. Poor signing which was left in place after work had finished, inappropriate and inadequate diversions, all of which were confusing and led people to believe that business premises in Lavenham could not be accessed.

A resident of High Street in respect of maintenance of verges and the Suffolk County Council maintenance contract.

A resident of Bury Road bringing attention to the overgrown pavement into the village. (reported using SCC Highways online reporting tool)

Lighthouse Women’s Aid in Ipswich, giving information including a Newsletter on their work and asking if there is any way that the Parish Council can help with raising awareness or additional funding for Lighthouse. Information to be circulated around the Councillors.

Review feedback from 12th July consultation event

A total of 68 residents attended over the 3 hour period, 8 attendees provided feedback in the books provided. Suggestions included; Improved signage to coach parking and cemetery; imposition of 20 mph limit in High Street, Church Street and Water Street; restriction on heavy goods vehicles; resident parking at former gas works. Noted separately was the suggestion that all parking on pavements should be stopped, tourist coaches to be allowed to offload/load at coach park only, need for off-street parking exclusively for residents and traders.

A further 13 outdoor gym equipment questionnaires were completed, all in favour of the provision of some equipment. All but one of those completing the questionnaire were in the 55 to 65+ age bracket. In addition the suggestion was made that the Parish Council should consider installing a permanent, fixed, outdoor table tennis table.

English Heritage – A History of England in 100 Places

Mr O'Mahony had brought to the Council's attention the Historic England Heritage Action Zones initiative. Application could be made for advice and support for renewal and regeneration of areas in order to encourage economic growth. It was thought that it could give the village funding towards strengthening the Conservation Area and Neighbourhood Plan. A group of interested partners has come together and started to draft the application but time is short before the deadline.

Babergh District Council emerging Local Plan

Mr Reeve was concerned that the consultation period begins in mid August, considered to be a holiday period. The Parish Council might need help in order to concentrate on, and respond to, the key points.

Babergh Alliance of Parish and Town Councils

Mr Searle had circulated an information note to all Councillors, he had now attended several of the meetings of the Alliance and felt that the Council had reached a point where it should be considering formally joining and accepting the constitution which had also been circulated. Mr Searle suggested that this Parish Council joins now, the support of the group may be helpful when considering the emerging Local Plan, but perhaps delay signing up to the constitution. This will be further considered at the September meeting.

Lavenham Charities – vacancy for Nominative Trustee

Mr Mead, Clerk to the Trustees, had informed the Council of Mr Brian Bundy's resignation as Nominative Trustee and asked the Parish Council to nominate a new Trustee. Mr Reeve put forward the name of somebody he thought would be a suitable person to nominate and who he had already approached to see if they would be willing to serve. If Mr Reeve could establish that this person was willing to be nominated and serve as a Trustee, it was proposed by Ms Smith, seconded by Mr Gibson that the nomination should go forward to Mr Mead. Agreed.

Other Matters brought to the attention of the Parish Council

Mr Searle raised the matter of the overgrown fir trees at the lower end of Trinity Gild. Until some action is taken to remove these work cannot progress to remove the existing street light and install the replacement LED.

Mrs Baker complimented Mr Searle on the good work he had carried out so far towards the Chapel refurbishment.

Mr Reeve reported that he had delivered flowers and a letter of appreciation to Mrs Foster upon her retirement from the school.

Reminder of the Lavenham Community Council AGM on Monday 25th September, 7 pm. in the Village Hall

Date of next meeting: Thursday 7th September 2017

The meeting closed at 10.25 pm.