

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the Guildhall, Thursday 1st March 2018 at 7.30 pm.

Present Mr P Gibson, Vice Chairman

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

4 members of the public.

Before the meeting commenced Mrs Joy Baker spoke about The Soper Project. The Soper Group would like to take over a seven acre, derelict, farm site in Great Waldingfield and build an Art Gallery and Education Centre, together with ancillary facilities, in order to secure, for the public benefit, a permanent site to display the art work and memorabilia of the talented Soper family.

The Project has a measure of support at both District and County level and is intended to encourage and promote interest in art and education, support tourism and provide employment, including volunteers, and opportunities for socially and disadvantaged and disabled people The Project will be owned and managed by a Charitable Trust which is, at present, being set up.

Public Forum – Mr and Mrs Dagger and Mr Whitton took the opportunity to outline their objections to planning application DC/18/00388 Barn At Clayhill Farm, Clay Hill Lane, Lavenham - Erection of detached dwelling (following demolition of building). Mr and Mrs Dagger's objections had already been circulated to Councillors via a copy of their Agent's letter sent to the District Council.

Police Matters – Sudbury SNT Newsletters are available on their website (www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/Sudbury) and give details of recent policing issues and responses. The February 2018 Newsletter is available online. The latest summary of crimes reported within the parish of Lavenham is listed on www.police.uk, search by postcode on Find your Neighbourhood. The latest figures for reports in December 2017 are as follows: Burglary x 4; Criminal Damage/Arson x 2; Vehicle Crime x 2; Theft Other x 2; Anti-Social Behaviour x1; Violence & Sexual Offence x5.

County Councillor's Report (*in Mr Lindsay's absence, circulated to the members, report follows these minutes*)

District Councillor's Report, Mr W Shropshire (*in Mr Shropshire's absence, circulated to the members, report follows these minutes*).

The Minutes – Prop. by Mr Searle, sec. by Ms Smith, the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st February were approved. Carried

Declarations of Interest – none

Apologies for absence received from Mr Reeve, Mrs Banks, Dr Posner, Mr Lindsay and Mr Shropshire.

Matters arising and update of outstanding issues

Referring to the February minutes, final paragraph of page 6, Mr Gibson reported that Gemma Pannell, BMSDC Area Planning Manager, and other officers are keen to visit Lavenham for a meeting. This will be arranged.

Finance and Strategy

Invoices received, for payment

idverde, public toilet works Jan 18 £1,140.55: The CGM Group, grounds maintenance Feb 18 £874.00: Kinex, phone a/c Feb 18 £23.32: Payroll £947.30: HMRC PAYE £769.71: Anglian Water Business, water charges Church Street public toilets £687.93: Anglian Water Business, water charges Prentice Street public toilets £154.81: Anglian Water Business, water charges Cemetery £13.22: Bell Brush, litter bag hoops £60.78: Aspli Safety, water based spray paint £34.13.

Paid by Direct Debit to BT for Broadband service to old phone box for February £57.96.

The monthly charge is reduced slightly due to re-negotiation of contract and switch to fibre broadband. Thanks due to Mr Panton and Mr O'Mahony for installing the new BT Business Smart Hub.

A letter to the Bank requested the transfer of £8,000 between accounts.

Letters of thanks for financial support received from Lavenham Pre School and Lavenham Woodland Project.

The annual invoice for energy and maintenance and that for annual dog and litter bin emptying have not yet been received. Permission was given for the Clerk to get cheques signed and sent off between meetings if invoices were received and it was possible to include the expenditure in the current financial year.

It was proposed by Ms Smith, seconded by Mr O'Mahony, that the above transactions are approved. Carried.

Planning

Planning Applications Received:

DC/18/00158 Gable End, 29 High Street, Lavenham CO10 9PT

Planning Application - Change of use from mixed use shop & dwelling to 1 No dwelling only. Re-listed, to ratify change of decision from recommendation of refusal to recommendation of approval, amendment in light of further information received after 1st February.

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

DC/18/00501 Linden, Bears Lane, Lavenham

Notification to works to trees protected under TPO WS41/T124 - (T1) Horse Chestnut – Fell
Prop. Ms Smith, sec. Mrs Twitchett, recommend approval. Carried.

DC/18/00388 Barn At Clayhill Farm , Clay Hill Lane, Lavenham

Planning Application - Erection of detached dwelling (following demolition of building).

Prop. Mr O'Mahony, sec. Mr Sheppard, recommend refusal. Carried.

The Parish Council objects strongly on the following grounds:

This Application follows on from the recent Approval of the existing building being granted residential status. The two storey building proposed, whilst on approximately the same footprint, has twice the floor area with a prominent double storey extension towards the Brett Valley, and roof lights. It is considered that the proposal will be visually intrusive in this locality which is designated as a Special Landscape Area (SPA).

It is further identified in the LNDP Policy ENV1, where developments in the SPA will only be permitted where they maintain or enhance the qualities of the area. The important Defined Views into, and out from, the Village identified in the LNDP at Policy ENV include the important View 8 "The Lolls" from which vantage point the proposed building would be

seen as a prominent skyline feature.

In addition it is considered that the proposed building does not conform to saved Policies HS05 and CN01 in the Babergh Local Plan Alt No 2 (2006). Under HSO5 it is considered that the size and massing of the replacement building is significantly different to that of the original dwelling to be replaced, and under CN01 that the new dwelling will also be more intrusive than the existing.

Note - The Lavenham Landscape Sensitivity Study (2015) further identifies Clay Hill and the adjacent areas of The Common and Pitts Meadow as areas of High Landscape Sensitivity.

DC/18/00681 The Granary, Mill Hill, Bury Road, Lavenham
Householder Planning Application - Erection of single storey extension
Prop. Mr Searle, sec. Mrs Twitchett, recommend refusal. Carried.
The Parish Council objects strongly on the following grounds:

The Granary was recently approved for residential use despite the strong objection by Lavenham Parish Council, and a least two previous Planning Applications being rejected by both this Council and Babergh District Council. Subsequent Planning Appeals by the Applicant were dismissed, thus supporting these decisions.

This Council objects to the present Application as it is considered that, at three times the area of the existing structure, the size and massing of the proposed extension is out of proportion to both the existing structure and the area of the site. Furthermore, it does not conform with the spirit of Policy HS05 of the saved Policies of the Babergh Local Plan Alt No 2 (2006)

DC/18/00183 93 High Street, Lavenham
Planning Application - Change of use from commercial to residential (C3)
Prop. Mr O'Mahony, sec. Mr Sheppard, recommend approval. Carried.

DC/18/00785 Brett Farm, Clay Hill Lane, Lavenham
Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area- Carry out 4m lateral crown reduction and pruning to 11 no. Willow trees
Prop. Ms Smith, sec. Mr O'Mahony, recommend approval. Carried.

Planning Decisions Received:

DC/17/05785 75 High Street, Lavenham – Listed Building Consent for widen opening in rear extension and insertion of French Doors and glazed side panels: Replacement rear window.
DC/18/00123 The Old Rectory, Church Street, Lavenham - Consent to carry out works to tree(s) protected by a tree preservation order, Tree Preservation Order WS41 - (T1) Horse Chestnut - Fell

Operations

Traffic and Road Management – meetings had taken place with relevant officers from Suffolk County Council to discuss traffic management areas of concern and Babergh District Council Public Realm to discuss the car parks and public toilets. Mr O'Mahony's notes had been circulated to all Councillors and the officers concerned as a reminder of action. Notes from the meeting between Councillors and the Clerk to Sudbury Town Council and Community Wardens had also been circulated.

John Knight, the village Tree Warden, will be consulted about an appropriate species, and suitable location, for a tree to replace the Horse Chestnut felled in Sudbury Road.

Grounds Maintenance contract 2018/19 – five quotations had been returned and following a blind selection process it was proposed by Ms Smith, seconded by Mr Sheppard, and agreed,

that the lowest tender of £8,740 (ex VAT) should be accepted. The tender had been submitted by CGM who have been contracted to carry out the work for the last three years.

Cemetery Chapel proposed refurbishment – depending on weather conditions work is scheduled to start next Monday (5th March) and should take six to eight weeks to complete. Mr Searle was thanked for his good work in progressing this project.

Enquiries will be made regarding temporary storage space for the street cleaning equipment.

Public Toilets – these had been discussed with officers from Babergh Public Realm, in particular the building and green space in the Prentice Street car park. Alternative siting for possible replacement facilities will need more detailed research.

LED street lighting – Mr Reeve's contact continues with Mr Stroud of Babergh regarding the new equipment.

Housing and Social

CLT – an invitation is extended to Councillors for the turning of the first turf at the Melford Road site by James Cartlidge MP on Friday 9th March, be on site at 8.45 am. for the ceremony at 9, followed by tea and cakes at the Village Hall. Completion of the scheme should take eighteen months, all funding is in place.

There has been a good response so far with several applications for membership of the CLT plus some donations.

The CLT will share a table with the Parish Council, Good Neighbours Scheme and Dementia Support Group at the Golden Age Fair in the Village Hall on Wednesday 21st March.

Good Neighbours Scheme – on 2nd February the High Sheriff and Sally Connick of CAS had met members of the Good Neighbours and Dementia support groups, he was very interested and had congratulated everyone for what has been achieved in Lavenham. Mrs Twitchett will be representing the GNS at the Suffolk Justice Service on 18th March.

An outing to Ickworth on 5th April has been organised. Sally Connick will be attending the Golden Age Fair.

Attention was drawn to a possible doorstep scam involving overcharging for garden services, which had occurred in the village. It was hoped a warning could be published in Lavenham Life and advice would be sought from Suffolk Police.

Lavenham Dementia Alliance – this is the name adopted by the scheme. A bank account has been set up and four members have attended a Dementia Friends training session. An official launch date is still to be set.

Correspondence had been received from:

Stormport Professional Services Ltd, for UKPN, giving details of work in the village to upgrade the electricity supply. Commence in Tenter Piece on 26th February (1 week), continue into Church Street with traffic light control for estimated four weeks, continue into Water Street and Lady Street under road closure estimated period two weeks. All affected residents will receive warning letters. There was some concern as to how this would fit in with any closures or restrictions in respect to works on the Water Street traffic management scheme, also an order was in place for scaffolding work in Water Street.

SALC, Babergh Area Meeting on Monday 5th March, 7 pm to 9 pm at The Pavilion, King George's Playing Field, The Street, Raydon.

Mrs Aspa, with questions regarding the posting of the minutes on the Parish Council website, whether there is any policy as to when they are posted. The Parish Council does not feel that a policy is necessary, the minutes are usually available at least three days before the following meeting, although occasionally they may be delayed by works being carried out by the website provider

Toby Powell of Preston St Mary, raising his concerns about vehicles parked on the blind bend outside the new housing in Preston Road and the dangers of traffic having to brake hard to avoid collision. Reply to be sent pointing out the efforts made to get parking restrictions put in place when the houses were planned. However, the use of the SID has highlighted the heavy use of this road and so far there is little, if any, evidence of any collisions taking place and this is what Highways will base any action on.

Lyn Stanway of Element Fitness, informing the Parish Council as a matter of courtesy of her intention to hold outdoor fitness sessions on the 'village green' near the Salvation Army hall. It has been suggested that more appropriate sites may be either near the Village Hall or at the Playing Field in Bridge Street Road, both of which have car parking facilities.

Mark Brennan, with details of additional events planned by the Lord Lieutenant's Armistice Centenary Committee to commemorate the centenary of the 1918 Armistice.

Lavenham School: After School Club

A request had been received for financial support, for a trial period of a term, for an after school club extending the present hours of 3.30 to 4.30 pm, to 3.30 to 5.30 pm. every day. Two adults would have to be present for each session and the club might eventually need some additional equipment. The Councillors decided that they needed more information before they could make a decision and it was agreed that this should be an agenda item in April.

Flyposting and notice board use

As far as use of the notice boards is concerned it was agreed that it was appropriate that posters should be displayed for no more than one month in advance of events and removed within two days after the event. Further enquiries are being made about legal issues around flyposting.

WWI and WWII commemorative events

Mr O'Mahony thought that the additional events planned by the Lord Lieutenant's Armistice Centenary Committee would add to the local events.

Mr Sheppard said the WWII three day event planners will meet on Monday and he will send round a note on progress.

Other Matters brought to the attention of the Parish Council

Some work has been carried out to the overgrown trees at the lower end of Trinity Gild but work has stopped so as not to disturb birds.

Mr O'Mahone said that a plan of the village showing the green areas which Babergh are responsible for had been provided by Public Realm. It was hoped to obtain a similar plan of SCC Highways responsibilities.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 5th April 2018.

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting is Thursday 19th April, 7.30 pm. in the Guildhall.