

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held in the Guildhall, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7.30 pm.

**Present** Mr C Reeve, Chairman. Mr R Whitworth, Vice Chairman.

Mrs J Baker, Mrs D Twitchett, Ms E Paris, Mr T Sheppard, Mrs G Banks, Mr A Searle, Mr B Panton, Mr J O'Mahony

**Public Forum** – no members of the public present

**Police Matters** – October 2016 - Incidents received: 676, Investigations recorded 268.

A total of 73 crimes were recorded in the Sudbury SNT area during October 2016, categorised as: Burglary Dwelling 4; Robbery 0; Violence with injury 23; Serious sexual offences 2; Drug Trafficking 0; Anti Social Behaviour 44.

**County Councillor's Report – Mrs J Antill** – email circulated to Councillors

Mrs Antill had forwarded her apologies and added: 'There has been little happening over the Christmas period or indeed since the beginning of December when I last sent a report so really have little that is new to report.

During the month I attended a meeting to discuss capacity issues at the Primary School and also wrote a letter in support of the planning application by the Community Land Trust in respect of development on the old gritting site, but this is about it. I also noted that all seemed to go well with regard to traffic at the Christmas Fair.

I hope you will accept my apologies. I hope to attend the February meeting and also hope to have more to report.

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

Mrs Twitchett thanked Mr Shropshire for his support in respect of the sheltered housing review. A meeting with Babergh officers has been arranged for 17<sup>th</sup> January when it is hoped to learn more about the decision process and future cost saving across the District.

**The Minutes** – Proposed by Mrs Twitchett, seconded by Ms Paris, the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 were approved. Carried.

**Declarations of Interest** – Mr Reeve, Mrs Twitchett and Mr Panton, as Trustees of the Lavenham Community Land Trust, declared their interests in planning application B/16/01559 Former Highways Depot, Melford Road, Lavenham, Erection of 18 no. dwellings (including associated works).

**Apologies for absence** received from Mr Gibson and Mrs Antill (Suffolk County Councillor),

**Matters arising and update of outstanding issues**

Contractors on behalf of Suffolk County Council had completed the schedule of tree works on the Lavenham Walk. There remained issues over drainage in certain areas still to be resolved.

The Church gateposts were in place, works to complete and install the new gates will take place early in the new year.

Mr O'Mahony will meet Graham Masters on site to review areas requiring further pegging down of the grass reinforcement matting.

Ms Paris thanked the Parish Council again for their financial support towards the reading list for the Forest School Practitioner qualification, this was much appreciated. She hoped to be able to give a short presentation to the Council at the February or March meeting.

Due to time constraints around the Christmas holiday period, application B/16/01657 Pollard 1 no. Ash Tree (T1) & fell 1 no. Norway Spruce at 17 Market Place, had been resolved by the District Council and a decision notice received.

### **Finance and Strategy**

#### **Invoices received, cheques for payment**

Invoice paid between meetings: 23/12/2016 to Lavenham PCC, Affordable Housing event advertisement in Lavenham Life £30.00.

The CGM Group, grounds maintenance for October & December £1,748.00: Idverde Limited (formerly Landscape Group), toilet works November £1,103.76: Broxap Limited, 5 x Derby litter bins & fixing kits £1,579.20: Kinex, phone a/c December £24.35: J I Turner Electrical, interim payment for Christmas lighting works £1,200.00: Payroll £849.20: Keith Purvis, call out to remove hand dryer Church St. Toilets £50.00: Kemps Printing Service, printing/stationery £21.88: Auto Innovations (Sudbury), parking signs £165.60: Sudbury Town Council, Community Warden help with Christmas Fair parking implementation £1,552.16: Lavenham PCC, donation to Easter Art Trail £150.00.

Paid by Direct Debit to BT for Broadband service to old phone box for November £61.92.

### **Planning**

#### **Planning Applications:**

Mr Reeve, Mrs Twitchett and Mr Panton left the meeting room for the duration of discussions and voting on the following application. Mr Whitworth took the Chair.

B/16/01559 Application Type: FUL Former Highways Depot, Melford Road, Lavenham  
Erection of 18 no. dwellings (including associated works)

The plans are in line with the Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan and feedback from public open events has been used to inform the final mix of housing in order to reflect the affordable housing need in the community. It appeared to be a well designed, fluid arrangement of properties although more information regarding energy saving measures would have been welcomed.

Prop. By Mr O'Mahony, sec. Mr Searle, recommend approval. Carried.

B/1601622 Application Type: FHA Pegtile Court, 3 Church Street, Lavenham  
Erection of single-storey side extension to provide workshop

Prop. Mr Sheppard, sec. Mrs Baker, recommend approval. Carried.

B/16/01713 Application Type: FHA 6 Brent Eleigh Road, Lavenham

Erection of two-storey & single-storey rear extensions (alternative scheme to that approved under P.P. B/16/00343/FHA).

Prop. Mrs Baker, sec. Mrs Twitchett, recommend approval. Carried.

#### **Planning Decisions Received:**

B/16/01381/FHA/NLW Horseyards, Bridge Street Road, Lavenham – permission for erection of 2.3m high flint garden wall.

B/16/01380/FHA/NLW 63 High Street, Lavenham – permission for installation of a detached timber garden room

B/16/01534/TCA Perseverance House, 47 High Street, Lavenham – permission for fell 1 no. Yew (T1), reduce 2 no. Yew trees (T2 and T3) by up to 2m.

B/16/01302/STDW The Granary, Mill Hill, Bury Road, Lavenham - refusal of details of change of use from storage building to dwelling C3 Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (Part 3) Prior Approval Under Class P - Change of use of building and land within its curtilage from a use falling within Class B8 (storage or distribution centre) of the Schedule to the Use Classes Order to a use falling within Class C3 (dwellinghouses) of that Schedule.

B/16/01628/TCA Sparling & Faiers, 11 Market Place, Lavenham – permission for fell 2 no. Conifer trees

B/16/01657/TCA Angel Gallery, 17 Market Place, Lavenham – permission for re- Pollard 1 no. Ash Tree (T1) & Fell 1 no. Norway Spruce

### **Operations**

**Emergency Plan** – completed questionnaire leaflets are still being returned also some for vulnerable residents.

**Traffic and Road Management** – Mr O’Mahony’s report of the matters viewed and discussed during the walk around the village with John Simpson of SCC Highways had been circulated. If any Councillor wishes to suggest amendments or extensions to the existing yellow lines they should be forwarded to Mr O’Mahony to collate.

Nothing more has yet been heard about the weight restriction experiment for Water Street and another meeting with John Simpson and the responsible Cabinet Member would be requested. Some doubts were expressed about the knock on effect on Lower Road once drivers of heavy vehicles became aware of ways to get around the weight restricted area. A trial of the weight restriction would provide the opportunity to assess the effect on other routes.

Mr O’Mahony is making progress in his search for information in respect of the purchase of VAS (Vehicle Activated Speed) signs and the experience of other parishes which already use these.

### **Housing and Social**

**Community Land Trust** – the legal structures are all in place, now waiting for funding. A new Government scheme to help finance affordable homes in areas with high levels of second homes might help depending on where the level was set.

### **Correspondence had been received from:**

John Knight, with thanks to the Parish Council for its continued support of the Lavenham Woodland Project and support for the new orienteering course.

Michael Warner, secretary of the Lavenham Gardening Club, asking for permission to hold their two plant sales on the Market Place. The first on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April, the second on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May. The Parish Council could see no problem with either of these dates.

Letter from Helen Crowter with thanks for the Council’s co-operation and assistance in making the Nissan Figaro car rally on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December a real success. Particular thanks to Philip Gibson for putting cones out, and Carroll Reeve. She also mentioned how helpful the staff of the TIC were from the first contact onwards.

Ministerial Statement relating to Neighbourhood Plans (12 Dec 2016) circulated

Notification of temporary traffic order, closure of Market Lane for Anglian Water works, date of closure 18-20/01/17

SALC forwarded, ‘Battle’s Over – A Nation’s Tribute & WW1 Beacons of Light 11<sup>th</sup> November (2018). Inviting early registration of Beacons of Light. There are no plans for a beacon in Lavenham but further updates on events would be monitored.

Email from Jill and Harold Wicks regarding the Post Office service and how the present arrangement of mobile Post Office visits is unsatisfactory. It is not known if any other business in Lavenham has yet indicated that they would be willing to incorporate the Post Office service into their premises. The possibility of a combined TIC/Post Office is still at an early exploratory stage.

Ian Gammage regarding works to the pond on the corner of Old Station Close site. The ownership of this area is still being researched, also the possibility of it being adopted as an asset for the community.

Tim Stonehouse in respect of the possible need for additional dog waste bins in the village for use by visiting dog owners who perhaps do not walk the paths where the existing bins are sited. He also questioned the use of the open topped waste bins for the disposal of dog waste. In the absence of a designated dog waste bin owners are encouraged to use any litter bin. These old bins are due to be replaced by closed top bins which will improve the situation. There may be objections to dog waste bins being sited on the village pavements but Councillors were asked to consider sites where additional bins might be put where they might improve the situation. Geoffrey and Wendy Grant, congratulating the many volunteers who worked hard during the Christmas Fair to direct traffic and manage car parking, also those working around the village to make the Fair such a great success. This would be passed on to the Street Fair Committee together with the Parish Council's thanks and congratulations.

### **Other Matters brought to the attention of the Parish Council**

Mr Whitworth commented that Mr Hodges would be removing the ivy from the wall behind the bus stop at the lower end of Church Street. This had provided a natural shelter from the weather and now might be an appropriate time to consider a built alternative.

Mr Searle commented that he had not seen an update to the Avian Flu information which had previously been circulated. He was sure that circulation of this type of information, and burglary alerts, was appreciated. Clerk said she would pass these on when they were received.

In respect of the Gas Works site in Water Street, Mr Searle had learnt that site is in the hands of BNP Paribas Real Estate. The work carried out recently was preparing it for transfer internally from one part of National Power Property to another, so that eventually they can market it. Nothing will be happening in the short term and he has given his details to BNP and asked to be informed of any developments. Enquiries will be made as to how it could be registered as a Community Asset.

Mr Reeve reminded the Council that anybody can report potholes or street lighting problems on the Suffolk County Council website ([www.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk)), roads and transport, Highways Report Tool.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

**Lavenham Parish Council website: [lavenham.onesuffolk.net](http://lavenham.onesuffolk.net)  
District Councillor's report follows**

**JANUARY 2017**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE – I HOPE YOU HAD A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS**

**DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING**

There was a full Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> December. Much of business of the day was surrounding the proposal for building at Liston (Braintree district council), which includes a small proportion of the land in Babergh as well. After debate it was agreed to pass Babergh planning powers to Braintree in relation to this case to make the process more efficient.

The council also agreed the new Cabinet Leader model for Babergh. This new style allows decision making powers to be vested to a maximum of 10 councillors forming a cabinet. The cabinet can either decide collectively or they can have individual decisions empowered to them. Decisions have to be published 5 clear days prior to decision and any decisions can be called in by councillors to go to main council if they feel it necessary. Therefore the process of auctioning items will be more efficient, but no decision can be railroaded through without full council agreement, if other councillors don't agree.

**CHILTON WOODS**

Chilton Woods updates can continually be found at [www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk) the application is for 1,100 homes mixed with commercial development.

**POST OFFICE**

The post office question is still in an exploratory stage, but if anyone has any views please do let myself or the Parish Council know.

**SHELTERED HOUSING**

I am sad to say that the Strategy committee at Babergh voted in favour of the sheltered housing review recommendations on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

This means that Spring St / Spring Lane will be de-classified.

I have had assurances from Babergh officers that although these changes mean that 15 schemes will be de-sheltered, no tenants are required to move if they do not wish to do so and those who wish to continue to receive support or an emergency alarm, will do so. If you are at all worried about the proposal please contact Heather Sparrow on 01449 72476 or email [heather.sparrow@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:heather.sparrow@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)

**COMMUNITIES BUILDINGS ADVICE SERVICE**

The Community Buildings and Advice Service is provided by Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. This is a free impartial service, if you are interested in taking advantage of this; please contact John Taylor on 01473 264595 or email [john.taylor3@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:john.taylor3@suffolk.gov.uk)

**SUFFOLK FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE CO-RESPONDING PILOT TO BEGIN**

A partnership between ambulance staff and firefighters has been launched with five fire stations trialling co-responding in Suffolk, including Sudbury and Long Melford and the five stations will provide a total of nine appliances for the trial, which runs until February 2017. For further information please contact Councillor Matthew Hicks (Con), cabinet member for

environment and public protection, 01728 628176, 07824 474741,  
matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk or Councillor Peter Gardiner (Lab), shadow portfolio holder  
for public protection, 01473 711612, 07545 423825, peter.gardiner@suffolk.gov.uk

### **CITIZENS ADVISE BUREAU**

Sudbury & District Citizen's Advice Bureau is will be offering a drop-in session in Lavenham village hall, 9.30am-12.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month.

<http://www.sudburycab.org.uk/home.html>

### **NEW WEBSITE – HAVE YOUR SAY**

Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils have begun the roll out of their new website as part of transforming services for local residents. They are seeking views from local people who can access the new site as it develops over the next three months.

The new website can be viewed by visiting [www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk) or [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk) and following the link on the home page to the new site. Once on the new site users can send feedback using the feedback button at the top of the home page.