

**HAUGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE RON CRASCALL PAVILION
ON TUESDAY 20th MARCH 2007 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Cllrs C Faiers (Chairman), W Greene, Mrs J Thomson, C Hart, W Robertson,
M Lewis, N Weaver, J Bowden, Mrs J Devenish, J Prigg, J Bevan & Mrs M Bottomley
(Clerk). C.Cllr J Clover & D.Cllr J Davie-Thornhill

Mr J Goodyear (SCC – Highways), Mr G Nourse (Peacock Short)

4 Villagers

Apologies: Cllr D Frost & PC A Huntley

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Weaver - Item 4, Councillor vacancy

MINUTES OF MEETING 20.03.07

It was proposed by Cllr Greene and seconded by Cllr Bevan that the minutes were a true and accurate record and signed accordingly. 9 in favour, 2 abstentions.

COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Cllr Weaver left the room. The Chairman said that the application for the vacancy had been discussed under Correspondence at the February meeting and Councillors had agreed not to co-opt in view of the impending local elections on the 3rd May. The applicant had been advised to consider applying to become a councillor at that time. The Clerk confirmed having already delivered the nomination papers to her. During a short recess further discussion on procedural matters took place.

Cllr Weaver then returned to the meeting.

TO DEAL WITH ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
– SECTION 100B(4) OF THE LGA 1972:

Ron Crascall Pavilion - Councillors were updated on the grants available for the refurbishment of the Pavilion and playing field. In addition to Sports funding, four bids were now in the process of being applied for. The general outlook was favourable. Copies of the accounts for 2006 had been requested along with details of the original grant funding ten years ago for the Pavilion.

The meeting agreed to discuss Items 8 & 9 (Footways) out of turn and the Chairman welcomed Mr J Goodyear to the meeting.

FOOTWAYS

Haughley Green - Mr Goodyear had inspected the Haughley Green section of the village along with Cllr Greene and a resident (Mr Kay) in order to determine the best way forward for a footway along that stretch of Green Road. Copies of a Concept Plan drawn up by Mr Goodyear were circulated to all councillors and the options discussed. It was noted that the project could be delivered in stages to facilitate long term funding. Under the current planning programme nothing could be considered for the next three years, however once the project phasing was agreed between Highways and the Parish Council the next stage would be to incorporate the plans into a long term programme with appropriate funding being agreed. The meeting then recessed to discuss the priority phasing. On reconvening Cllr Faiers proposed putting in a grand plan indicating

- phase 1 to be the 150m section
 - phase 2 the next section where the verge was o.k.
 - phase 3 to fill in once plans for Walnut Tree Manor have been considered
- Seconded by Cllr Hart – all in favour. Cllr Greene would liaise with Mr Goodyear on this project

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A14/Fishponds Way footway – It was pointed out that with the proposed A14 upgrading there would be no linking of the proposed bridleway/footway from Stowmarket to Haughley New Street to the footway on the western side of Fishponds Way. This factor had not been considered when plans had been drawn up for the A14 upgrade. The meeting agreed to the Vice Chairman liaising with Mr Goodyear and the Highways Agency to clarify whether funding was available and to resolve this oversight.

The Chairman and councillors appreciated and thanked Mr Goodyear for spending considerable time during the day and at this evening's meeting to discuss the two matters. Mr Goodyear then left the meeting (8.20 pm)

The meeting recessed for the following:-

REPORTS

County Councillor Clover : Meeting held to discuss Primary Care Trust - proposals for Walnut Tree, Sudbury and Newmarket. Newmarket would be retained but proposals for Walnut Tree were considered unsatisfactory and the whole matter was being referred back to the Secretary of State in the hope that the Primary Care Trust might reconsider. Over 6 years there will be £150m in funding and this will put stress on budgeting for that period. As a major employer SCC have consulted with staff and unions as to the way forward. Report from the Chairman of the Police Authority last Thursday stated that at the end of December overall crime had fallen by 2.9% compared with same period the previous year. Domestic incidents also dropped. Costs for the recent murders in Ipswich - which involved officers from other counties being called in to assist – would put a considerable strain on resources although there was a contingency of £1m with the balance to come from the Home Office.

In response to a query on the picnic site, Cllr Clover understood this would remain closed until the A14 was upgraded.

District Councillor Davey—Thornhill : Waste collection and recycling had been agreed with Babergh District Council and would start in April. In January over 1,000 tonnes had been recycled for the first time. Following last year's successful Suffolk Spring Clean week a number of villages are involved in Spring Clean Days – information regarding equipment can be obtained by contacting Gillian Brown, Environmental Quality Officer at MSDC. Pay as you throw for garden waste collection trial with 1000 properties taking place over 12 months. The charge the first year for a 240 litre brown wheelie bin would be £40 with £30 subsequently. Charges to be reviewed after first 6 months and discounts for pensioners etc.

Council Tax for the coming year was agreed at 3% which relates to a band D property increasing by a total of £67.42 on a tax base of 622.93. This year's increase is also the lowest for 11 years and has shown a gradual reduction year on year from 2003 when the increase was 6%.

The Appeal lodged against MSDC in respect of the Woolpit Café on the A14 slip road has been dismissed and subject to further legal wrangling the appellant has 9 months in which to cease using the land and premises for catering as well as clear all hard standing and ancillary units from the site. This also includes the parking of unrelated vehicles and trailers.

60% of all crime in Mid Suffolk (9 wards including Wetherden and Haughley) took place near A140/A14 – establishing therefore a link with accessibility facilitating crime.

The meeting reconvened.

Allotment W.Party: Fencing work should be commenced this week.

Footpaths: Already discussed under Items 8 & 9

Village Green: Registration of The Folly was in the final stages of being drawn up and agreed with residents and the £6,000 would then be sent to the Council upon completion. Solicitors acting in respect of The Green had no further news but confirmed that the time constraints were in place and reducing daily prior to an arbitrator being called in by Land Registry. MSDC had suggested rather than make two applications for

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renewal of the dispensation, the Council should reapply after the May elections when the change in councillors elected was known.

Employment Panel: Nothing to report

Traffic Calming: The result of the A14 Inquiry was still not known. Work by SCC on the additional roundels would be commencing soon and the 20's Plenty was almost completed. The recent Local Councillor circulated stated that NALC/Parish Council's request to having their say in respect of HGV operating centres had been refused by the Secretary of State/ Ministry of State for Transport. Only immediate neighbours were able to comment..

Village Hall: Nothing to report

PLANNING

Item 1

Application No.	0530/07
Proposal:	Erection of two detached dwellings
Site Location	Land between 4 & 6 Fir Tree Lane
Comment	Support

Item 2

Application No.	0233/07
Proposal:	Three storey office development for B1 business use.
Site Location	Land adjoining Bury Road Roundabout, Stowmarket.
Comment	Refuse – will lead to increase of traffic on a road with an uncertain future.

The following applications were granted by MSDC:-

0111/07	Hillyfield house, The Folly. Single storey rear extension to house for study/bedroom
0134/07	12 Station Road. Construction of new vehicular access
0135/07	12 Station Road. Erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings and vehicular accesses
1889/06	Fen Acre, Spikes Lane. Retention of soil bund 18m x 50m with 8m strip of trees to south and hedges to north and south.

The meeting recessed for the following:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - No item raised.

The meeting reconvened.

VILLAGE NEEDS APPRAISAL

Letter dated 12th December from Mr Jones of Hendre Housing Consultancy was tabled. Councillors noted Mr Jones suggestion to meet with a small group of councillors to discuss certain aspects of the proposed survey however the meeting agreed that due to the close proximity of the elections the whole matter should be deferred until late Spring or early Summer. Proposed by Cllr Greene, seconded by Cllr Weaver. 10 in favour, 1 abstention

Cllr Hart took no part in the next item but remained in the audience.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Chairman welcomed Mr Nourse from Peacock Short who had come along to the meeting to discuss proposals in respect of land adjacent to the Pavilion and King George V Playing Field. Copies of the proposed development were circulated to all councillors. Of the 60 units of housing, 20 were low cost affordable homes with possible contributions to the development being made by the developer.

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Cllr Faiers commented that this was the second time Mr Nourse had attended a Council meeting and he appreciated the fact that looking at the latest documents in circulation it was clear the various comments that had been made following that first meeting had been taken on board.

Concern was expressed that the development might lead to serious traffic issues from the additional vehicles per household whilst Cllr Faiers considered it would be good to have the extra playing fields.. It was hoped that AWA would address the current problems being experienced in the village in respect of the sewage system and the question of access would also need to be considered.

Councillors were very appreciative of the consultation that had taken place and the Chairman thanked Mr Nourse for the detailed information provided. Mr Nourse then left the meeting (9.01pm)

Cllr Hart returned to the meeting.

FINANCE

408 **Monthly Accounts:** It was proposed by Cllr Greene, seconded by Cllr Robertson that the accounts for March be approved. All in favour.

<u>Chq</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
101812	Cleaning Service (paid between meetings)	£ 190.00
101813	Cancelled	
101814	Handyman (sal/expenses)	£ 476.86
101815	Clerk (March Travel & 6 month Phone)	£ 118.77
101816	Horringer Parish Council (stationery)	£ 41.97
101817	Cancelled	
101818	SCC Unit 106 replacement	£ 211.45)
101818	SCC Energy costs	£1,628.97)
101819	Heelis & Lodge (2003/2004 int/audit)	£ 90.00
101820	Hope Education (Playgroup slide	£ 953.81
101821	Cleaning Service (27 th Feb/20 th March)	£ 152.00
101822	Clerk (Sept-March pettycash/stamps)	£ 64.84

S/Os & D/Drs.

Clerk	Salary	£413.70
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Income:	£375.50	Allotments
	£ 80.00	1/6 th share of SLCC subs from 4 Parish Councils
	£660.38	Tracker account interest

Bank balances: Tracker Account £80,351.21 (inc.latest interest)
Current Account £6,325.25

409 **Internal Audit Report 2003/2004:** To be circulated.

EMERGENCY PLANNING - Nothing to report.

AREA AROUND MOAT – Work held up temporarily due to adverse weather.

TOURIST NOTICE BOARD

MSDC had inspected the Board and agreed the damage incurred was due to a design and production fault. They were to take the matter up with the manufacturers and arrange for a more suitable replacement.

BY LAW ON DRINKING - remain on the Agenda

CORRESPONDENCE

410 SCC – Signposting of Public Rights of Way. Replacing posts. Tabled

411 MSDC – Alcohol ban in Stowmarket. Circulate

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- 412 Suffolk Preservation Society – LDF – copy of Society’s comments. Tabled
- 413 Lacy Scott & Knight – 2 letters dated 26th February & 19th March concerning right of access to the former United Reformed Church, Old Street. Parish Council unable to agree to creation of right of way across green. Clerk to acknowledge letters and additionally to check with solicitors before writing again with response to Lacy Scott & Knight
- 414 SCC – Mobile Library service – response to review by 31st March 2007. Copies circulated to councillors for individual response.
- 415 MSDC – Open day 7th July 2007. Tabled – more information to follow nearer date.
- 416 SARS request for donation – consider at April meeting..

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 17th April 2007. Annual Parish Meeting in the Ron Crascall Pavilion on 24th April 2007.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 p.m.

Signature.....