

**HAUGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE RON
CRASCALL PAVILION ON TUESDAY 11th DECEMBER 2007 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Cllrs W Green (Vice Chairman), J Prigg, M Pirrie, J Bowden, H Stephens,
Mrs J Thomson, C Hart, N Weaver & Mrs M Bottomley (Clerk)

2 villagers

Apologies: Cllrs J Bevan & W Robertson

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

MINUTES OF MEETING 20.11.07

It was proposed by Cllr Pirrie, seconded by Cllr Weaver that the minutes were a true and accurate record and signed accordingly. 7 in favour, 1 abstention.

TO DEAL WITH ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT SECTION 100B(4)(B) OF THE LGA 1972

None.

REPORTS

Allotment W.Party: It was suggested having an informal meeting of the tenants in order to consider any views / opinions they may have in respect of the allotments. The meeting would be early January. Cllr Green read out a draft of the proposed letter which would be sent to each tenant along with the annual invoices at the end of December. Cllr Hart proposed sending the letter, seconded by Cllr Bowden. All in favour.

The replacement gate had not yet been installed. Clerk to chase contractor

Discussion took place on the removal of ivy from the trees – matter not resolved.

Footpaths: Nothing to report

Cllr Hart referred to the footpath through the churchyard. It was a public footpath which left the road and serviced the school through a stile into the meadow. Having spoken with a member of the County Council at a recent SALC meeting he was informed that SCC did not undertake any servicing work on footpaths. Since the path was used by parents and children to access the school Cllr Hart believed they should be asked to reconsider the matter. Following a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Prigg that the Parish Council should write to SCC, seconded by Cllr Green. All in favour.

Police - Report to be circulated with the minutes of the meeting as the wrong report had been received. Parking in Grange Way, Duke Street and Station Road was queried. The matter was a particular problem in Duke Street where cars parked on the pavement and because there was no path on the other side of the road villagers - particularly those with prams/buggies - were forced to walk in the road. Cars parking on the path outside the village hall was also discussed. Clerk to contact the police about the problem

Village Green: There had been no further developments since the agreed draft letter had been sent by the parish council's solicitors to the Bakery. Following Cllr Stephens comments that villagers were not aware of the problems and ongoing issues for the Council's actions, Councillors acknowledged that parishioners particularly those having access over the green should be kept informed as much as possible and it was essential to explain the parish council's efforts and objectives to resolve the problems.

District Councillor Cameron-Laker arrived at 7.46 p.m.

The meeting considered that placing editorial in the parish magazine would not be possible due to there
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being no publication until late January due to the Christmas /New Year holidays. There was also the question of how much could be mentioned since there were several legal issues involved. The possibility of issuing a Statement followed by discussing the issue further with villagers during the Public Forum of a council meeting was also considered along with information being placed on the website. Cllr Hart referred to the proposed Post Office meeting scheduled for 18th January and the possibility of the meeting being extended to cover village green matters.

County Councillor Clover arrived at 7.58 p.m.

Cllr Green proposed sending a circular letter to villagers but the general feeling was that this might not be sufficient for some villagers. The meeting then recessed for further discussion.

On reconvening it was proposed by Cllr Green that the Council arranges the meeting with David Ruffley MP, in respect of the Post Office closure – possibly the 18th January – and also advise those interested villagers of a separate meeting in respect of the village green. Cllr Hart seconded the proposal but added that the village green meeting/discussion should be held in the Public Forum of the Council’s meeting in January. Unanimous agreement by all councillors.

The meeting recessed for the next item.

REPORTS

County Councillor – The Ipswich Borough Council’s unitary bid was not proceeding and there were numerous financial implications which would need to be resolved with Suffolk County Council. Staff morale had been affected. There will probably be unitary authorities but as to how many was another matter. The B1115 contract has been awarded and funding approved 30th November. Construction is to commence February next year and will take approximately 18 months. There will be a county council meeting next Thursday and a report will be included from the Chairman of the Police authority comparing crime figures this year and last, increases in alcohol offences along with anti-social behaviour. County Councillor Clover concluded by wishing all present a happy Christmas.

District Councillor – Apologised for his late arrival and advised the meeting that due to unforeseen circumstances he was only able to provide a brief resume and would present a double report at the next meeting. He had attended a training course last week on budgeting procedures at Mid Suffolk District Council. Suffolk County Council/Ipswich B.Council/ St Edmundsbury B.Council had issued a consultation on Suffolk Climate action plan. MSDC had been asked to comment on the consultation. There were numerous residents in Suffolk who would like to do something more such as solar electricity, wind farms etc. but funding was the problem. However if part of the action plan included a survey as to how many would be interested and in favour of such a project county wise – subject to funding – then it could make a difference and possibly special discounts/government grants would be available. Discussion then covered the proposed 2 tier school issue. A steering group made up of representatives from Crawfords, the County and District Councillors would be meeting to discuss the matter further.

The meeting then reconvened with Cllr Faiers arriving at 8.29 p.m.

Employment Panel: Review of pay award for Clerk – see under Finance..

The Vice Chairman stood down and Cllr Faiers then chaired the rest of the meeting

Traffic Calming: At the last Council meeting it had been agreed to review whether or not a second gateway to the village should be installed. The cost was estimated at £600 and following brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Prigg, seconded by Cllr Weaver to proceed with the second gateway. All in favour.

Cllr Green had been asked if additional wording could be included “thank you for driving carefully” and the meeting was informed that although Suffolk County Council had not undertaken this in the past, they were prepared to consider the request

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The A14 concrete section depth was understood to be below the minimum surface texture and should be re-surfaced with a silent macadam type surface, as the loss of texture meant loss of traction, which could cause accidents in inclement weather. It was proposed by Cllr Weaver, seconded by Cllr Bowden to write to Highways on the matter. All in favour.

The County and District Councillors then left the meeting at 8.45 p.m.

Councillors agreed that the railings on the bridge over the Haughley watercourse at Fishponds Way were in a shabby condition and that Suffolk County Council should be asked to repaint them.

Village Hall: Nothing to report – the next meeting would be 8th January 2008.

POST OFFICE

Cllr Green had spoken with Post Office Ltd. And it was understood approximately 2,500 post offices were targeted to close. Those most likely to be affected were within three miles of a main post office. David Ruffley MP had set up a petition which he would be presenting to Post Office Ltd. which would enable people to express their support for their local post office. It could be signed at any local post office or online at www.telldavidruffley.com

Cllr Stephens advised that the PCC had separately taken a decision that if possible it would provide accommodation for a post office. There was a plan which would permit accommodation for a post office in Haughley provided a sub postmaster was available.

PLANNING

Item 1

Application No. 3769/07
 Proposal: Erection of detached timber frame storage building.
 Site Location May Bush Cottage, Wetherden Road.
Comment Support

Item 2

Application No. 3684/07
 Proposal: 1) Canopy reduce by 30%, thin and reshape one Lime 2) Canopy reduce and lift to 4m, reduce long laterals and clean one Oak.
 Site Location: The Firs, Fishpond Way.
Comment Support

Item 3

Application No. 3865/07
 Proposal: One pine tree – canopy reshape and reduce weight from lower limbs.
 Site Location: Garden to Glebe House
Comment Refuse - note to state that the parish council had received numerous complaints about the land owner's hedge and considered this was a hazard which should be the priority rather than the work requested for the tree.

The problem of overhanging trees and a hedge in Station Road to be dealt with by the Clerk.

The following application was granted by MSDC:

1140/07 10 Eve Balfour Way. Single storey rear extension

The following application was refused by MSDC

3059/07 Mere Cottage, Green Road. Erection of replacement dwelling and detached garage, construction of new vehicular access and stopping up of existing.

The meeting recessed.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Problem of water collecting by and in the car park.

Discussion on when the proposed meeting concerning the village green would be held.

Footnote on agenda queried.

The meeting reconvened.

EMERGENCY PLAN

Documentation had been drawn up and circulated to all councillors for their consideration. Although it was not a statutory requirement the majority of councillors felt it was beneficial for the village to have a plan. The Chairman considered that it was an excellent document and covered everything that the village should have in the event of an emergency.

FINANCE

486 **December Accounts:** The accounts for December were approved. Proposed by Cllr Stephens, seconded by Cllr Faiers, all in favour.

Chq.No.

101912	Phil Brown B.Services (electrics for Christmas tree)	£ 235.00
101913	Post Office (PAYE)	£ 116.68
101914	NRG (photocopier)	£ 15.43
101915	Cleaning Service (Ron Crascall Pavilion)	£ 160.00
101916	Linn Barringer (setting up website charges)	£ 600.00
101917	EDF Energy (Duke Street lighting/feeder pillar in church)	£1,583.90
101918	Clerk (travel Nov./Dec)	£ 92.76
101919	MSDC (grass cutting contract)	£1,561.57
101920	Mr C Faiers (additional plants for planters in village)	£ 84.00
101921	A W J & V J Herbert (hedge cutting)	£ 169.20
101922	Mr C Faiers (Chairman's expenses)	£ 28.54
101923	Mr C Faiers (additional plants for planters in village)	£ 3.99

Bank balances: Current £7,691.69 Tracker £90,615.19

487 **Pay Award:** The Employment Panel had reviewed the salary of the Clerk and an annual increase of £112.60, backdated to April 2007, was proposed by Cllr Green, seconded by Cllr Faiers. All in favour.

488 **Finance Working Party:** Similar sized parish councils had a FWP with the aim of looking at the accounts on a quarterly basis and to consider and suggest to the whole Parish Council any relevant improvements to procedures currently undertaken. The FWP should consist of three councillors. Proposed by Cllr Green, seconded by Cllr Faiers – all in favour of forming a FWP.

Cllrs Stephens, Pirrie and Weaver put their names forward and it was resolved that they would form the FWP with effect from January 2008.

489 **2005 Accounts:** These accounts had been retrieved from the independent auditor due to further discussion with Lubbock Fine who had insisted on a completion date of 15th January 2008, for all the accounts. The independent auditor had not completed a full audit but had made a number of observations regarding the discrepancies and with which the clerk was not in agreement. The meeting agreed to accept the accounts with the reservation stated to Lubbock Fine that the problems had not been satisfactorily resolved and to await their final audit of them. Proposed by Cllr Faiers, seconded by Cllr Weaver. All in favour.

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- VAT claims were now in the process of being drawn up by the Clerk for the appropriate claim.
- 490 **Risk Assessment:** Cllr Pirrie agreed to update the Assessment.
- 491 **Heelis & Lodge:** Councillors expressed concern over the lengthy delays in undertaking past audits and felt the matter should be reviewed in May. Their 2005 report was tabled.

MSDC LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Core Strategy Submission. A further three copies to be circulated all councillors for any comments. Cllr Hart already had a copy. Discuss at January meeting for response by 18th January 2008.

VILLAGE APPRAISAL

No response from villagers.

HAUGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

General discussion as to what was currently appearing on the site and for councillors to consider any further items they felt should be featured.

BY LAW ON DRINKING - To remain on the Agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

Various brochures

- 490 MSDC Grass/Ground Service level agreement. The meeting resolved that the allotments should be included in the contract. (Proposed by Cllr Faiers, seconded by Cllr Green. All in favour)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 15th January 2008. Councillors agreed that the Annual Parish meeting should be held in April. Clerk to advise date.

There being no further business the Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 10.18 p.m.

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