

OTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th July 2013

Present:

Clerk: Mrs Osborne
Chairman: Mr A Ling
Councillors: Mr B Childs, Mrs I Lincoln, Mr R Ling, Mrs S Grant, Mr D Hook, Mr G Cant, Mr M Liddell, Cllr P Bellfield and 15 members of the public.

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

13.30 Apologies for absence – Mrs J Vaughan, authorised, Mrs A Lord, unauthorised, & PC Debbie Howgego

13.31 Declarations of interest to items on agenda – none declared.

13.32 **Public Forum** – Mr A Ling invited members of the public to discuss the proposed planning application at HTG Properties. General consensus was the proposals were well received but overall concern that there will be changes to the density, particularly if it was deemed there to be no future demand for the workshops. It was agreed that the village would like to keep an element of employment and that these workshops should be positioned at the front of the development, behind the Hubbards houses. It was noted that additional turning space for HGV's and delivery vehicles would be required. Option 2 would also allow the Hubbards houses on Church road to maintain a level of amenity as they now enjoy. Mr Papworth informed the PC that St Mary's Church has been approached regarding a parcel of land to extend the churchyard which they feel is a way of giving something back to the village. It was felt that as the architect of the drawings was based in Thames Valley they would not show consideration to local architecture. It would be nice if developers reflected local features/architecture, ie Otley Hall mound, reed pond as Birds Mere, and incorporated these into the plans. It was generally felt that lots of small affordable units were likely to attract people working in larger towns who would not become involved in village life and there was a lack of suitable accommodation for the elderly. There was a need for both affordable and private ownership bungalows or even warden controlled buildings. Mr Green was concerned the current house at the front of the HTG site seemed to be positioned closer to the boundary which he felt would leave his property overlooked and hemmed in by the development. Owners of The Conifers also felt their bedroom window would be overlooked if this was the case. It was difficult for the PC to confirm until an actual planning application was received. There was a general feeling that the concrete area in front of the house would make suitable community parking for both the village shop and vehicles such as library bus. Residents raised concerns about the general water pressure and the effect the new development would have on this. Cllr Lidell felt villagers should start a campaign with Anglian Water now regarding the current concerns of water pressure. Concerns were also raised regarding traffic emerging from the development. Cllr Bellfield replied that planners can stop a development if they are not satisfied by the infrastructure. The Clerk read a letter received from Mr & Mrs Mew (attached to minutes) and will include comments in a response to Vocalism, particularly regarding a planting zone around the development for additional screening. Mr A Ling asked Cllr Bellfield to explain to the public S106. Cllr Bellfield explained that the size of the development was not significant enough to subsidise any new infrastructure but could be used to, say, move Soames into the new development allowing any developer to build on the land opposite the village shop and at the bus garage (only if there was agreement with Soames initially); general consensus was this would not be the most suitable option.

The public session closed at 8.40pm.

13.33 **It was resolved** the minutes of the meetings held on 20th May 2013 were an accurate record of that meeting. Proposed Mr A Ling, seconded Mrs S Grant. All in favour.

13.34 **Matters Arising** –

- a. Otley Traffic Group – nothing to report.
- b. To propose a representative as School Governor for Otley Primary School – with no volunteers Councillors were requested to consider and put forward recommendations at the next meeting.

13.35 **Finance** –

- a. **It was resolved** to authorise the Clerks salary at £250.20 and the following payments by cheque :
£60.00 – SALC for councillor training
All payments approved. Proposed by Mr D Hook and seconded by Mrs S Grant. All in favour.
- b. To receive the financial report from the RFO including balances at bank –
Community Account £ 428.26
Instant Saver Account £6,448.30

13.36 Planning Matters –

- a. To consider the following planning applications :
 - The Firs, 10 Church Road, Otley – construction of lean-to conservatory to side of kitchen.
- b. To consider the proposed planning application for the HTG Hubbards site - The PC will request 3 x 2 bed units for those with local connection to Otley, starter homes and lifetime homes for the elderly to be incorporated into the design and indicate no further social housing required. It was agreed that the ideal position for any bungalows was on the perimeter of the development backing onto the Hubbards houses. The PC will also request the retention of the trees currently screening Hubbards from the houses on Church Road and request the developers include screening around the boundary with a planting zone not incorporated into individual properties. It was agreed to include all residents' views within a letter to Vocalism Planning & PR in response to the proposed development and to attend ad-hoc meetings to discuss developments.

13.37 Highways Matters – none to report

13.38 Rights of Way – nothing to report.

13.39 To receive the District & County Councillor's report – Cllr Bellfield was pleased to report that County Council has saved not only the required £26m but an additional £3.5m on top. The estimate is that over the next 4 years there will need to be a further £150m saved from a budget of £550m. When asked if the largest overheads were staffing Cllr Bellfield confirmed that employment was down from 11,000 to 4,000 which was already a significant reduction. Cllr Bellfield also reported that SCC were increasing funds for the Highways budget and was doing a greater amount of resurfacing and dressing than any other Council. It was disappointing that the Endeavour (discount) Card will not be ready until the half term of the Autumn term. Cllr Bellfield also informed the PC that BT had now offered exceptional terms to run the services for CC and the contract was likely to be renewed.

District Council – Cllr Bellfield reported that £2m needed to be saved from a budget of £12.5m next year. The Core Strategy and LDF has now been initially agreed by Government Inspector and is now in place and Mr Ling asked if this now meant a Neighbourhood Plan would be less urgent. Cllr Bellfield replied that the documents were not related and a NP was still an important legal document to have in place.

13.40 To receive the Police Report – PC Debbie Howgego gave her apologies but sent a report. There have been 6 reported crimes since our last meeting in the period 1.6.13-30.6.13. In comparison Wickham Market 18, Rendlesham 19, Melton 6 Woodbridge 27 and Hollesley 5. Current police priority is to reduce speeding through Sutton village, carry out parking enforcement in Woodbridge and to tackle anti-social behaviour in Wickham Market. The next community panel meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st August 2013 at 7pm in Eyke Village Hall. There will be a 'Coffee with Cops' session Saturday 3rd August 10.30-12.00 at the Village Hall in Wickham Market and Woodbridge SNT will be carrying out crime reduction sessions on Monday 12th August 9.00-12.00 at the Auction Rooms in Campsea Ashe and 1300-1500 in the Thoroughfare, Woodbridge.

13.41 To receive the Community Council Report – Mr A Ling informed the PC that the kitchen refurbishment has now been agreed and will be progressing shortly.

13.42 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council –

- a. The PC were updated on the replacement of the Suffolk Coastal Mobile Police Station which has been replaced with a smaller, transit van size vehicle and in operation 1st June 2013.
- b. 2014 Real Poppy Campaign to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1 will be discussed at the next meeting.

13.43 Councillors' reports and items for future agenda – none received

13.44 Date of next meeting – *Monday 2nd September* 7.30pm, at Otley Village Hall

With no further matters to discuss the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed

Date