

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting held in The Old School Community Centre at 7.00 p.m.
on Thursday 18 April 2013**

Present: Cllrs. Keith Haisman (Chair), Paul Bishop, Derek Blake, Margaret Godwin, Gayle Mallows, Alan Parsley,
Peter Phillips, Phil Gryce
Borough Cllr. Alaric Pugh,
Clerk, Claire Ebeling, RFO, Maureen Smith

1 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Warmington, County Cllr. Jane Midwood

2 Register of members' interests

Cllr. Mallows made a statement that she intended to raise a question relating to the Maple Hill Wind Turbine under Parishioners' Questions.

Cllr. Blake registered an interest in Item 12 b) i) Planning application for 10 Hermitage Meadow

Cllr. Haisman registered an interest in Item 10 ii) a) Clare Swimming Club

Cllr. Phillips registered an interest in Item 10 ii) b) - CHOC

Section of the meeting open to the public:

3 Police Report - see attachment to the minutes.

4 Parishioner's Question Time

Cllr. Mallows raised some questions as a parishioner – see attachment to these minutes.

The agreed actions were as follows:

Q1. To write to David Nettleton at St Eds BC (copy to Nicola Baker, Ian Gallin, John Griffiths, Matthew Hancock, STOC, Cllr. Pugh) regarding the option of a review by the Scrutiny Committee.

Q2. Point to be included in letter above. Cllr. Pugh agreed to investigate the local view on a group of parishioners starting a dialogue with the Wind Turbine applicant.

A3. To be reviewed following a response to the letter above.

Cllr. Pugh added some points of information – that it would be legitimate to enter into negotiations with developers and offered support as a mediator.

Cllr. Pugh urged the Town Council to complain and use proliferation as the argument.

Cllr. Pugh reported that St Eds Head of Planning has confirmed that distance constraints will be considered as an addition into the Development Management policies after Vision 2031 has been through the legal process.

5 County Councillor's Report – No report

6 Borough Councillor's Report - See attachment to the minutes.

Cllr. Pugh referred to a report in the local press that the Planning Committee had been unanimous in their decision to approve the Antiques Centre application, when it was not unanimous and Cllr. Pugh had voted against.

Cllr. Pugh reported that Chris Board, Principal Planning Officer at St Eds has offered to attend a meeting in Clare to discuss the Land East of the Granary.

Cllr. Haisman raised a concern on the timing of the consultation on Vision 2031. Cllr. Pugh responded that there will be an opportunity for pre-consultation for Parish and Town Councils to see drafts in early to mid May.

The Clerk will write to St Eds to request more information and more detailed timescales.

Clerk

End of public section of meeting

7 **To approve minutes of previous meeting held on 21st March 2013**

Approved unanimously.

8 **To receive an update on the actions from the last meeting**

The Clerk reported that all actions were complete other than the setting of a date to meet Andrew Harvey re dog fouling.

Clerk

9 **Clerk's Report** - See attachment to the minutes.

Clerk

10 **Finance**

i) **Presentation of monthly accounts and cash flow report**

Cllr. Blake proposed the accounts for March/Year End be adopted. Seconded by Cllr. Mallows and approved unanimously.

ii) **Decisions required**

- a) Cllr. Blake reported that Clare Swimming Club had requested £1000 for costs to open and run the swimming pool at SVCS over the 6 week summer holiday. Recommended by the Finance Committee, proposed by Cllr. Blake and approved unanimously.
- b) Cllr. Blake proposed the approval of £100 for CHOC toward the cost of transporting the new chairs from Tottenham Hotspur. Approved unanimously.
- c) Cllr. Blake reported that the Playing Fields Committee has not yet submitted a request for last year's precept. The Clerk will contact again.
- d) Cllr. Blake reported that a letter has been sent to Eric Pickles regarding the Precept (Referendums) Bill.
- e) Cllr. Blake referred to the investment strategy options provided by the RFO and proposed that option 2 be adopted as below. Approved unanimously.

Invest £150,000 for 6 months @ interest rate of 0.80%	= £600.00
Invest £50,000 for 6 weeks @ interest rate of 0.5%	= £ 28.85
rolled over 4 times within 6 months	= £115.40
Total interest in 6 months	= £715.40

11 **Correspondence** - See attachment to the minutes.

Clerk

12 **Planning**

- a
 - i) SE/13/0366/LBCA & SE/13/0365/FULBCA – Hursts Bakery – Cllr. Mallows reported that the TC Planning Committee had considered this application and recommended it be approved without objection. Approved unanimously.
 - ii) SE/13/0096/LBCA & SE/13/0095/ADVCA – Stone Hall Surgery - Cllr. Mallows reported that the TC Planning Committee had considered this application and recommended it be approved without objection. Approved unanimously.

b **Applications received by the Clerk between publishing the agenda and this meeting.**
SE/13/0404/EXT – 10 Hermitage Meadow - Approved unanimously.

13 **To receive items for decisions required by Town Council Committees and Working Parties**
To ratify the Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee - approved unanimously.

14 To receive items for the next Chevron

The next month Chevron will be delivered with the Annual Report and will include an item on cat deaths (as per police report), the Wind Turbine Planning Committee outcome, the BMX Track and Land East of the Granary with a separate Country Park item.

Cllr. Gryce will be the TC representative for the Friends of Clare Library Group and will compile an update for Chevron.

15 To agree the agenda for the Annual Meeting

The agenda was agreed. The Clerk will request the assistance of the WI to serve tea and coffee.

16 To receive nominations for CHOC Trustees

A discussion took place on the constitution provided by the Trustees and concerns were raised that it is out of date as it does not include reference to the Old School. Clerk to write to CHOC explaining the implications for CTC and offering support in updating the constitution. It was agreed to have an offline meeting to discuss further the relationship with all Clare trusts and to invite Jayne Cole from SALC to advise. It was also suggested that the St Eds Community Officer might be able to advise.

17 To receive an update on the Country Park – to be taken *in camera* at the request of Suffolk County Council.

Re-scheduled to in camera meeting on 22nd April.

18 To receive recommendations on amendments to the Standing Orders

Due to the large number of amendments to be reviewed, it was agreed that Cllr.s Gryce, Phillips and Blake, the RFO and the Clerk will review and circulate a draft for comments.

**Cllr. Gryce,
Phillips and
Blake, RFO,
Clerk**

18 To receive agenda items for the next meeting

- To receive items for the next Chevron

19 To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 16th May 2013

Confirmed. Clerk to email the current list of roles to all Councillors.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

Attachment to minutes – Item 3, Police report

Crime report for Clare for the period between 21st March 2013 and 18th April 2013.

There have been 4 crimes of note since the last meeting these were:

- Theft of 3 large digger buckets overnight on 20/03/2013 from a building site on land at the rear of The Granary.
- Burglary other building over a time frame of a week (27/03 – 03/04) where a garage was broken into by the padlock being cut and 2 large axel stands stolen from a property in Wentford View.
- Theft of 2 gas cylinder bottles sometime between 10/04 – 12/04 from a club house on Stoke Road.
- Criminal damage to a motor vehicle where the wing mirror casing was cracked whilst it was parked on Gilbert Road between 11/04 – 13/04.

We have also had a number of cat deaths in a short space of time reported to us from an estate in Clare. It is believed the cause of these deaths is down to poisoning by antifreeze according to the vets who have carried out the post mortems on these cats. Cats are known to be attracted to antifreeze due to its sweet smell and taste, and antifreeze is commonly used by gardeners to eliminate slugs from allotment plots. There is a number of plant and vegetable plots of land on this estate so we believe there is no malicious intent involved, just for information.

In answer to the questions raised at last month's meeting:

- Domestic Violence is not included in the Police report to yourselves as it is not of public interest, if we published details of domestic violence incidents we could potentially end up revealing the identities of those parties involved which you can appreciate is of a sensitive nature. We only report to you crimes of "note" which includes burglaries, thefts, criminal damage etc. such crimes of a violent, sex or drugs nature are not necessarily deemed appropriate to be included.
- As for the drugs paraphernalia in the cemetery, I personally was not aware of this going on, so I shall definitely have that as a point of interest for my regular foot patrols. If you have any more information regarding this please can you let Rob know at the meeting so we can submit some intelligence on our system in relation to this activity and behaviour.
- The sheep killing as far as I can see was not recorded as a crime on our system and hence why it was not included in the report. We were fully aware of the incident that occurred and have not received any further calls regarding this since. If you have any questions surrounding this again I'm sure Rob will be able to oblige at the meeting.

Attachment to minutes – Item 4 – Parishioners questions

I need to state a conflict of interest relating to the Maple Hill Wind Turbine as I live in very close proximity to the site. It would not be appropriate for me to take part in any discussions relating to the turbine and I would certainly not wish to be involved in any meetings between the town council and the developer. However, I understand that, as a parishioner, I am entitled to speak on the subject during parishioners' questions.

Councillors will be aware that the SEBC planning committee have agreed to the proposal to build a 78m wind turbine on the outskirts of Chilton Street. This agreement was made in spite of:

- (1) the well- argued and significant objections raised by all of the local parish and town councils, including our own, our Borough Councillor, English Heritage, the Dedham Vale ANOB, the Suffolk Preservation Society and many other organisations,
- (2) the fact that the planning officers gave erroneous advice to the applicant in the early planning stages on the need for a full impact statement to be drawn up and full consultation to be carried out with the people of Clare and Hundon,
- (3) the fact that the planning officer's report to the committee has been shown to be materially flawed by an independent consultant, and
- (4) the fact that this council has consistently argued for a set-back distance to be established for such developments and has requested that one be included in all local planning documents – all of which has been ignored.

The granting of this application sets a very worrying precedent for the area, and already rumours are rife that other local farmers are planning to put in applications for met masts and turbines.

BT have stated that there is insufficient wind in the area but the combined nature of this particular application almost negates the need for a met mast to prove sufficiency of wind, and the applicant states early in his design application that developers will need to increase the size of turbines if they are shown to be un-economic. It is highly likely that the granting of this application will lead to a greater number and a greater size of turbine in our parish.

I have three questions for the Town Council.

1. It is accepted that we cannot over-turn this planning decision. However, does this council plan to write to SEBC to complain, in the strongest possible terms, about the way in which this application has been handled by the planning officers and the planning department ?
2. It has been suggested that discussions are held between the town council and the developer. If this is to be the case, will the council use all of its skills to persuade the developer to gather wind data evidence to justify his plans before he starts work on the turbine ?
3. There is a very strong possibility that this turbine, and others that are likely to follow, will have a debilitating effect on the health and well-being of Clare parishioners. If that proves to be the case, will this council work with the parishioners to get the turbines closed downand will the council take great care to ensure that its position in the future is not compromised by trying to negotiate now for community money.

St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor's report to Clare Town Council Period: 20th February-20th March 2013 Author: Councillor Alaric Pugh

This is a monthly report on activities conducted by Alaric Pugh, Borough Councillor for Clare, on behalf of the whole community, following the election on 5th May 2011. I am delighted to have been elected to represent Clare and work hard to do my best to uphold the interests of the town at St Edmundsbury Borough Council. I am Deputy Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Growth. The committees I sit on are: Development Control, Rural Working Party, Sustainable Development Working Party (Deputy Chair), New Tenancies Working Party, and I am a substitute on Performance and Audit and Treasury Management. I attend Dedham and Stour Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Project Board Meetings and have shared delegated authority for aspects of Clare Country Park managed by St Edmundsbury. I expect to be in attendance at Parish Council meetings and will be happy to answer any questions from councillors or parishioners after my report. I run a surgery between 9.30 and 10.00 am on the first Saturday of the month for residents whose questions cannot be addressed at the Town Council Meeting. I can be contacted at other times: my mobile phone number is: 07930460899 and email alaric.pugh@stedsbc.gov.uk

1. Training undertaken since last report – none
2. Civic events etc – none
3. Meetings attended (excluding Majority Group meetings)
 - Development Control + site visits meeting
 - Cabinet Planning/Joint Cabinet Planning
 - Cabinet
 - Heritage Planning
 - Sustainable development
 - Presentation on National Horseracing Museum and related projects
4. Forthcoming meetings before next TC Meeting
 - Development Control
 - Rural Working Party
 - Sustainable Developmentall special Vision 2031 meetings
- Voting record - items with significance to Clare community:
 - i) voted against the proposed wind turbine application
- Current Clare issues involvement/resident requests to take forward:
 - a great deal of time has been devoted to the Wind Farm application this month
 - I have referred the Environment Agency to the TC re Riparian Rights
 - I have met with Cllr Margaret Godwin re the Wind Turbine and Highways matters
 - I have met with the Head of Planning to discuss 'landscape protection' measures and future planning and Affordable Housing issues
 - I have liaised with The Clare Society
 - I continue to take an interest in the future of Clare Country Park, including contact with Bryn Griffiths re the loss of the Clare flag
 - Please note Simon Amstutz job change at the AONB
 - My next surgery will be held on Saturday 4th May.

Attachment to minutes – Item 9, Clerk’s Report – April 2013

Action:

- IT issues in the office – Quote for cabling across the building - £466.70. Cost saving of second phone and internet line is £42 per quarter (£168 per year)
Action: do not proceed with cabling across the building. Obtain quote for wireless access in Clerk’s office.
- Carpet – laid 13th April and invoice received.
- Replacement of office window – Thanks to Pete for his work on this. I have spoken to John Martin Builders re assistance with the listed building application, Design & Access statement and drawings, plus the supply and fit of the window once approval has been received.
- Condolences for David Neal
Action: Clerk to write to Mrs Neal. Cllr.s Parsley and Bishop to attend remembrance celebration.
- Condolences for Stuart Green
Action: Clerk to write to the family and confirm the TC will formally attend the memorial service.

Reported issues

- Caravan in Callis Street – complaints received, reported to Traveller liaison who will be coming tomorrow to move him on.

Update on previously reported issues

- **Update from SCC re blocked culvert** - The contractors jettted the system and all seems to be fine – believe it was the volume of water trying to enter the river when under flood. They will monitor in future when there is heavy rainfall alongside high water tables(?)
- Brown Tourism signs – in place but no invoice received.

Borough planning decisions:

SE/13/0111/HHCA – Jacaranda House – Erection of outbuilding and conversion of garage- Permission granted

Attachment to minutes – Item 11, Correspondence:

Items for action
(all circulated to Town Councillors)

Stoke By Clare Parish Council	Response to our letter re HGVs. Request to be included in future letters. Action: Cllr. Phillips will liaise with SBCPC.
Jim Hurrell	Letter re HGVs Action: Cllr. Phillips has spoken to Mr Hurrell and will keep him informed. Clerk to forward Mr Hurrell's letter to Simon Curl and request investigation of the Co-op issue and the progress on the ghost island.
Alaric Pugh	Clare Water levels Action: Clerk to forward the letter sent to the Environment Agency previously and invite the new contact to a meeting with Cllr. Gryce (to include walk along river).
John Collecott	Email re drains Action: Cllr. Mallows will arrange a further discussion with Anglian Water.
Clare WI	Request to hold cake stall on Market Hill on Saturday 8 th June. Action: Approved unanimously – Clerk to respond.
Tony Green	Co-op deliveries Action: Clerk to forward this email to the Co-op Area Manager prior to his meeting with Cllr.s next week).

Items for noting
(copies available from the Clerk on request)

Sudbury Newstalk	Letter of thanks.
CHOC	Monthly report