

Letheringham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at 7.45 pm on Monday 30th November 2015
at Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

In Attendance

Terry Carlin (TC) (Chairman & Financial Officer)
Matthew Bickerton (MB)
Jean Barker (JB)

David Allan (DA) (Clerk)

Public Attendance

SCC Peter Bellfield (PB)
Richard Gooding (RG)
Paul Clarke (PC)
Pauline Bickerton (PB) (part)

Public Forum

PB addressed the meeting regarding County Councils matters.

Firstly, with regard to Educational results, there had been a significant recorded improvement across the region, with GCSE students attaining A* to C grades having increased to 54% from 50.8%, against a national average of 52.8%. This contrasted with the region having previously been third from bottom across the country in terms of GCSE results.

The County council had also introduced its own assessment programme, which had met with some adverse comments at the time, based on a 'traffic light' system. This had resulted in 108 schools being given a 'green' assessment, and increase of 31 schools from the previous assessment 6 months beforehand.

Reception classes had also seen an improvement, with 67% demonstrating good development, and 8% improvement against a national average of 66.3%.

A recent Suffolk Schools Show at Trinity Park had been held, highlighting educational opportunities and career prospects, and had attracted 4,500 kids.

Secondly, the County Council budget required savings of £72 million over the next two years. The Council had already earmarked changes meeting 50% of this total, and it was anticipated that the vast majority of this saving would be met through the development of partnership working.

Thirdly, with regard to waste, the opening times of waste facilities had been amended by extending weekend hours and reducing times during the week in order to meet demand at peak times. A restriction on the quantity of plasterboard that householders could deposit had also been removed, although it was envisaged that a modest charge would be levied in due course. In response to an enquiry by JB, PB stated that, although this was an SCDC matter, no charge was anticipated in relation to the collection of waste via the brown bins.

Fourthly, the issue of excess speed on the B1078 and elsewhere, and the feasibility of a 40 mph limit being imposed, was being looked at. While there was no expectation that this would be implemented at this stage, pressure was being maintained on this issue.

In response to a point raised by TC regarding a proposed review of the speed limit along the B1078 generally, which had been promised by David Chenery previously, PB confirmed that he would press for this to go ahead but would want such a review to include the B1079 as well.

Finally, TC raised an issue regarding the inadequate broadband provision in the area and steps taken to address this given the impact on existing and potential local business, PB stated that there was no news or positive developments at this stage.

At the conclusion of PB's presentation, TC also raised a concern regarding the apparent disproportionate and excessive cost arising from the planning of improvements to the B1078. PB agreed that this was in contrast to the costs incurred when such matters were conducted in house, and that there was a valid argument for such planning to be completed by the Council itself before submitting the work to private contractors in order to reduce expenditure.

PC raised an issue regarding the planning application submitted in relation to the proposed pool house, swimming pool and cart lodge at Letheringham Mill (DC/15/4444/FUL), and referred to a letter setting out his objections that had been submitted in response.

PC set out his concerns, stating that the buildings were more prominent than they needed to be, and were out of scale given their setting, which was on raised land, resulting in the ridge heights exceeding that of Mill House itself. PC referred to significant other changes at the site which demonstrated a progressive development that detracted from the listed building / Heritage Asset.

In addition, PC stated that the use of slate tiles was out of character and that pantiles would be more in keeping, and that the volume and height of the proposed development would be visible from many points outside and around the site. PC produced drawings and a satellite view of the site and surrounding area to support his contentions.

Further, PC raised an issue regarding the Lime trees adjacent to the proposed cart-lodge, which provide screening of the site. While the application stated that the proposed building would have no impact on the existing trees, they appeared to be so close to the proposed development that there was real concern that they would be adversely affected. In addition, PC raised concerns about lighting of the new buildings and the impact on surrounding residents.

RG addressed concerns that the development generally, and the proposed Cart-Lodge in particular, involved car ports or access roads, stating that the building was intended for storage of machinery such as tractor, trailer and grass cutter only. There would be no access to or use by vehicles, and this was never referred to in the architectural plans.

With regard to changes in nature of the site, RG stated that these were intentional as the existing area was scruffy and included tatty sheds and old aviaries and log stores. The intention was to make it much more presentable, and the use of slates was designed to match the roofing of the house, where pantiles were inappropriate due to the pitch of the roof. RG noted that similar roofing material was used throughout Suffolk and confirmed that he intended to discuss concerns with PC.

TC expressed some sympathy with PC's concerns regarding lighting in particular, and queried the issue of constraints regarding this issue. RG stated that, while not unsympathetic, there was a need for lighting generally due to visitors to the site being unfamiliar with its layout, and he was particular anxious to avoid any unnecessary tree-loss, having lost a substantial number of trees to storms previously. There was no intention or suggestion that the proposed development would require the felling of any trees.

TC suggested that any decision as to whether the proposed development detracted from a Listed asset was a matter for the Conservation Officer, but suspected that no problem would arise as the neighbouring house was not listed, and MB commented that the house itself had been considered to be outside the curtilage of the Listed asset, suggested that a similar conclusion might be reached in relation to the proposed development.

TC stated that the issue of lighting appeared to raise genuine concerns, but that a balance needed to be struck between encouraging the letting business without detracting from the Listed heritage.

RG confirmed that there were no fixed plans as yet regarding the nature and extent of exterior lighting, and any conditions imposed would be complied with.

The public forum closed at 8.37 pm and the Parish Council Meeting began.

2015.63 Apologies

PCSO Christian Hassler, who provided a Report confirming that there were no reported crimes in Letheringham between the 1st September 2015 and the 18th October 2015 (Appendix A)

Maurice Fitch sent apologies.

2015.64 Declaration of Interests

None declared for items on this agenda.

2015.65 Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 01.09.2015

Approved and signed, with one minor amendment regarding the financial figures.

2015.66 Planning & Licensing Applications

- 1. Application No: DC/15/4392/FUL
- Site: Mill House, Letheringham Mill
- Proposal: Erection of Pool House, Swimming Pool & Cart-Lodge

It was confirmed that details regarding this planning application had been circulated to all Councillors, with no responses or objections received.

MB: PC had provided a lot of information and drawing during the Public Forum, and hear the issues and concerns but also take note of RG's responses. Believe that this is resolvable.

The height of the proposed development may be a genuine issue. If so, this would be for Ben [Woolnough] to consider.

With regards to Lighting, can see PC's point and also RG's reply. They are neighbours and I would encourage them to resolve matters between them.

JB: Think plans would tidy the site up. With regard to lighting, I wouldn't want to have this during the night. As far as height is concerned, the proposed building is not much higher than the ones already there.

TC: There is no right to a pretty view. From the previous proposal, do not consider that there is any issue with proximity to the Listed Building. If this was farm land, a barn of almost any size could be constructed.

With regard to lighting, recognise issue and would hope that any lighting could be subdued, although also recognise safety issue requiring lighting on site, particularly near the river.

Vote taken regarding response of LPC to the planning application, with three options: agree with application as it stands, to agree with the generality of the application but subject to potential amendments, and, finally, to disagree with the application.

MB: No objections but views expressed should be taken into account, particularly regarding lighting and roof height. No objection so agree (option 1).

JB: Agree (option 1)

TC: No objections but would hope that Planning Officers would consider appropriate lighting scheme to minimise impact on neighbours and to ensure that height and scale is not disproportionate to site generally. Agree (option 1)

UNANIMOUS VOTE: NO OBJECTION RAISED

– BUT TWO ISSUES OF LIGHTING AND HEIGHT / SCALE TO BE IDENTIFIED SO THAT THEY ARE CLARIFIED AND CONSIDERED BY THE PLANNING OFFICERS

ACTION: DA to confirm LPC position with Planning Department but raise and identify the two issues requiring their particular attention and consideration.

2. Application No:	DC/15/4444/VOC
Site:	Potsford Care Farm
Proposal:	Application for Variation of Condition regarding use

Unanimous agreement that there are no objections or comments regarding this application, which simply enabled the new office building to be used by the parent company to the two existing registered users.

2015.67 Phone Box

TC confirmed that the defibrillator and other equipment had now been received and that the relevant paint was awaited.

A quote had been received from Bayfields, which appeared excessive and included the installation of a fuse-box, which was not required as one was already installed.

MB had determined that there was no power being supplied to the box and had made numerous calls to BT to establish that no reconnect of any job to disconnect power was listed in the past 5 years. BT had sent personnel who had reconnected the supply, which had been cut off in error while other work had been undertaken previously. As a result the power supply to the box had now been re-established.

With regard to fitting and connection, it was believed that MB could undertake this, with MF able to conduct relevant testing.

A cheque for £159 was completed and signed by MF and MB.

It was confirmed that this policy would specifically cover the defibrillator equipment at no additional cost.

2015.68 B1078

The meeting was advised re recent correspondence regarding the commencement of improvement works on the B1078 at and around the junction with Park Road. Suffolk County Council have confirmed that the work had now been 'ordered' and had been given a 'priority of 3 months for programming and delivery'. A further update is awaited regarding the contractor's schedule.

2015.69 Insurance

Confirmation was provided that the Insurance had been renewed in full with Came & Co and all relevant documents had been received.

2015.70 Budget

TC raised the issue regarding the £1100 received previously from the CCS Fund, which had been ear-marked for Vehicle Activated Signs on the B1078 but which could no longer be applied for that purpose due to a change of County Council policy.

ACTION: DA to contact Carol Poulter regarding these funds and whether they should be returned or whether they could be applied for other community-based purposes.

Pending clarification of this, it was agreed to postpone finalisation and approval of the Budget.

2015.71 Financial Report

2015.71.1 Money Received

A remittance Advice has been received from SDCD regarding the 2nd Precept Instalment, totalling £525, which was credited on the 30th September 2015 and therefore not included in the Financial Report at the last meeting.

No interest had been received since the last meeting.

The total balance on both accounts stood at £2,941.61, albeit that this included the £1,100 community Grant as referred to above.

2015.71.2 Cheques Drawn

A cheque for £25 in respect of shipping for the defibrillator unit had been agreed at the last meeting but had been omitted from the Financial report, and a further payment had been made by PL for the VAT on this of £5.

VAT on the defibrillator unit itself had not been taken into account and a separate cheque for £355 had been issued for this since the last meeting. This amount is to be re-claimed from the exchequer in due course.

Finally, payment of £100 was required for SCDC Election Charges.

Income and Expenditure was approved by all present.

Cheques were therefore drawn and signed by JB and MB for the £25 carriage charge and for the £5 VAT, both made payable to PL who had settled these sums with CHT initially.

2015.71.3 Consolidation of Accounts

Given the meagre interest payable and the additional work involved in running two separate bank accounts, it was unanimously agreed that these should be consolidated into one account.

ACTION: TC to address this and provide an update at the next meeting.

2015.71.4 Accounts and Financial Report

TC presented the accounts to the meeting. They appear as appendices to these minutes as follows:

- Appendix B - LPC Financial Report to 29th September 2015
- Appendix C - LPC Parish Accounts at 29th September 2015

2015.72 Dates for Meetings in 2016

The following agreed dates were considered and approved:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Monday, January 18 th | Parish Council Meeting |
| Monday, March 14 th | Parish Council Meeting |
| Monday, May 23 rd | Annual Parish Council Meeting |
| Monday, July 25 th | Parish Council Meeting |

Monday, September 26th Parish Council Meeting

Monday, November 30th Parish Council Meeting

ACTION: DA to publish and circulate

2015.73 Potholes

At the conclusion of the meeting, TC raised one matter that had arisen regarding potholes that had appeared in Park Road, or more particularly re-appeared where previous repairs had been 'ripped out' possibly by tracked agricultural vehicles.

There was some discussion regarding the use of such vehicles, the relevant statutory requirements and whether such vehicles were in fact responsible for the state of the roads. JB commented that some if not all of the potholes predated the recent use of tracked vehicles for collecting the Beet harvest, and PC commented that Park Road had been due for resurfacing over some if not all of its length for some 3 years.

Of particular concern was a very large pothole located outside April Cottage and Office Far which seemed to present an immediate danger to road users.

ACTION: DA to report this using the web-site reporting tool and to chase up repair as a matter of urgency.

The meeting closed at 9.28pm

Signed.....

Date.....16/1/2016

Next Meeting: Monday 18th January 2016 at 7.45 pm in the Village hall

Appendices follow:

- A Report from PCSO Hassler dated 30.11.2015
- B Financial Report to 30.11.2015
- C LPC Parish Accounts to 30.11.2015



SAXMUNDHAM AND FRAMLINGHAM **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM**

Police station, Station approach, Saxmundham
&
Police station, Saxmundham road, Framlingham.

LEATHERINGHAM **COUNCIL POLICE REPORT** **Date 30 / 11 / 2015**

This report has been prepared by
PCSO 3034 HASSLER based at Framlingham Safer Neighbourhood Team.

CRIME UPDATE

There have been **No** reported crimes from
(1st of **September 2015** through to **18th of October 2015**).

In recent weeks Suffolk Constabulary has changed its crime recording and management system, this initially has made it very difficult to research recorded crime accurately for the parishes. Not wishing to supply inaccurate or misleading statistics

I have completed the report up to the 18th as the system changeover was from the 19th of October 2015 and will incorporate the rest of October's figures into the next Parish report.
Should there be any recorded crime that the parish council need to be informed of urgently then of course I will contact you with it.

Police Connect

For those of you that haven't signed up for the New Police Connect yet, please don't forget about it!
This is replacing Police Direct.

The service is free, easy to use and is proving to be a very valuable policing tool.

The service doesn't just assist us it also benefits you. You will receive regular updates either via text, email or landline letting you know what is happening in your area.

Leaflets are available at all police stations or visit our website.

suffolk.police.uk/policeconnect

POLICE CONNECT

Keeping you informed, keeping your community safe

CONTACTING THE POLICE

YOUR LOCAL OFFICERS ARE:

PC 1410 BURT
PCSO 3034 HASSLER
PCSO 3051 MANN
PCSO 3195 HINTON

In an emergency always dial 999

To report a crime, speak to your local officers or leave a message, please dial **101**

Any member of the team can be contacted at FRAMLINGHAM.SNT@SUFFOLK.PNN.POLICE.UK

Check the website www.suffolk.police.uk for our engagements.

Our website as detailed below also has an email link to contact us.

Please also have a look at the Suffolk Constabulary Website, which can offer further help and advice.

To find the Framlingham and Saxmundham safer neighbourhood team website please see www.safersuffolk.org.uk

PCSO 3034 HASSLER

Letheringham Parish CouncilFinancial Report as at 30th November 2015

Cheques presented for payment at this meeting

	date	chq no	
defibrillator carriage	27/09/2015	100243	£25.00
defibrillator chargeable vat	14/11/2015	100244	£350.00
defibrillator vat on carriage Paula	30/11/2015	100245	£5.00
SCDC election charges	30/11/2015	100246	£100.00

Income received

	date	income
SCDC precept	30/09/2015	£525.00

Current position before cheques are paid
Community Account

£2,629.66

Business Premium Account

£266.95

TOTAL

 £2,896.61

Position once cheques and payments are cleared:

Community Account

£2,674.66

Business Premium Account

£266.95

TOTAL

 £2,941.61

 Expenditure approved minute 2015.71.2 refers
 Date 30/11/2015

Letheringham Parish Accounts 30th November 2015

Community Account # 50571423

(2015-2016)

	date	Cheque no	debit	credit	total	vat	account statement	statement date
C/F from 2014-2015					£2,295.66			
SCDC precept	31/04/2015			£525.00	£2,820.66		£2,820.66	26/05/2015
SALC membership fees	18/05/2015	100240	£32.00		£2,788.66			
Adnams	27/07/2015			£1,750.00	£4,538.66			
Insurance (came & co)	27/09/2015	100241	£159.00		£4,379.66			
defribulator	27/09/2015	100242	£1,750.00		£2,629.66			
defribulator carriage	27/09/2015	100243	£25.00		£2,604.66			
SCDC precept	30/09/2015			£525.00	£3,129.66			
defribulator chargeable vat	14/11/2015	100244	£350.00		£2,779.66	£350.00		
defribulator vat on carriage Paula	30/11/2015	100245	£5.00		£2,774.66	£5.00		
scdc election charges	30/11/2015	100246	£100.00		£2,674.66			

note community account still retains £1100 received from SCDC

community grant as contribution to VAS road signs

Business Saver account # 50571431

transaction	date	Payments	Receipts/ interest payments	Balance	Bank statement	statement date
c/f				£266.82		
acct interest payment	08/12/2014		£0.03	£266.85	£266.85	15/12/2014
acct interest payment	19/03/2015		£0.03	£266.88	£266.88	10/04/2015
acct interest payment	08/06/2015		£0.04	£266.92	£266.92	12/06/2015
acct interest payment	07/09/2015		£0.03	£266.95	£266.95	28/09/2015

Letheringham Parish Council

Total account balances

date	Community Account	business premium account	Total funds available
26/01/2015	£1,371.66	£266.85	£1,638.51
30/03/2015	£2,295.66	£266.88	£2,562.54
18/05/2015	£2,788.66	£266.88	£3,055.54
27/07/2015	£4,538.66	£266.92	£4,805.58
28/09/2015	£2,629.66	£266.95	£2,896.61
30/11/2015	£2,674.66	£266.95	£2,941.61