

LIDGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th January 2018

Councillors present: John Whitefield (Chairman), Chris Bliss, Stuart Crosby, Sue Sage, Steve Child, Chris Stembridge and James Wreathall

Also present: Joanne Kirk (Clerk), Borough Councillor Clive Pollington and six members of the public. County Councillor Mary Evans arrived at 8.15pm

Open Forum

The following issues were raised during the Open Forum:

- The planning application for Chapel Cottage. Concerns were raised about:
 - The size of the extension which will completely swamp the original cottage
 - Overlooking, overshadowing and the loss of sunlight in the neighbour's gardens
 - The flat roof extension runs along the neighbour's boundary.
 - Chapel Cottage is higher than the neighbouring cottages St Alice and Cherry Tree Cottage and will be very overbearing
 - The extension is out of keeping with the adjoining properties and extends beyond the line of neighbouring properties
 - A single storey extension would be more appropriate
- The power line through the village which a resident would like to be buried underground

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda

Steve Child declared an interest in item 9a on the agenda, the planning application for Chapel Cottage. James Wreathall declared an interest in item 9b on the agenda, the planning application for Turners.

3. Planning

a) **DC/17/2607/HH - Chapel Cottage, The Street, Lidgate - (i) Single storey rear and side extension (following demolition of existing single storey side extension and (ii) two storey rear extension to include 2 dormer windows**

It was resolved that the Parish Council would object to this application for the following reasons:

Policy DM2 – Creating Places – Development Principles and Local Distinctiveness

- The proposed extension is too large and does not respect the character, scale, density and massing of the locality
- The extension will adversely affect the amenities of adjacent properties by reason of overlooking, overshadowing and loss of light. The dormer windows to the rear of the building and the window in the 2- storey extension will overlook the neighbouring properties leading to a loss or privacy.
- The proposal will adversely affect the residential amenity of neighbouring properties because of its size. The extension will extend beyond the line of existing rear buildings in neighbouring properties by approximately 3 metres.

Policy DM17 – Conservation Areas

- Lidgate is a quiet, rural village in a Conservation Area and the Parish Council believes that this application will detract from the setting.
- The proposed extension will be too large in scale, form, height, massing and alignment to respect the area's character and setting

Policy DM24 – Alterations or extensions to dwellings, including self-contained annexes and development within the curtilage

- The proposal does not respect the character, scale and design of the existing neighbouring dwellings. The footprint of the extension is too large and will completely dwarf the original cottage. The character and appearance of the proposed extension is not in keeping with the surrounding area. Chapel Cottage is higher than the neighbouring properties so a two-storey extension will appear much larger and higher and will dominate the locality
- The proposed extension will result in over-development of the dwelling curtilage
- It will adversely affect the residential amenity of the occupants of St Alice and Cherry Tree Cottage as it will completely overshadow them and lead to a loss of sunlight in both properties and gardens.
- The footprint of the flat roof extension appears to run along the boundary of Cherry Tree Cottage and will be very close to their oil tank

Borough Councillor Clive Pollington supported the Council's objections

b) **DC/18/0006/TCA - Turners, Bury Lane, Lidgate - TCA application - fell one poplar tree**

It was resolved that no objections would be made to this application.

4. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th November 2017 and the planning meeting held on Wednesday 22nd November 2017

It was resolved that the minutes were correct. The Chairman then signed them.

5. Borough Councillor's Report

Clive Pollington spoke about the following:

- He has some locality funding available.
- The proposal for a unitary council is being moved forward.
- There is an increase in take up of brown bin. Churches are still exempt.
- The Borough's recycling has produced a pay back of £100,000.

6. Police issues

There were no police issues to report. The latest VAS report has just been submitted to the Police. The 85th percentile was 45mph.

7. Update on list of actions agreed at the last meeting

There is one outstanding councillor action.

8. Finance

a) Approval of any payments and signing of Schedule of Payments

It was resolved that the following payments would be approved:

- J P Kirk - expenses – LGA 1972, s111 – **£12.53**
- Adkin - Playing field rent - Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10 - **£105.00**
- HMRC – PAYE - LGA 1972, S111 - **£130.80**

Chris Bliss and Sue Sage signed the Schedule of Payments. The Chairman countersigned it.

b) Approval of payments authorised between meetings

No payments were authorised between meetings.

c) Payments made between meetings but previously authorised

10/11/17	Fidelity Funds Network	£15.00
30/11/17	J P Kirk - salary	174.18
29/12/17	J P Kirk - salary	174.18

d) Approval of the record of online payments made since the last meeting

Chris Bliss checked and signed the record of online payments.

e) Signatory to complete the checklist of Internal Controls

Chris Bliss completed and signed the checklist of internal controls.

h) Bank mandate form

Chris Stembridge has now signed and returned the bank mandate form.

9. Highways/Rights of Way/Tree Issues

a) Water running down the B1063 near Cobbold's View

The Parish Council has reported this but Suffolk County Council has responded as follows:

'We have assessed the severity of the issue that you have reported, and in the light of that assessment we will not be taking any remedial action at this stage. Please be assured, however, that we will monitor this location as part of our routine inspections and if the matter gets worse we will look to prioritise suitable remedial works.'

Many organisations, especially public bodies, must be very conscious of the current financial climate they are operating in and have to prioritise across all their responsibilities to ensure limited resources are most effectively used. For this reason, all local authorities operate a prioritised response to highways issues based upon publicly available criteria.'

The Parish Council has also received a letter from a resident which has already been sent to Suffolk County Council raising concerns about the amount of water running down the B1063 and how dangerous it is when the water freezes. The letter was passed on to County Councillor Mary Evans who agreed to follow it up.

b) Three villages walk

The path has been cleared along the river towards Dalham. New marker posts have been put in. An annual walk has been arranged for the late May Bank Holiday. Chris Bliss agreed to deliver some leaflets. A volunteer is needed to organise the walk.

10. County Councillor's Report

- Clare is due to get its Walkers are Welcome accreditation shortly

- She has organised a meeting with Rights of Way manager Glyn French in Clare on 7th February
- Suffolk County Council's Home/School transport consultation

The Council asked about:

- Parking outside Wickhambrook School as it is very dangerous.
- Flooding on the B1063.

Mary Evans agreed to look into both issues.

11. Preparations for the new General Data Protection Regulations in May 2018

- Approval of the Information Security Policy**
It was resolved that the Information Security Policy would be approved.
- Approval of the Information Protection Policy**
It was resolved that the Information Protection Policy would be approved.
- Appointment of a Data Protection Officer**
It was resolved that the clerk would be appointed as Data Protection Officer.

12. Playing field issues

- Play inspection report**
The following issues were raised in the latest report:
 - The side mats on the zip wire are loose and should be monitored. Stuart Crosby agreed to attach some more cable ties.

13. Village issues

- Update on the Fit Villages course**
The course is now up and running. Sixteen people attended the first class and it was very successful. The Council thanked Hilary Child for organising the class.
- Sports Relief Mile**
The format has changed. This year people will download an app on their phone and try and achieve a set number of steps over a week. The decision was made to organise a village event instead. Chris Bliss agreed to speak to the Farm Manager and set a date for the event.
- Spring bulb planting**
It was resolved that this item would be postponed until the September meeting.
- Next village project**
It was resolved that ask that suggestions would be sought in the next newsletter.
- The future of the village hall if there is no village hall committee**
There is currently no chairman but the committee is still running. The role of chairman will be carried out in rotation by other committee members.
- Update on the defibrillator project**
The defibrillator has now been installed but has not yet been registered with the ambulance service. It was resolved that the clerk would be authorised to pay the invoice of £260.00 for the installation once it is received. A resident is willing to offer training. Another resident has agreed to carry out regular checks.
- Update on the closed churchyard**
The church warden has been in touch with Sue Mc Donald at St Edmundsbury the council and they will be fencing the area around the "closed churchyard" shortly and will be taking over the cutting of the grass in this area on a monthly/six-week rota. The church also has a grant for £2,500 towards replacing the damaged section of the wall.
- Litter picking**
It was resolved that Stuart Crosby would organise the litter pick.

14. Dates of meetings March 2018 – May 2019

- Thursday 10th May 2018 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council followed by the Annual Parish Meeting – please note earlier start time of 7pm
- Thursday 12th July 2018 Meeting
- Thursday 13th September 2018 Meeting
- Thursday 8th November 2018 Meeting
- Thursday 10th January 2019 Meeting
- Thursday 14th March 2019 Meeting

14. Correspondence

a) Email from West Suffolk re the proposal to merge St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council and the possible delineation of new district boundaries

Councillors agreed that it would be good for Dalham to be part of the same district as Lidgate and Ousden because of the Three Villages Walk and the fact that the three parishes have established links and have worked together on the project.

15. Any other business for noting or including on the next agenda

It was resolved that the following items would be included on the next agenda:

- Litter picking
- Three Villages Walk
- Playing field – village mower

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed (Chairman) Dated