



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

LAXFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday 12 February 2024 at 7 30 pm in the Parish Room

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OPEN FORUM

Five residents attended the Open Forum to discuss the following:

- The swing dance in commemoration of D Day taking place in Laxfield on 8 June 2024 and the requirement for a dance floor for the marquee. In addition, the residents asked the parish council to consider whether a singer appropriate for the event should be secured to do a set for £120.
- Whether the parish council would consider introducing a Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS) in a similar vein to Stradbroke. The chair explained that the council had looked into this and Stradbroke GNS had visited a previous meeting. The challenge is to get a resident (s) to co-ordinate and recruit volunteer drivers. There would be a table at the community engagement event on 23/3 to try to progress a scheme
- Hearse and bier currently housed in Stowmarket Museum and requiring immediate relocation. It was confirmed that Laxfield Museum was not able to accommodate the items due to their size and it was suggested that Ipswich Transport Museum and Leiston should be contacted to see if they can house the items.

Reports had been received from Mid Suffolk District Council and Anders Linder, District Councillor and are available on the website. Cllr Hopfensberger, covering for Cllr Gould, did not attend the meeting. Cllr Linder, district councillor, attended part of the meeting. He highlighted the main points from his report (available on the website) and discussed his endeavours to progress the footpath connecting the Mill Close with Blacksmith's Way development (covered in the main body of the meeting).

MINUTES

Attendees: D Alchin, S Clarke, S Ellis, O Hackett, S Innes (Chair) D Martindale, R Sutton, K Gregory (clerk).

1. Apologies and approval of absences

S Sutton.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Membership

- a. 24/02/01 The declaration of acceptance of office for the new parish councillor, Sarah Ellis, was signed and countersigned by the clerk.

4. Approval of minutes

- a. 24/02/02 The minutes from Parish Council meeting held on 8 January 2024 were approved. Proposed D Martindale, seconded R Sutton, AIF.

5. Planning

a. The council were updated about the following planning issues:

- a. It was confirmed that the issues highlighted about the building development on the East side of Bickers Hill had been progressed to the planning enforcement team

b. Blacksmith's Way development:

- a) Cllr Linder confirmed that he had once again followed up with Denbury Homes the issue regarding the Mill Close connecting footpath with Blacksmith's Way. He had little success so far in resolving the issue but would continue to pursue
- b) The 'footpath' on bend at the Framlingham Road would be reported to the planning enforcement team copying in the planning officer responsible for the development
- c) The piece of land on Blacksmith's Way originally highlighted in preliminary discussions as a potential area for the parish council to adopt and manage would now be managed by the Blacksmith's Way householders despite this being contrary to the brochure information. Cllr Linder to progress this issue with Denbury Homes.

6. Finance

- a. 24/02/03 BACs payments, direct debits and receipts as listed in Register of Payments for January 2024 were authorised. Proposed D Martindale, seconded R Sutton, AIF.
- b. 24/02/04 Bank reconciliations for January 2024 were reviewed and agreed. Proposed L Sharman, seconded D Martindale, AIF.
- c. 24/02/05 Performance v budget and monthly accounts for January 2024 were reviewed. Proposed S Innes, seconded L Sharman, AIF.
- d. 24/02/06 It was confirmed that the precept demand had been submitted and accepted.
- e. 24/02/07 It was confirmed that the parish council's zoom subscription had been terminated.
- f. 24/02/08 January overtime payment for the clerk of 8 hours was agreed. Proposed S Clarke, seconded D Martindale, AIF.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

- a. 24/02/09 The draft Laxfield Design Guide update would be held over until the March meeting.

8. Roads, Footpaths, Infrastructure, Green Areas

- a. 24/02/10 The highways group update was noted and the following issues were discussed:
 - i. Confirmation had been received that the Bickers Hill Speed Limit Order (SLO) had been agreed and the 30mph limit would be extended by approximately 100m
 - ii. It was proving difficult to find out who made the Village Map sign in order to progress the refurbishment/replacement. Photographs of the map to be sent to L Sharman so that she can discuss with Leiston Press.
 - iii. D Alchin updated the meeting that there had been slight progress with the Mill Road proposals and would give a full update at the next meeting.
 - iv. Several QLS signs had been vandalised or taken. A replacement sign had been received. It was agreed to reiterate in the newsletter that the QLS project was a county wide project funded predominantly by SCC. The parish council had not diverted funds from other highways projects to fund the QLS signs; it was a totally different county pot assigned to QLS only.
- b. 24/02/11 Green Spaces Group update had been previously circulated and the following issues were highlighted:
 - i. Discussion took place on purchasing a passive audio/ultrasonic recorder for the parish at a cost of £947.00. It was agreed to contact Heveningham County Fair for potential funds and to carry over to the next meeting for further information
 - ii. Funding for the improvement of the footpath at the Bickers Hill allotments at an approximate cost of £5 000 were agreed. Proposed S Innes, seconded S Clarke, AIF.
- c. 24/02/12 The contents of the footpath report were noted.
- d. 24/02/13 The tank pond conveyancing was still outstanding. The parish council had completed all the requirements from their end several months ago and were awaiting completion from the other side. This was followed up regularly by the clerk.
- e. 24/02/14 The council had received a rejection from the street licensing department for the proposed spheres around the war memorial to deter vehicles mounting the kerb. A meeting had taken place with the street furniture licensing department and a revised proposal would be put forward. Quotes were awaited for the refurbishment of the railings.

- f. 24/02/15 It was noted that the annual maintenance of the village pond would be carried out on 14 February.
- g. 24/02/16 It was agreed that funding would be made available for a resident to make good the potholes in the car park area of the playing field. Proposed S Innes, seconded S Clarke, AIF.
- h. 24/02/17 It was noted that the update from Mike Turton regarding the first meeting of the wildlife group would be carried over to the March meeting.
- i. 24/02/18 It was confirmed that the car in a ditch on Station Road had been removed.
- j. 24/02/19 It was agreed to purchase a new replacement dog litter bin (left of Baptist Church) and new 'no fouling' notices. Proposed S Innes, seconded L Sharman, AIF.

9. Correspondence and other issues

- a. 24/02/20 It was noted that the review of the parish council's policies and procedures will continue during February and brought to the March meeting for sign off.
- b. 24/02/21 Plans for the community engagement afternoon to be held on Saturday 23 March 2024 from 12 – 3 pm were discussed. Agreements recorded on separate sheet.
- c. 24/02/22 Several councillors were yet to have functioning new parish council email addresses. R Sutton to liaise with all and to feedback to the clerk when up and running.
- d. 24/02/23 Plans for the 80th anniversary of D Day commemorated in Laxfield on 8/6/24 were discussed at the open forum and within the meeting. Agreements recorded on separate sheet.
- e. 24/02/24 Discussion about housing two large museum items currently at Stowmarket Food Museum were discussed. It was agreed that there was nowhere to house the items within Laxfield and the clerk would contact Ipswich Transport Museum and others to see if they can be accommodated.
- f. 24/02/25 The applications for the Rix oil syndicate rebate were reviewed and it was agreed to award monies to FOALs for a digger for reception and year 1 class.
- g. 24/02/26 Thanks to Cllr Linder for the locality award allocation to Laxfield pre-school were noted.
- h. 24/02/27 A resident raised the issue regarding the school staff car park at Blacksmith's Way development. S Innes to review the planning application and liaise with the primary school about potential solutions.
- i. 24/02/28 Second defibrillator to be progressed during the coming month.

10. Date of next meeting – **Monday 11 March 2024.**

If you would like to attend a parish council meeting, please come along. Alternatively, if you would like to raise a matter of concern, please do not hesitate to contact the parish clerk or a member of the council. **Karen Gregory (Parish Clerk), Hill Farm Barn, Framlingham Road, Badingham, Suffolk IP13 8JL Tel: 07719 988668 (mobile); Email: laxfieldparishclerk@gmail.com www.laxfield.online**