

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PLAISTOW AND IFOLD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 13th JANUARY 2009 AT 7.30pm AT WINTERTON
HALL, PLAISTOW**

Present: Councillors - Mr J. Kirby (In the Chair), Mr D. Clement, Mr S. East, Mr B. Gravestock, Mr T. Laidlaw, Mrs R. Perrin, Mr D. Ribbens and Mr D. Wheeler

There were three members of the public present.

The Chairman introduced Tracey Webb, the new Area Highway Engineer for the area, from West Sussex County Council's Highways Department.

After introducing herself, Ms Webb commented that her department and the Safer Routes to School Team were liaising with the School regarding the recent escalation in the on-going parking problems. She also commented that the Highway Rangers were now available for work such as hedge cutting, tree work and the clearing of grips.

She confirmed that the previously mentioned surface dressing programme for the area was still on target and that potholes would be filled in before this work was undertaken and that white lining would be re-instated afterwards.

Ms Webb concluded by giving contact details for herself and her department.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Webb for attending the meeting.

The Chairman introduced Geoffrey Davis and John Hickman, the owners of Ashpark Brickworks.

Mr Davis commented that there had been a number of abortive sales. The current and most promising sale was to Skanda Hus, a Danish company producing pre-fabricated houses, who were already based in Chichester and looking to expand.

Members commented that the Parish Council would still like to see a small development of affordable homes; or houses with small offices attached designed for people working from home. Members noted the existing planning consent attached to the brickworks and expressed concerns regarding the potential for an increase in large lorry movements through the village. Mr Davis commented that he would keep the Parish Council informed of progress.

The Chairman thanked Mr David and Mr Hickman for attending the meeting.

Comments and questions from the floor

Mr Andrew commented on current issues regarding the supply of LPG to consumers and asked if a short item could be included in the next issue of Parish UpDate and on the Web Site.

Mr Ridout advised Members on the date of the AGM of the Plaistow Trust.

104/09 Apologies for absence
There were no Apologies for absence

105/09 Minutes
The Minutes of the meeting of 22nd July 2008 having previously been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman as being a true record, following one hand-written amendment - the inclusion of Mr Gravestock's name in the list of those present

The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee of 12th November and 10th December 2008 were received and noted.

106/09 Matters arising from the Minutes
Members noted that there was to be a change to the opening hours of the Post Office, to 9.30am to 11.30am on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 27th January 2009. Members noted that this was a reduction in the number of hours.

IT WAS RESOLVED
That enquiries be made of Royal Mail as to the correctness of this reduction

107/09 Declarations of Interest
There were no Declarations of Interest made

108/09 Chairman's Report – including Urgent Matters, as appropriate
Members noted receipt of the written Chairman's Report, as circulated.

Members noted that the Pond Working Group scheduled for 18th January 2009 would be deferred to Sunday 8th February 2009 at 9am.

109/08 Reports of County and District Councillors
No County or District Councillors were present

110/09

Finance Matters

(a) Accounts submitted for payment

A schedule of Accounts submitted for payment for the period 18th November 2008 to 13th January 2009 was circulated to Members and is attached to the end of the Minutes.

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the payments submitted for payment be approved

(b) To consider the Council's draft Budget for 2009/2010 and set the Parish Council's Precept

Councillor Lugton explained the identified error following the Finance Committee meeting, where the given surplus of £4478 was, in fact a deficit of £1157, which would affect the Committee's recommended Precept figure of £25,000.

Councillor Lugton outlined the various options open to Council –

- (a) To set a Precept of £30300 or £30000 to retain the level of General Reserves. Members noted that in the current economic climate this may be seen as unacceptable
- (b) To retain the Precept at the current level of £27500 and remove £2800 from the Budget. Members noted that this option may have an impact on those items considered to be of benefit to the community
- (c) To increase the Precept by a small margin of, say, 2.5% to £28,200, whilst reducing year end Reserves and/or some Budget items
- (d) Retain the Precept at the current level of £27500 and accept a reduction in General Reserves at year end of £2800. Members noted that this was a financially affordable option
- (e) Members noted the view that unless the Budget was reduced, the recommended Precept figure of £25000 was not sustainable.

A vigorous debate ensued on the level of the Precept. Some Members considered that the Precept should not be increased, whilst others expressed the view that there should not be an adverse impact on Reserves and that a Precept of around £30000 should be set. Members were in general agreement that if the Precept was to be increased, such an increase should be small.

Members put forward a number of different proposals –

- (a) It was moved by Councillor East and seconded by Councillor Kirby that a Precept of £28,200 be set.
- (b) It was moved by Councillor Ribbens that a Precept of £27,500 be set. The motion was not seconded and was abandoned
- (c) It was moved by Councillor Perrin and seconded by Councillor Wheeler that a Precept of £29000 be set.

Following voting by way of show of hands, motion (a) was carried by five votes for and one vote against.

Following agreement to the level of the Precept, Members considered that further work was needed to either identify areas of the Budget where reductions could possibly be made; or, whether the Budget could be left as formulated and accept a reduction in the level of Reserves.

IT WAS RESOLVED

- (a) **That the Parish Council's Precept for the financial year 2009/2010 be £28,200**
- (b) **That a further meeting of the Finance Committee be held as soon as possible to undertake this work.**
- (c) **That the quotation from Garden Care (Southern) Ltd be accepted for grass cutting in the sum of £1896 for the 2009 season; £1944 for 2010; and £1982 for 2011**

111/09

Situation Report on previously reported matters

- (a) **The Green at Plaistow including Play Area repairs**
Members noted that quotations were still awaited for the laying of the old safety surface tiles at the entrances to the Play Area, from the grounds maintenance contractor; and for a new Information Sign. It was further noted that the Licence for the Lower Green had still not been received from the National Trust.
- (b) **New Notice Boards**
Members noted that delivery of the new notice boards continued to be awaited.
- (c) **Village Design Statement and Action Plan**
Members noted receipt of the Clerk's Report that this item would be progressed.

- (d) **Dunsfold Park**
Members noted that there was no further information currently available

- (e) **Parish Web Site**
Members noted that the Group was continuing to meet and that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday 19th January 2009

- (f) **Plaistow Telephone Box**
Members noted that no further information was currently available

IT WAS RESOLVED
To note this section of the Report

- 112/09 Meeting Diary – to January 2010**
Members noted receipt of a draft Meeting Diary to January 2010. Following some slight amendments

IT WAS RESOLVED
That the amended Diary be approved

- 113/09 Speaker for the Annual Meeting of Electors – 21st April 2009**
Following discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED
To ask a member of the First Responders Team to act as a speaker for this meeting

- 114/09 Matters raised by members for the previous meeting**
Councillor Wheeler – remit of the Finance Committee

- 115/09 Dates of next meeting -**
Tuesday 10th March 2009 at Kelsey Hall, Ifold

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm