

Belstead Parish Council

Approved Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25 September 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Belstead

Present: Cllr Richard Clift (Chair), Cllr Trevor Beckett (Vice-Chair), Cllr Christine Eade (arrived 7.35pm) and Cllr Ken Stowe

Attendance: Cllr Jane Gould (District Councillor), Paul Botterill (Street Farm) and Simon Ashton (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies and Approval of Absences

Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Fiske and his absence was approved.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Members

A non-pecuniary interest was declared by Cllr Clift, Cllr Eade and Cllr Stowe (Item 8g) and Cllr Beckett (Item 8h) who all agreed not to take part in any decision making.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meetings on 24 June & 10 July 2019

Minutes of the previous meetings of the Parish Council on 24 June and 10 July 2019 were received and approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. Reports by the District Councillor and County Councillor

Cllr Gould delivered her district council report at the meeting. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information. Cllr Chris Hudson (County Councillor) had sent his apologies and did not attend the meeting.

5. Contributions by Members of the Public

There were no issues raised by members of the public.

6. Consideration of Planning Applications and Decision Notices

(a) BDC DC/19/00459: Application Granted (18 July 2019)

Kings Piece Cottage, Holly Lane, Belstead, IP8 3LZ

Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

(b) BDC DC/19/01002: Application Granted (25 July 2019)

Land South of Grove Hill, Belstead, Suffolk

Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

(c) BDC DC/19/03650: Application Acceptable (20 August 2019)

Land South of Grove Hill, Belstead, Suffolk

Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

7. Presentation of a Development of Affordable Homes by Paul Botterill, Street Farm

Members welcomed Mr Botterill to the meeting who described his plan to develop land at Street Farm with five or six houses and a play area. Mr Botterill responded to questions and Members looked forward to the consideration of any future planning applications.

8. Finance

- (a) Members noted the Barclays Bank Community account balance of £18,190.35 and the Business Instant account balance of £6,346.83 as at 31 August 2019.
- (b) The receipts and budget report and payments and budget report to 31 August 2019 were reviewed and noted by Members.
- (c) The bank reconciliation of activity to 31 August 2019 was reviewed and approved by Members.
- (d) Members agreed for those available to meet at the Village Hall on 15 October 2019, at 4.00pm, to prepare an action plan with the assistance of the Parish Clerk in response to the receipt of the report following the Internal Audit 2018/19. The action plan would then be presented at the next meeting for the Council's former approval.
- (e) Following a review by Members of the risks included in the insurance policy compared against the asset register, Members approved the fidelity cover of £25,000 and the overall insurance cover arrangements with a three-year term from 1 October 2019.
- (f) Following the receipt of advice from SALC, discussion and careful consideration, Members agreed against the approval of a grant request received from Belstead Parochial Church Council. The Parish Clerk agreed to advise the PCC representative of the Council's decision.
- (g) Members agreed to postpone the consideration of a grant request received from Belstead Village Hall until the next meeting. The Parish Clerk agreed to advise the Village Hall representative of the postponement of the decision.
- (h) Payments were authorised in favour of the Parish Clerk's wages and office and personal expenses (£378.00), T Beckett for reimbursement for a village sign (£54.29), Business Services at CAS Ltd for annual insurance (October 2019 to September 2020) (£198.97), Swarco Traffic Ltd for SID solar panel conversion, collection and delivery (£1,319.90), Babergh District Council for an uncontested parish council election (2 May 2019) (£101.78), Belstead Village Hall for venue hire (July 2019) (£25.00), Information Commissioner for annual registration (to August 2020) (£35.00) and Society of Local Council Clerks for annual subscription (£34.16). Approval of these payments was agreed by Members.

9. Governance

- (a) Cllr Beckett confirmed that the SID's solar power conversion had taken place and was now in full working order.
- (b) Cllr Beckett confirmed that the additional dog waste bin had been satisfactorily installed. The Parish Clerk agreed to investigate arrangements for the emptying of the bin with BDC Public Realm.
- (c) For their information, the Parish Clerk advised Members that there had been no parish council items featured in one of the recent editions of the In Touch Magazine reviewed.
- (d) Cllr Eade agreed to follow up written confirmation of the prices for a defibrillator package from Cardiac Science for consideration at the next meeting.

10. Highways

- (a) Cllr Stowe agreed to follow up the issue of a replacement HGV sign with Cllr Hudson, County Councillor, for further consideration at the next meeting.
- (b) Cllr Eade updated Members on the A14 noise pollution and the work planned by Highways England. She had been advised that rectifications requested were of a low priority.
- (c) Cllr Beckett agreed to attend the public meeting at Capel St Mary Village Hall on 11 October 2019 to discuss the A12/A14 in the presence of Suffolk County Council, Highways England, Suffolk Constabulary and James Cartlidge, MP.
- (d) Cllr Clift confirmed the concern of residents regarding the absence of a pavement at the proposed development on Grove Hill and that formal consultee comments had already been submitted by the Council. Members agreed that individual residents have the opportunity to make their own representations in such situations.
- (e) There were no further highways matters for consideration by Members.

11. Consultations

- (a) Following discussion, Members agreed not to submit a response to the SALC Governance consultation by the due date of 27 September 2019.
- (b) Following discussion, Members agreed not to submit a response to the Babergh & Mid Suffolk Local Plan consultation by the due date of 30 September 2019.

12. Matters for Future Consideration

- (a) Consideration of the Parish Council's VAT Claim Submission Update (2018/19)
- (b) Review & Approval of the Appointment of the Council's Internal Auditor (2019/20)
- (c) Review & Approval of the Council's Budget, Reserves & Precept Setting (2020/21)
- (d) Review & Approval of the Parish Council's Annual Risk Assessment (2019/20)

13. Dates of the Next Meetings

- (a) 13 November 2019 (Agenda Items & Documents Received by 5 November 2019)
- (b) 8 January 2020
- (c) 25 March 2020
- (d) The meeting finished at 9.25pm.

Simon Ashton, Parish Clerk
belstead.pc@btinternet.com
13 November 2019

Report from Jane Gould, Babergh District Councillor for Belstead Parish Council for meeting on 25 September 2019

Draft Joint Local Plan

Here is more information about the draft Joint Local Plan document which was approved for consultation by the council and is available to view on the Babergh Mid Suffolk webpage: <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/new-joint-local-plan/>.

The consultation period started on 22 July and will run for 10 weeks, closing at 4pm on Monday 30 September 2019. I encourage members of the Parish Council and village to take the time to view this document and send in any comments that they feel are pertinent. These will be taken into consideration before the next stage of the process. You'll find Belstead on page 133 of the plan online.

The Joint Local Plan is laid out in three parts – Strategic Policies, which set out the policies that address the councils priorities and focuses on things like Housing Needs, Affordable Housing, Climate Change, etc. Then you have the Non-Strategic Delivery Policies or Local Policies. The first section focuses on detailed policies for management and delivery of types of development. The second section of Part 2 is the Non-Strategic Place and Allocation Policies, which details policies for specific places and neighbourhoods. This includes new housing and land allocations, provision of infrastructure and community facilities. The third section includes the new maps for each town/village.

Parish Councils Declare Climate and Ecological Emergencies

Chelmondiston Parish Council is in the process of arranging meetings to discuss actions they would like to suggest before declaring a climate and ecological emergency. This is something other Parish Councils may like to consider as a positive move against climate change.

Citizens Advice

The Joint Overview and Scrutiny committee have looked at Suffolk County Council's funding to the Citizens Advice Bureau and will be recommending that the funding stream is reviewed to support the organisation.

CIL

The next bidding round for CIL 123 funding will open on the 1st October. The last round ended on the 31st May and there were only four bids submitted. Application forms and details of how and what to apply for are available on the Council website. The process involves a bit of work, but successful bids have been made. It may be worth considering any infrastructure projects that could be undertaken in the village sooner rather than later so that the appropriate evidence can be obtained.

Name change

From BBC News:

Suffolk's Babergh District Council - pronounced "Bay-ber", takes its name from the Anglo-Saxon place name Barberga and has existed since 1974. The district was first listed in the Domesday Book in 1086. The authority plans to change its name to South Suffolk Council to make its location more obvious. It is also hoped the change, which the council has said will cost less than £10,000, will help bring investment to the region. Leader of the authority John

Ward said: "Babergh has a proud history but we know that people from further afield are often unaware of exactly where Babergh is and even struggle over its pronunciation. By renaming to South Suffolk we can be clear about who we are, where we are and what we represent as well as clearly identifying the council, it will also align with the name of our parliamentary constituency, cutting down on any confusion."

Councillors are due to make a decision on the proposed name change on 22 October

Planning

There are no new planning applications of note currently on line or known to myself.