

**MINUTES OF THE CAPEL ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH JANUARY 2007**

Meeting opened 19:30hrs

PRESENT: Cllr's Amoss, Bishop, Gilson, Harris (Chairman), Hearne, Keeble, Letch, Loughton, Matthews, Murrell, Nicholls, Tyler, White (arrived late), D.Cllr Carpendale, Julie Lawes (Clerk) and 12 members of public.

01.01.07 Apologies for absence

Cllr Marr - valid reason given

Mr Trevor Gibbons - Sub-Post Master, Capel St Mary Post Office

02.01.07 Declarations of interest

Cllr Hearne signed having a personal interest in item 07.01.07 Planning Applications, B/06/02083/FUL/CLD - Part side garden, Church Cottage, The Street.

Cllr Tyler signed having a prejudicial interest in the same item.

03.01.07 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th December 2006

Amendments made;

216.12.06 To approve minutes, sub-heading 203.11.06a Community Achievement Awards. Amended to read 'Cllr Tyler spoke supporting this application informing members of the varied achievements Mr Hurcombe had made to the village, from the underpass to being involved in lorry overnight parking restriction, initiating the sports club and also being the Chairman at the time of his instigation of the floral display which was proposed by Sue Thomas and seconded by Kathy Pollard.

PROPOSAL: That the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Tyler

Seconded: Cllr Gilson

PASSED

04.01.07 Clerks report

On behalf of Cllr White the clerk issued the following statement regarding item

216.12.06 Community Achievement Award.

'I apologise for the misunderstanding that has arisen in respect of my comments regarding the reference to the floral display. Whilst accepting Mr Hurcombe's reported instigation of the floral display, I felt that credit should not be taken away from Kathy Pollard and Sue Thomas who worked hard to bring the project to fruition.'

05.01.07 Correspondence received

Item 3 Babergh District Council advised that the Council Tax Base Rate for the coming financial year will be 1,133.52. Council tax for a band 'D' property will reduce from £43.59 which is the figure for the current year, to £43.00 commencing April 2007.

Item 24 George Wimpey sent a response to the Parish Council regarding retained land within the village. They informed us that they have no record of any land being held and recommended we contact George Wimpy, Brentwood head office.

CLERK

Meeting suspended

06.01.07 Half hour open forum - details at end of document

Meeting reconvened

07.01.07 Planning Applications

Cllr's Hearne and Tyler left the meeting

B/06/	Address	Detail	Recommendation
02083/FUL/CLD	Part Side Garden, Church Cottage, The Street	Erection of two-storey dwelling with detached double garage. Construction of new vehicular access.	APPROVAL
Proposed: Cllr Bishop			Seconded: Cllr Murrell
			PASSED 6 For, 2 Against, 2 Abstentions

Cllr Hearne and Tyler returned to the meeting

PC Peter Haddock and CSO Ilona Turley joined the meeting

B/06/	Address	Detail	Recommendation
01974/FUL/RC	Orchard View Farm, London Road	Erection of llama field shelter (following demolition of existing cow shed and sty structures).	APPROVAL Subject to appropriate building change of use, if required.
Proposed: Cllr Hearne			Seconded: Cllr Amoss
			PASSED 9 For, 2 Against, 1 Abstention

Meeting suspended

PC Peter Haddock was invited to speak.

PC Haddock apologised for the delay in attending the meeting and informed members this was due to attending the Parish Council meeting at Stratford St Mary, which unfortunately falls on the same night as the Capel meeting. He went on to introduce Ilona Turley who is the new Community Support Officer for Capel St Mary and surrounding villages. Ilona has been in this position since November 2006 and amongst other jobs has been regularly monitoring the Primary School parking restrictions, which have proved to be very effective.

PC Haddock gave a brief run through of the crimes for December 2006, he reported that although there were a number of crimes this month the figures are still low for the year, and there was nothing too alarming reported. The main increase is in motor vehicle thefts which have mainly been due to drivers leaving their satellite navigation systems in the vehicle. Please encourage any driver to remove these units when leaving the vehicle.

PC Haddock asked those present if there were any concerns or questions regarding the recent murders in Ipswich. There were no questions but praise was given for the way in which the matter was handled and the increase in officers around Ipswich and the surrounding areas. PC Haddock informed that there is still over 200 additional officers working in Ipswich on this case, the additional officers were brought in to ensure that there was no reduction in normal policing. Cllr Hearne raised concern over the crimes that took place at the Zest nightclub in Ipswich. PC Haddock informed that this was a one off crime for Ipswich that took place due to the negligence of a member of the Zest Club. The crew that were hired for the evenings events had actually been, and still are, banned from operating anywhere inside the M25 ring, which the organiser was aware of. This is currently being dealt with. PC Haddock went on to say that had the proposed police amalgamations taken place then this would have led to a severe decrease in the amount of officers available over these recent events and stated that this should prove that there is no need for such mergers.

A resident raised concerns over the amount of HGV's travelling through the village. PC Haddock recommended we contact SCC Highways Division and request some kind of time restrictions. If a law is in place then the Police Officers have something to enforce, otherwise there is nothing legally that can be done. He agreed to support this application. **CLERK** Concern was also raised over the speed of these vehicles. PC Haddock has recently been out with a speed gun in various areas, although has not yet covered 'The Street': This is scheduled to be carried out soon.

It was mentioned by a resident that the amount of motor bikes being used within the village seems to have reduced, it was pointed out that this was most likely due to bad weather and the situation would have to be monitored as the weather improved.

Cllr Gilson informed that there has been a motorbike sighted travelling up London Road without lights.

A resident commented on the improvement at the Primary School and praised the officers for doing such a good job. CSO Ilona Turley stated that the restrictions are in place for the safety of the children and although most parents seem to realise this, there are the occasional few who still ignore these restrictions. Ilona is present at the school most days, either in the morning or the afternoon and is working hard to address the situation.

PC Haddock informed members that there is an additional 1 to 2 Community Support Officers due to join Ilona very soon and police attendance is likely to increase.

PC Haddock thanked the council.

Meeting reconvened

08.01.07 Planning correspondence

Informed by BDC that the following application has been withdrawn.

B/06/01875/FHA/RC - The Pippins, Cedars Lane.

09.01.07 Reports: Sheltered Housing - Cllr Tyler

No report for December.

10.01.07 Reports: Environmental Working Party - Cllr Murrell

Cllr Murrell advised that Cllr White had informed him that footpath 50 has now been cleared by Graham Whybrow, although the bill was £10 over the agreed amount making the total bill £60. It is suggested this additional amount be drawn from the P3 Fund.

Cllr Amoss advised that there is a footpath finger post missing from what is thought to be footpath 36 or 37 to the side of Cotswolds Poultry Farm.

CLLR MURRELL

As mentioned in the Half Hour Open Forum, Cllr Murrell will assess the repairs needed at 'Keepers Bridge'.

CLLR MURRELL

11.01.07 Reports: Community Trust - Cllr Gilson

The swing and bark have now been installed in the play area outside the village hall. The Christmas float raised £950, some of this may need to be used to replace a faulty generator. The Trust thanked the Parish Council for the help with raising money to repair the pavilion by allowing them to receive the revenue raised from the Glass Recycling.

Cllr Bishop informed that the Vine Lounge was broken into between Christmas and New Year, although nothing was stolen a great deal of damage was caused.

C.Cllr Yorke-Edwards joined the meeting

12.01.07 Local Post Office

Sub-Post Master Trevor Gibbons was unable to attend the meeting but provided a document that was read out and distributed - see attached.

Unfortunately it is being pushed for many transactions to be carried out over the internet rather than at the local Post Office, and as stated in the information provided the Post Office is paid and monitored on the amount of transactions made. By using the internet or other facilities this is reducing the use of the Post Office.

It would be a great loss for the village to lose this amenity and it is imperative that residents are made aware that all Post Offices are under threat and it is important to support our local Post Office. It is suggested that Mr Gibbons advertise in the Capel Capers / web-site the information circulated at this meeting to inform every resident about what they can do to provide support. Residents must realise this is a 'USE IT OR LOSE IT' situation.

Meeting suspended

C.Cllr Yorke Edwards was invited to speak.

From joining the meeting during the item regarding the local Post Office, Cllr Yorke-Edwards said that SCC has recently been expressing its concern over the survival of rural Post Offices. A committee has been developed for this particular issue which is called 'Post Office Policy Development Panel', and the first meeting is due to take place tomorrow.

It would seem that the Post Office seems to have already lost some of the facilities that they could previously offer, Cllr Murrell informed that you may not be able to renew car tax at the Post Office (clerk to check) and C.Cllr Yorke-Edwards mentioned that they also do not renew TV Licenses either. It is important that in order to keep this facility running it must be used at every opportunity.

In regards to C.Cllr Yorke-Edwards locality budget, he has received the letter sent by the Parish Council requesting funding towards a new entrance gate at the Allotments and stated that this application should be successful, although it will need to be authorised before he can confirm this.

The proposed Council Tax rate discussions are progressing and a decision is expected to be made soon.

Cllr Murrell mentioned a recent hospital appointment which he was informed that long waits for test results depended on the absence of any problems being detected and the NHS being in a 'chaotic state'. C.Cllr Yorke-Edwards agreed that this was a very long time to wait just for results.

Cllr White joined the meeting

Cllr Gilson mentioned that it had been stated in the news that Broomfield Hospital was to raise its car parking charges and queried if Ipswich Hospital would be doing the same. He informed that there has been no suggestion this will happen.

Meeting reconvened

13.01.07 Finance: Bills to be paid

PROPOSAL: That the following be paid en-block.

Proposed: Cllr Tyler

Seconded: Cllr Bishop

PASSED

To	Detail	Cheque No	Sub-Total	Total
County Mulch Ltd	Playground Bark	102220		£810.75
Julie Lawes	Clerks Salary	102221	£577.32	
	Stamps		£7.56	£584.88
Post Office	NI Contributions	102222	£22.74	
	Tax		£26.67	£49.41
CCT	PC Library Hire	102223		£297.00
CCT	Over 60's Library Hire	102224		£495.90
Mr McWhirter	Bus Shelter Cleaning	102225		£10.00
Emma Marshall	Litter Picking	102226		£26.40
			TOTAL	£2,274.34

14.01.07 Finance: Correspondence

1) Quote received from Suffolk Wire for new Allotment entrance gates.

To supply and erect £722.60 plus VAT.

2) Barclays Bank - Community Account Statement

3) Barclays Bank - Business Base Rate Tracker Account

4) Canon - Credit Note, following error on statement.

5) SALC - Informed of what the subscription will be for 2007/8.

£592.00 (£650 budgeted in precept).

15.01.07 Questions to the Chairman

- 1) Cllr Keeble - The driveway for 50 Thorney Road goes partly over the public footpath. This has affected the tarmac and weeds are growing through. Clerk to contact SCC Footpaths.
- 2) Cllr White - Street Light on London Road North is still not working. **CLERK**

16.01.07 Date of next meeting - Monday 12th February 2007

Meeting closed 21:15hrs

06.01.07 Half hour open forum

1) Community Achievement Award. A resident raised concerns over item 216.12.06 Community Achievement Awards, in which the minutes were amended to include Sue Thomas and Kathy Pollard. Whilst it is recognised that these ladies were involved in the floral display it was pointed out that the agenda item was regarding an award for a specific person, and it was noted that none of the achievements listed were or could have been carried out by a single individual, but due to the nature of the agenda item it was deemed unnecessary to list every resident who assisted throughout Mr Hurcombes contributions. Concerns were also raised over the amendment of the minutes to include information that was not supplied at the meeting. Cllr White's apology has been accepted and the matter closed.

2) Lorries travelling through village. Resident questioned the increase in HGV's travelling through Capel St Mary at seemingly high speeds. It was thought that the number of these vehicles seems to have gone up over recent months. This has previously been raised with local authorities but the only action we are able to take at present is, if possible, to record the operator and vehicle license plate which can then be passed to either the clerk or the local police and requests can then be made to divert drivers to an alternate route or to reduce speed.

3) Sheltered Housing. It was queried if funding had been granted. Cllr Tyler informed members that funding had not been awarded on this occasion and the application would be re-submitted in the summer round (date not yet received). The December project meeting was cancelled and, therefore, there is no report from Orwell Housing for this month. Resident queried if there will be further meetings or if the scheme will be on hold. Advised that they will continue to hold meetings and continue with the investigation of the remaining 5 sites although certain aspects will not be able to proceed until the funding is acquired. Resident informed the council that Suffolk County Council Highways division have been to the proposed site adjacent to Dawes Close and carried out an assessment of the area. The Parish Council have not been informed of this taking place and have not received any information on the recommendations made. Once information has been received this will be passed on at the monthly Parish Council meeting.

4) Nature Reserve. It was questioned who would be liable for any accidents occurring during use of the public footpaths? The Parish Council no longer leases the Nature Reserve from Babergh District Council or pay them rent. It is unclear if an accident were to occur who the responsibility would lie with. This is a subject that needs to be clarified. **CLERK**

It was queried if there was an area in particular that this would refer to. Informed 'Keepers Bridge', which is part of the circular walk, is in need of urgent repair. There is a large hole just before the bridge which is in need of restoration. Cllr Murrell to assess and if it is possible, arrange for repair or if required pass on to Suffolk County Council Rights of Way Office.

CLLR MURRELL

5) Report given by D.Cllr Sue Carpendale - see attached.

6) Cllr Gilson questioned if brown bins were to be issued to all members of the village. Cllr Carpendale said she is unaware of the status of this request but is expected to find out in April. The brown bins are a great asset and contribute largely to recycling. These can be purchased from Babergh District Council for approximately £30-£40 per year.

D.Cllr Carpendale left the meeting

Meeting reconvened

END

