

**Minutes of the Long Melford Parish Council Meeting held in the Library, Hall Street, Long Melford ~ Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010 @ 7pm**

**Present:** Cllr J Watts (Chair) Cllr's I Wotherspoon, R Michette, T Coll, J Nunn, C Spraggons, J Walton, R Eade, J Frost, Clerk Mrs L Goodban & PCSO Lorna Chapman. No members of public present

**01/11/10 – Chairman's announcements** Vice Chairman John Nunn Chaired the beginning of the meeting. Cllr Watts took the chair for the main part of the meeting and gave the following announcements; Several members have now met with Mr Sawyer and viewed the work and problems involved in maintaining the Old Church Yard at rear of the Church and it is hoped solutions can be found to assist with the work and minimise costs. The remembrance day service was very well attended.

It was **resolved** that the meeting be suspended for items 05.10 and 06.10

**02/11/10 Apologies:** Cllr's J Brand, R Kemp, M Brabner & C Mills

**03/11/10 To adopt minutes of meetings:**

Minutes of the **full council** meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at the Library

Minutes of **Burial Ground** meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010 at Council Office

Minutes of **Finance** meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010 at the Council Office

It was **resolved** the minutes be signed as true records of the meetings.

**04/11/10 Declarations of interest or hospitality:** Cllr I Wotherspoon declared pecuniary interest in planning application no B/10/01373/LBC, Chase Cottage, High Street as owner of the property and took no part in consideration of this item.

**05/11/10 Presentation by John Philips to Members of the Council** Mr Philips introduced himself to members of the meeting and thanked them for the opportunity of making this presentation. He explained that he was deeply involved with START which provides a 'Dial a Ride' service with community bus and cars. He stated that he has become increasingly aware of the problems with anti social behaviour in the parish and that he does not believe in the 'round up/lock up' approach of dealing with this. Recently East Bergholt took control of an ex mini bus and converted this, adding awning, seating and equipment including computers etc which allowed the vehicle to be used as a mobile youth club facility. (cost of conversion would be approx £10,000). Alternatively such a vehicle could be used as part of a group scheme to transport local youths to various events such as bowling or 'The Hub' ( a new youth group meeting at Sudbury Upper School on Friday Evenings). After much further discussion on this, members left the room to view a community bus and see how it could be adapted). Once back in meeting members agreed in principle that this seems a good scheme although many aspects would need to be addressed (management, funding, insurance etc). It was agreed this item be included on the Agenda at next meeting for further consideration. The Chairman thanked Mr Philips for making the presentation, his time and support. The clerk will check to see if S.106 fund could be used for this purpose.

**06/11/10 Reports District Council:** Nothing to report

**Vice Chairman's Report:**

- Vice Chair reported he attended the Suffolk Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams Awards Day, at Police Headquarters Martlesham, Sudbury and Great Cornard team were representing the Babergh West Division. Their Presentation involved the Lewis Watson Murder at Sudbury in 2009, and the subsequent campaign by the Watson family to get Knives off the streets. The Sudbury team achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place, beaten by only two votes by Mid Suffolk South SNT.

**County Council:** The clerk read the following report to members;

- The spending review released at the end of October contained a number of details about the impacts of spending on Local Government. It is not the full picture of the level of budget reductions that will help Council's plan for the future but it provides a good indication.
- SCC has released a consultation on the New Strategic Direction proposals that were launched on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.
- At the October Cabinet Meeting the Cabinet agreed to hold a consultation on the Future of Care homes in the County. As part of the New Strategic Direction, the Administration is looking to divest the services that the Council provides. This is due to the cost of running care homes and ensuring that they are of highest quality for residents.

**Police;** PCSO Lorna Chapman presented the following report to the meeting, the report covers the period 13<sup>th</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> November; During this time 19 crimes have been recorded within the parish, this compares to 20 crimes for the same period last year.

Three vehicles were entered on the Green, Church Walk where items left on display were stolen; 2 vehicles entered in Roman Way, items stolen; 3 thefts from vehicles in Hill Close, Middle Way and Woollards Gardens, items stolen; Criminal damage to vehicle in Church Walk; 2 suspects arrested and currently on bail for assault which happened in Cordell Road; 1 male arrested in Cordell Road for

public order offence - £80 fine; Trailer stolen from Cleanbrite; Wood stolen from property in Sudbury Road; suspect arrested and on bail for stealing pedal cycle from Station Road; Fence damaged in Chadburn Road; Window damaged in Little St Mary's; person arrested and cautioned for possession of Class B drug cannabis in Rodbridge Picnic site.

**Clerk:** The following matters were reported by the Clerk and noted by members;

- Various dates of meetings were confirmed.
- **Adopted Telephone Kiosks:** The question of responsibility for costs of electricity to the phone boxes was raised recently. The clerk has checked correspondence and the contract and can confirm that BT clearly state "with regard to the power supply, we are proceeding on the basis that BT will retain responsibility for the power for the time being (as per option 1 in FAQs).
- **Christmas Lights:** It is intended to install the lights over the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010.
- **Bus shelter at Station Road** Work should commence on the bus shelter before the end of the month.
- **Community Achievement Awards:** Additional nominations are being prepared for submission
- **Grit bins and Grit supply:** 4 new grit bins have been ordered and should be received by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Confirmation of locations for grit bins and grit heaps has been sent to SCC who will arrange for supply of grit
- **War Memorial:** Application will be submitted to War Memorials Trust as soon as second quote is obtained. If this has not been received by the end of the month application will be sent with the Statement of Condition/quote from Abbeygate Masonry advising that second quote is being obtained.
- **Abolition of the "Standards Board Regime":** The Coalition Government has announced its intention to abolish the Code of Conduct and Standards Committees. It is not known at this stage the details of what will replace the system, the Standards Committee at BDC is concerned over the implications of Councillor conduct being unregulated and have sent a letter to the Department for Communities and Local Government. Parish Council are invited to consider if they wish to write and express their views.
- **Ground Maintenance Charges from BDC for work in the parish:** Details of proposed charges for grass cutting work in the parish currently carried out by BDC have been received. Charges for 2011/12 are expected to be £1,161. The clerk has asked for confirmation of areas cut, how often they are cut and during which periods of the year the cuts take place.
- **Trinity Hospital:** Clerk to the Trustees has written to advise there is currently a vacancy for tenant at the Hospital. Should the Council be aware of anyone who would meet the criteria for Almsperson, please notify Andrew Mead of Steed & Steed. (*could this help with Stephen who is currently homeless and living on the Green?*)
- **Locality Road Shows:** BDC and Mid Suffolk DC are working together and have agreed in principle to merge and create a new single district council. The new authority will cover an area of almost 200 parishes and a constitutional review will reduce the combined elected members from the current 83 to around 55. Members are invited to attend one of the road show events, the purpose of which is to start to find out about the views of town/parish councils. Local shows take place on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010, Lawshall Village Hall and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at AFC Sudbury. Time 2m – 4.30pm and 5pm – 7.30pm for both events.
- **Clerks holiday dates:** Members were informed of dates that Clerk will be on Annual Leave
- **Community Gym:** Details of a company helping to supply a 'Community Gym' have been received. It was agreed this information be forwarded to all Trustees of the Hamilton Charity.

**Street Fair:** It was reported that Licences for 2011 event have been applied for and legal adverts have appeared in local papers. The PC have been asked to apply for Lottery Licence, this will be done in January 2011 when these licenses are annually renewable. Mrs Michette managed to raise additional contributions to cover the extra charge for clearing up after the event.

**Members of the Public** No public present

**07/11/10 Police & Youth Mattes:** there were only minimal problems reported during Halloween. No further problems to report

**08/11/10 Allocation of S106 Recreation Contributions:** Members considered proposals for the play area at Cordell Place, including provision of new equipment and lighting. Total cost of the project is expected to be £40,000. It was reported there has been a poor response to consultation period despite more than 500 leaflets being distributed to households, schools and via other outlets. The display has now been put in the Parish Office window, Cllr Spraggons will take the display posters and forms to Scout Groups for consideration and return. This information will also be put on PC Web site.

**09/10/10 Street Furniture:** Members of the Council met recently with members of the Business Association to discuss problems reported with street furniture and items displayed for sale on the Highway as a direct approach by councillors to businesses did not go well. An item explaining the

problems and intention of SCC should this not be addressed will be put in the LMBA newsletter. Specific points would help obtain a uniform agreement to help 'de-clutter' the highway. A letter from the Council will be sent to traders ensuring them that the PC thoroughly support traders and that we want to help resolve the issues without the need for SCC to become involved. Clarification will be obtained regarding planning laws for 'A' Boards. Once feedback from the item in the newsletter has been received members will consider how to move this forward.

**10/11/10 Core Strategy:** Cllr Walton attended a recent meeting hosted by BDC on Core Strategy – Planning Growth in Babergh. It was stated that more affordable housing is needed to keep villages alive and that development needs to be spread rather than built up estates in specific areas. There is also a need for single person accommodation and housing for elderly. It was resolved the PC write to Ian Tippet at BDC asking that land at High Street be included in the Local Plan for development.

**11/11/10 Public Toilet Facilities/Divestment:** It is likely in future that Parish Councils may have to decide what services they want in future and how we hope to see them managed. It is likely that items such as Libraries and Public Toilets will have to be under the management/care of Parish Councils if they are to continue but at present there is no clear information on how funding would be provided to maintain these services. It was suggested the Council consider carrying out a referendum to see what the Parish would like us to take on.

**12/11/10 SCC Trading Standards Lorry Watch Scheme:** Information has been received from SCC/Trading Standards about a 'Lorry Watch' Pilot Scheme. It is hoped this would reduce the number of drivers breaking weight restriction orders, reduce damage to Suffolk roads, improve the quality of life for residents, promote a fair trading environment and encourage local communities to take greater responsibility for addressing issues of concern to the community. After consideration it was resolved information of this scheme be forwarded to the Traffic Management Group asking if they can help support the scheme.

**13/11/10 Remembrance Day Costs;** Members were informed that costs for hosting the Remembrance Day service had amounted to more than £100 and that these would have to be borne by the Royal British Legion. It was **resolved** to contribute £100 to the RBL to help with this.

**14/11/10 Grass Verges:** The condition of grass verges in the Parish has been raised by members of the public, in particular The Green, Westgate Street and front of Southgate Gardens. It was resolved that owners/responsible authorities be notified of the problems (SCC, BDC & H. P Estates)

**15/11/10 Rear Church Yard:** Several members recently spent time with Alan Sawyer as he cut the rear church yard to gain perspective on size and time involved in this task. It was agreed that this area cannot be kept as well as the main cemetery or front church yard without extensive costs. Mr Sawyer has stated it might be possible for this work to be done with volunteers under supervision,. It may also be possible to keep just path areas clear however this would not provide a good image of the church yard and undoubtedly there would be an increase in the number of complaints on condition of the area. It was also noted that the Parish Council no longer seem to be receiving 50% of fees for interment of Ashes in the Old Church Yard. It was resolved the clerk write asking why this has stopped, if the Church could help with volunteers for the Old Church Yard or if they have any other ideas on how we could cost effectively manage this area.

**16/11/10 Homeless Person by the Green:** Concerns have been raised for the safety of a gentleman living by the toilets on the Green, It was stated he now has a Support Worker and it is hoped further help might be available. The clerk confirmed that other charity groups were also trying to help him. Police have confirmed the gentleman has no criminal record and is not believed to be a threat to members of the public.

**17/11/10 Precept:** Members considered recommendations and information from the finance committee and options for budget to include funding for various projects in 2010/11 including funding for PCSO, Bus Shelter repairs and possible legal fees. Proposals were discussed at length and it was then proposed by Finance Committee that Precept be increased to £72,5000. **Resolved** unanimously to accept this proposal.

**18/11/10 Village Hall/Alstons:** Nothing further to report. Members of Village Hall Committee have agreed to contribute £2,000 towards current account for legal fees.

**19/11/10 Accounts** It was **resolved** to pay the outstanding accounts

<b>Accounts outstanding:</b>	P & K Monthly	262.56
	E.on Energy	501.18
	Zen internet	15.31
	URC Hall Hire PC	36.00
	URC Hall Hire for youth club	52.00
		<u>1,638.12</u>

