

**Minutes of the Long Melford Parish Council Meeting held in the Library, Hall Street, Long Melford ~ Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010 @ 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr J Watts (Chair) Cllr's I Wotherspoon, R Michette, T Coll, J Nunn, J Brand, R Kemp, M Brabner, C Spraggon, J Walton, J Frost and Clerk Mrs L Goodban. No members of public present

**01/12/10 – Chairman's announcements** The Chairman announced that there has been little progress with Social Housing. Application has been submitted for land at High Street to be registered within the Local Plan, this will then allow application for development to be considered. The Chairman invited those present to join him for festive drinks and mince pies after the meeting. It was **resolved** that the meeting be suspended for items 05.12

**02/12/10 Apologies:** Cllr's R Eade

**03/12/10 To adopt minutes of meetings:**

Minutes of the **full council** meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at the Library  
It was **resolved** the minutes be signed as true records of the meetings.

**04/12/10 Declarations of interest or hospitality:** Cllr R Kemp declared a pecuniary interest in item 14.10 as Landlord for the Council Office and left the meeting before this item was considered.

**05/12/10 Reports: Vice Chairman's Report:**

- Vice Chair reported he has received correspondence complaining about the homeless person on the Green, the complainant stated this was not a good image for the village and that the man has been intimidating visitors to the area. It was noted that no other complaints have been received. It was further confirmed by the clerk that she has been working closely with the Rector to help Stephen, a ground floor flat had been offered to him and various charities had been approached to help provide household goods and furniture, however the gentleman has declined to accept the offer. There have been several calls of concern for his well being during the recent severe weather conditions. Cllr Nunn will contact social Services to see if anything further can be done to help him (to the best of our knowledge the flat is still available at the time of the meeting). The Rector, clerk and Mr Sawyer will continue to check on the persons well being.

**District Council:** Cllr Brand stated he was pleased to be at the meeting and offered his regret that recent poor health has kept him from both Parish and District council meetings. He recently attended a meeting to discuss progress on Hadleigh swimming pool and will attend District finance meeting tomorrow. Recent problems with 24hr parking at Sudbury Station had been brought to his attention, BDC have confirmed that anyone with problems for overnight parking should contact the office where it may be possible to avoid/remove fines. There will be a review of parking charges after 6 months.

**County Council:** Cllr Kemp presented his report to members;

- SCC recently discussed the New Strategic Direction which asks continue implementing the NSD, and in doing so continue to engage with Suffolk's communities throughout its development. IN addition to this there will be regular updates from all working groups which have been set up to gauge views on proposals that are being worked on. This could include divestment of Public Toilets, Country Parks, Railway Walk, Libraries and School Crossing patrols.
- Cllr Kemp volunteered to arrange a meeting between all nine councils for his area and representatives from SCC to explain in more detail how funding might be available if management of these services is transferred to local authorities. Approaches have also been made to groups such as The Green Light Trust to see if they would be interested in taking on or supporting the future of these services.
- **Police;** The clerk presented the following report to the meeting, the report covers the period 16<sup>th</sup> November to 13<sup>th</sup> December; During this time 25 crimes have been recorded within the parish, this compares to 12 crimes for the same period last year.
- Cottage alongside Melford Hall was entered, nothing stolen, male currently on police bail;
- Pedal cycle was stolen from an insecure shed at a dwelling in High Street; a padlock was removed from a garden shed in Cordell Road, nothing stolen; two bicycles were stolen from a padlocked garden shed in Raile Walk, a male is currently on police bail; a male was disturbed in the rear garden of an address in St Catherine's Road, stolen from within the shed was a 50lb fishing line and 4 bottles of wine. The line was later recovered by a police dog who helped assist in locating the offender;
- A wing mirror was knocked off a motor vehicle in Olivers Close, male currently on police bail; wing mirror knocked off two vehicle sin Woollards Gardens; a marked police vehicle had rear windscreen and 3 other windows smashed whilst parked in Chadburn Road;
- Four offenders have stolen an insecure hydraulic breaker from the rear of a flat bed transit van parked in Olivers Close; A tipper truck was entered by smashing a window and a disc cutter removed from within; a car had its badge stolen while parked and unattended in The Limes; a

vehicle had its catalytic converter stolen while parked and unattended outside the owners home in Hall Street; A pedal cycle was stolen from rear garden in Station Road that had been secured with a chain; a cycle was stolen from a rear garden at an address in Sudbury Road, the cycle has been recovered and a male is on police bail;

- Three offenders were disturbed in the rear garden of a home that is also used as a business address in Rodbridge Hill, they left empty handed and ran towards fields. An extensive police search failed to locate them.
- Four reports of money removed from addresses in Hall Street were reported.
- Two boundary walls in Cordell Place were knocked over by unknown means; a brick pillar was knocked over in Woollards Gardens; a boundary wall was knocked over in Cordell Place.
- A male in a layby on the A134 was found to be in possession of drugs and has been charged to appear in court.

Members stated concern that crime in the area seems to have had such a high increase in recent weeks, in particular vehicle crime and property damage.

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

- Various dates of meetings were confirmed.
- SCC have confirmed that a formal complaint / objection is being investigated regarding the provision of the pedestrian island. Copies of letters of support, emails and petition with 76 signatures has been sent to SCC in support of the scheme
- Work is now underway at the bus shelter in Station Road and will shortly be completed
- Nominations for community awards have been submitted for several groups/people
- Existing grit bins and heaps have been replenished and new bins have been filled by SCC
- Members received details of Office hours for the Christmas period

**Street Fair:** Nothing to report

**Members of the Public** No public present

**06/12/10 Police & Youth Matters:** The clerk will enquire with BDC if S106 fund could be used to help fund proposals given in the presentation from John Philips last month

**07/12/10 Allocation of S106 Recreation Contributions:** Extensive efforts have been made to complete the required consultation for the proposals at Cordell Place, however feedback has been minimal. It was **resolved** that we proceed with formal application for funds so that the scheme can be progressed as soon as possible.

**08/12/10 Street Furniture:** Cllr's T Coll and R Eade recently visited several businesses regarding items displayed on the highway that may be causing obstruction to pedestrians. Traders were not happy and felt the council were not supporting local trade. As a result of this a meeting has taken place with business association members and council representatives to explain that if a compromise cannot be reached SCC may insist that all 'street furniture' (items displayed, seating, 'A' Boards) is removed completely. A report explaining this information in more detail was given by the clerk to the business association for inclusion in their newsletter.

**09/12/10 New Strategic Direction/Divestment:** It was noted that public toilet facilities, country park, railway walk, libraries and school crossing patrols all be considered within this item. County Councillor Kemp will arrange a meeting in the early New Year with representatives from SCC and adjoining parishes to discuss in more detail how proposals for these items would work and how funding might be obtained.

**10/12/10 SCC Grit Bins:** The clerk confirmed that 4 new grit bins have been purchased and located around the Parish. A further 3 smaller bins are required for areas that currently have no provision for grit. There is currently £200 still available from locality fund granted for this purpose. It was **resolved** to purchase 3 further bins and that the PC pay the outstanding balance of £157. The clerk will also enquire with SCC if there is any progress with the application for Swan Lane as the footpath is in a very poor condition.

**11/12/10 Disabled parking request:** A request has been received for a disabled parking area outside the Spar Shop. Members discussed this in detail, it was noted there is a disabled parking space a few yards north of St Catherine's Road and that disabled drivers can park on yellow lines if they display a 'blue badge'. It was **resolved** not to apply for further disabled parking in this area as it would mean further parking restrictions for residents of the area.

**12/12/10 S137:** The following requests for funding were received;  
Suffolk Accident Rescue **Resolved** to grant £200

Breakfast/After school club It was not clear if this applicant is a commercial enterprise or registered charity. The clerk will make further enquiries, also asking if a need has been identified for this purpose and if 'wrap around care' will be provided.

**13/12/10 Office Rent Review:** The clerk informed members that the Landlords have agreed to reduce office rent to £6,000 pa for the remainder of the term (3 years) on condition it is paid in full at the beginning of each term. It was **Resolved** to accept the offer.

**14/12/10 Village Hall/Alstons:** The chairman informed members that further correspondence will be sent to Alstons recommending that an independent expert is appointed by RICS and that the expert is jointly instructed to value the right required, both parties would be bound to accept his valuation.

**15/12/10 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
	H J Pest Control	95.00
	Turner Tool hire – cherry picker	319.75
	R & R Lawnmowers	180.39
	Viking Direct	117.48
	Burial Association membership	<u>90.00</u>
		<b>1,581.67</b>

**Cheques issued 09/11/10 – 09/12/10**

18/11/10	A Sawyer	1616		18/11/10	Chair expenses	1618	27.14
18/11/10	R B L Wreath	1619	20.00	18/11/10	RBL Refreshment	1620	100.00
18/11/10	Inland Revenue	1621	2,358.86	18/11/10	Steed & Steed	1622	3,818.75
22/11/10	Xmas Light licence	1624	55.00	01/12/10	L A Goodban	1625	
30/11/10	PCSO	1626	7,368.00	09/12/10	P & K	1627	316.94
09/12/10	C.O.S	1628	258.86	09/12/10	E.on office	1629	108.69
18/11/10	Old Ch Yard	1617	176.80				

**Next Meetings:**

- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011      7.30pm      Office      **Planning**
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011      7.30pm      Library      **Council**

- There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm