

Minutes of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16 September 2019

Present: Cllrs P Langdon, S Brinkley, C Old, A Poole, D Nettleton, P Wells and D Strong

In Attendance: Co Cllr K Soons, Boro Cllr S Mildmay-White, Mrs Anita Jones - Director of Operations & Deputy Chief Executive - The Havebury Housing Partnership

- 19/044 Apologies for Absence Received/Accepted: Cllrs M Chapple (Family illness) M Cocksedge (Work Demands) and T Beckwith (prior commitment)
- 19/045 Declarations of Interest: Cllrs S Brinkley and A Poole re Item 9(c)(i) on agenda - PA DC/19/03486 and Cllr Strong re Water Cottage Footpath.
- 19/046 The minutes of the PC Meeting held on 16 July were approved and signed.
- 19/047 Public Forum: Mrs Anita Jones kindly attended the meeting to update Members re the current situation vis-à-vis James Stiff Cottages. Mrs Jones apologised for the hitherto lack of communication on this matter. Havebury has no plans currently as it focuses on other schemes (with James Stiff Cottages featuring in its medium term plans). Possible options (without referral, as yet, to WSC Planning) are; (a) Partial redevelopment of the site (with residents remaining on site), (b) clearing, and redeveloping the whole site (with submission of appropriate PA noting that site is outside village boundary and consideration of housing needs). Havebury wishes to proceed in the spirit of co-operation with all parties (including tenants and Parish Council). To that end, Cllr Poole has volunteered to attend related meetings. Looking ahead, a sheltered scheme is thought not to be appropriate. The development (or non-development) of the cottages will be considered. At the moment there is a preference for a mix on the site; retaining the original almshouse portion and works to the other accommodation. Suggestions are to be considered by Havebury's Operations Committee on the 29 October (having sought guidance from WSC Planning). A decision as to the future is hoped to be made in December. If re-development is agreed, it is likely to take between 18-24 months to complete. In response to Cllr Langdon's question; if re-development is considered, tenants would be accommodated in the remaining portion of the site. It is hoped to retain the current facade of the building (dependent upon Planning advice and there may (or may not) be an increase in the number of dwellings. Havebury has not pre-determined how the site could be developed. There are currently three residents, who have been there for 10-12 years. Havebury's commitment to them still stands. It was added that, if so desired, there might be an opportunity for the PC, or Rougham Estate, to purchase the site. Cllr Mildmay-White mentioned that the Estate may be interested (under the auspices of its Charity) and offered to establish contact, if required. Cllr Mildmay-White thanked Mrs Jones for her update. She also stressed the importance of retaining the building's facade, homes for local people and keeping residents informed. Mrs Jones advised that, to date, no information had been provided to residents and appreciated the uncertainty for them since 2015. Residents' views will be sought in the next couple of weeks. Cllr Langdon thanked Mrs Jones for her attendance.
- 19/048 Co Cllr's Report: This report had been circulated and is attached. Cllr Soons drew particular attention to news that Mulleys coaches will be providing regular (4 daily return bus services to/from Bury St Edmunds (departing Rougham 0735 and arriving in Bury at 0807 hours).) The last return bus of the day would depart Bury at 1745. If any changes to the timetable are required, Simon Barnett at WSC would be the person to contact. It is anticipated that the bus will stop at Rougham Post Office, but there could be an informal stop at, e.g., James Stiff Cottages and other places. Current timetables are available from the Post Office. Cllr Soons also mentioned the Rural Task Force; see online survey. Western Way Development: The business case has been approved and is to be submitted for decision on Wednesday 18 September. If approved, PP will be sought. This development will see the bringing together of new leisure facilities, a commercial centre (and the replacement of Bury Leisure Centre, which is currently 45 years old).
- 19/049 Dist Cllr's Report: Cllr Mildmay-White's report is to be circulated, which mentions that the business case for the Western Way development was approved by Cabinet and is now to be submitted to Full Council for a decision. This development will comprise new leisure facilities, health, education and other public services together with the commercial sector on one site. Part of this proposal is the complete replacement of the existing Bury Leisure Centre, which is nearly 45 years old, and in need of considerable investment. SCC has reconfigured its 377 bus service (using s106 money) to run from the Lark Grange development (near Moreton Hall) through Bradfield St George and Rougham (past Sybil Andrews Academy) to Sainsburys, West Suffolk Hospital and Bury bus station. Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan consultation on preferred options finishes on 30 September.

19/050 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Bank balances as at 30.8.19: Current: £24,861.13, 6.9.19: Savings: £8,766.51 Total: £33,627.64.

Clerk

Receipts: Bank Interest: £5.98

Payments: The following payments were approved:

TC Forestry & Fencing: Inv 194: Grass cutting Mouse Lane – July: £125.50 (Chq 101311)

Command Pest Control: Period: 1.9-1.12.19: £59.40 (101312)

Mr R Peters: Litter Picking: Apr-Jun: £375.00 (includes increase due to increased volume and sign cleaning) (101313)

Business Services at CAS Ltd: PC Insurance Renewal: 2019/20: £391.02 Members agreed to accept this LTU option (101314)

Latest Bank Reconciliation and Finance Spreadsheet 2019/20 to be circulated shortly.

Quotations for Clearing of vegetation around road signs (twice/annum – April/September) as per tender request dated 25 July 2019. Two quotations had been received; the lower, and more comprehensive one, was accepted. A quotation to install pads on which to place the new grit bins to be ordered/installed would be sought.

Clerk

19/051 Review of Statutory Documentation for Financial Year 2019/20

Financial Regulations have been reviewed/customised.

Standing Orders, Risk Assessment (including Internal Control) and Asset Register documents are to be reviewed and presented to the next meeting for approval/adoption.

(Asset Register is to be increased by 2 x Dog Litter Bins)

Clerk

19/052 Bank Mandate: The newly drawn Bank Mandate Change form adding Cllr M Chapple as a signatory; was approved, signed and countersigned with just the personal details form to be completed by Cllr Chapple and verified.

MCh/Clerk

19/053 Litter Picking/Cleaning of Signs: Cllr Langdon had met Mr Peters to discuss the proposed increase (in light of increased litter volumes and his agreement to clean village signs). A risk assessment was also discussed with him and would be produced asap.

Clerk

19/054 Clerk's Sick Pay: As requested, Cllr Cocksedge had been provided with these contractual details.

19/055 Co-options: Applications for co-option had been circulated to Members. After signing Declaration and Acceptance of Office forms, David Nettleton and Paul Wells were duly co-opted and invited to join Members. Cllr Wells was asked if he would take a look at the village website and see if he would like to accept responsibility for its updating/development. He agreed to take a look. PW

19/056 PLANNING

- i. Decisions Received: None
- ii. Withdrawn Applications: None
- iii. New Planning Applications:

DC/19/03486: Land SW of Beyton Road, Thurston: (Outline) Erection of up to 210 Dwellings, means of Access, Open Space and Associated Infrastructure including junction improvements (with all proposed development located within Mid Suffolk District with the exception of proposed improvements to Fishwick Corner being within West Suffolk): The PC agreed to comment that, whilst it was pleased that the safety issues re Fishwick Corner are to be addressed, it considered that a roundabout would be a preferable solution to the proposed staggered junction proposed. A response is to be sent in this regard.

Clerk

DC/19/1702/TPO: Land North of General Castle Way, Rougham Industrial Estate: TPO 040 (1977) Tree Preservation Order - (i) 2 no. Oak (within A1 on Order) Overall crown reduce to clear building by up to 3 metres and (ii) 1 no. Sycamore (within A1 on Order) Overall crown reduce to clear building by up to 3m. Members supported this application.

Clerk

DC/19/1828/FUL: Land South of Woodlands Road and West of Sow Lane, Suffolk Business Park, Rougham Tower Avenue: Construction of (i) office building, (ii) ancillary buildings (iii) extended estate access road, footways and cycleway (iv) vehicle parking (v) landscaping (vi) boundary treatments and associated infrastructure. As the plans were unavailable at the meeting, details are to be circulated and Members' responses received by email. Post Meeting: Members confirmed that they supported this proposal.

Clerk

19/057 HIGHWAYS:

Flooding: Almshouse and Church Roads

Cllr Langdon had met Matthew Fox of SCC Highways to inspect the areas of concern.

Almshouse Road: Mr Fox advised that a programme of grip works are in hand, but they have only been allowed to dig to a certain depth. He acknowledged the problem, but advised that a case would have to be put forward to cut the three gullies deeper and back further to meet the ditch. To that end, he recommended photographs being taken of any flooded areas to support this requirement. ALL/PL

Potholes: Cllr Chapple is to be advised of potholes outside the White House and along New Road.

MCh

19/058 COMMUNITY

Mouse Lane Play Area Annual Report: This had been received and circulated. As previously reported, Cllr Langdon advised that maintenance work is ongoing.

Mouse Lane Tree Works: The contract is to be awarded to DM Landscapes, who had submitted the most competitive quote. Clerk

Cleaning of Vegetation around Village Signs: Two quotations had been received; it was decided to award the contract to the lower priced and, more detailed, quote. A further quotation is to be sought re the provision of new pads on which to stand the new grit bins to be ordered. Clerk

Defibrillator: Agreement has been reached with the owner of Rougham Stores/PO to allow this equipment to be placed on the front wall of this building. Advice re the supply of electricity to the unit is to be sought, an order placed for the unit and arrangements made for its installation/connection. Clerk

Notice Board: Quotations for a freestanding notice board are to be obtained. Clerk

Emergency Plan: Cllr Langdon advised that it is hoped to involve the Women's Institute in the formulation of this Plan. PL

CCTV: Cllr Poole confirmed that the Police are happy that his planned installation of his CCTV (to cover his property and the road outside) re ASB on Kingshall Street is permissible. Cllr Poole is hoping to receive approx £180 contribution from the PC in this regard upon installation. PL

Footpaths: Cllrs P Langdon and C Old inspected the footpath at Water Cottage. The owners, Mr & Mrs Strong, were concerned to have the circumstances relating to the issue clearly stated. To that end, Cllr Strong provided a statement to the PC for its retention. (It was agreed that this statement be appended to these minutes.)

19/059 James Stiff Cottages: Refer Public Forum above.

19/060 Remembrance Sunday: Members agreed to laying a wreath on the PC's behalf.

19/061 Matters of Report only

19/062 Matters for Consideration at Next Meeting: 2021/22 Budget and Precept and 2021 PC Meetings

19/063 The meeting closed at 2145.

19/064 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 18 November at 7.30 p.m. in Rougham Sports Hall, Almshouse Road.

Approved at the PC Meeting held on Monday 18 November 2019