Spexhall Parish Council

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Village Hall, Spexhall on Thursday, August 1st 2024 at 3-30pm:

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. C. Thompson (Chair); Cllr. A. Coles (Vice-Chair) and Cllr. L. LeLean:

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk); District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway (Left 4-58pm) and one observer (Left 4-48pm):

1) Apologies:

Cllr. I. Bowmer; Cllr. D. Carter; Cllr. N. Roper and Cllr. L. Sharman all gave their apologies. Councillors accepted their apologies.

County Cllr. A. Dunning was not present:

2) To receive declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Requests for dispensations:

There were no requests for dispensations.

4) To receive a report from the County and District Councillors:

District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway said that she had sent a report which the Clerk confirmed had been sent to all Councillors. She said that she had nothing to add regarding the Gray's Lane Planning Application but was staying fully informed of its progress. District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway asked that Councillors contact her if they had any questions or needed any help.

5) <u>Public Session: Members of the public have fifteen minutes to ask</u> questions on topics on the agenda.

The Parishioner did not have any questions.

6) <u>To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on May 9th 2024.</u>

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on May 9th 2024 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Coles: Seconder: Cllr. C. Thompson:

7) To review progress in each section of the Council Action Plan:

a. Road Safety,

Cllr. C. Thompson reported that he had downloaded the Sign Indicator Device (SID) data and that the SID noted the speed of cars going both ways. He said that the SID with a 'smiley face' was much more effective and that some branches of trees needed to be cut down around the SID.

b. Communications,

It was noted that changing the Parish Council email address to a 'gov.uk address was planned.

c. Accessibility,

It was reported that the new bus stop was in the Ilketshall St. Lawrence Parish Council area so County Cllr. A. Dunning was in contact with them. District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway said that she would ask County Cllr. A. Dunning for an update.

d. Events,

There was no report.

e. Good Governance,

It was noted that Wissett Parish Council had asked if Spexhall Councillors and Residents would like to attend a Defibrillator and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Course that they were running. Cllr. L. LeLean said that he would contact local residents regarding the course.

f. Planning,

There was no report.

g. Emergency Planning.

There was no report.

8) <u>Highways and Speeding:</u>

This Agenda Item had been discussed in Agenda Item 7a.

9) Road Sign Cleaning:

It was noted that Suffolk County Council would give equipment to local people to clean signs. Cllr. C. Thompson said that he would clean the road signs once he had completed the Community Self-Help Scheme formalities with Suffolk County Council.

10) Website Update:

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Suffolk Cloud to discuss allowing Cllr. C. Thompson access to the website as well.

11) Planning Matters:

<u>Proposal:</u> Temporary ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm with battery energy storage; along with continued agricultural use, ancillary infrastructure, security fencing, landscaping provision, ecological enhancements and associated works.

<u>Address:</u> Land To The North Of Gray's Lane, Wissett, Halesworth, Suffolk.

<u>Ref:</u> DC/22/3313/FUL

The Parishioner gave information and their view on the planning application for the Councillors consideration.

Councillors agreed to give the following response to the planning application:

Spexhall Parish Council is fully supportive of the response submitted by Wissett Parish Council on 19th July 2024. It agrees with all points detailed in the response and extends its support to the objections made and additional answers sought to the questions raised. There are a number of points referenced in the response that the Parish Council would like to highlight in this supporting document that greatly impact the area and residents of Spexhall:

- 1. The use of Grays Lane, and the connecting public rights of way, by residents of Spexhall and other public users and the disruption and permanent change to the views and surrounding environment is of significant concern for residents. Spexhall Parish Council echos the views of East Suffolk Senior Landscape Officer Ruth Chittock (29.5.2024) detailed in the response from Wissett Parish Council.
- 2. The BESS water supply application refusal (APP/U1105/W/23/3319803) specifically in reference to the removal of contaminated firewater which will have significant impact on the surrounding environment, including farmland and private residencies.
- 3. The amenity of Pear Tree Farm and the detrimental impact of the site artefacts immediately sited close to the property (BESS) and the prevailing view over a significant number of solar panels. This will have a significant effect on the value of this property and the likelihood of any potential future sale.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Coles: Seconder: Cllr. L. LeLean:

Proposal: Erection of boundary fencing including a gate

Address: 9 The Poplars, Spexhall, Halesworth, Suffolk. IP19 0RD

Ref: DC/24/2430/FUL

The Clerk reported that the following planning application had arrived too late for this Parish Council Meeting. Councillors agreed to hold an Extra-Ordinary Parish Council at 8-30am on Wednesday, August 7th to consider and agree a response to the planning application.

District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway reported that she had heard from County Cllr. A. Dunning with an update regarding the bus stop discussed in Agenda Item 7c. District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway said that County Cllr. A. Dunning's message was that bus stop would be on the school side of road but as this site sits outside County Cllr. A. Dunning's Division, she was in negotiations with the Bungay Division County Cllr. Judy Cloke regarding the funding for the bus stop.

12) Clerk's Report, Correspondence and Donations:

The Clerk reported that he had received the 'Clerks and Councillors Newsletter', an email from the East Suffolk Planning Alliance and Wissett Parish Council had sent an email regarding Defibrillator and CPR Training. It was noted that this email had been discussed in Agenda Item 7e.

13) Financial Report:

a) Balances at the Bank on June 30th 2024:

Business Community Account £5 030-24
Business Premium Account £10 028-21

b) Receipts and Payments:

Payments:

Internet Banking	Clerk's Pay – April until June 2024	£411-90
Internet Banking	Clerk's Tax – April until June 2024	£7-20
Internet Banking	SALC Internal Audit Invoice 2024-2025	£212-40

Receipts:

BACS Bank Interest – June 2024 £14-26

The Financial Report was agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Thompson: Seconder: Cllr. A. Coles:

14) Acceptance of the Internal Auditors Report and to pay their invoice with any amendments:

The councillors discussed and accepted the Internal Auditors Report and also agreed to pay the SALC Invoice.

Proposer: Cllr. L. LeLean: Seconder: Cllr. A. Coles:

15) Cil Money:

Councillors agreed to research having a gazebo for use outside the Village Hall in order to enhance the outside facilities of the Village Hall.

16) <u>To decide the date and receive agenda items for the next Parish Council Meeting.</u>

It was noted that an Extra-Ordinary Parish Council at 8-30am on Wednesday, August 7th would be held to consider and agree a response to the planning application *DC/24/2430/FUL*. It was also agreed that the following Parish Council Meeting would be held on Thursday, September 12th 2024 at 7-30pm in the Village Hall.

It was agreed to put 'Cil Money' on the Thursday, September 12th 2024 Agenda.

The Meeting ended at 5-22pm.