

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the Guildhall, Thursday 6th June 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present Mr C Reeve, Chairman. Mr J O'Mahony, Vice Chairman.

Mrs J Baker, Miss A Mortimer, Mrs A Norman, Mr T Sheppard, Mr B Panton, Mr A Searle, Dr C Posner.

Mr R Lindsay, Suffolk County Councillor. Mrs M Maybury, Mr C Arthey, Babergh District Councillors for Lavenham Ward

9 members of the public.

Public Forum

The item of interest to all but one of the public present was planning application DC/19/01609 Lavenham Priory, Water Street. Copies of letters of comment (both objecting and supporting) which had been forwarded to the District Council had been received by the Parish Council and circulated to Councillors. The Applicant and her Agent offered to clarify any questions raised and three of those present expanded on their reasons for objecting or supporting the Application.

Mr Neil Warden, a Trustee of the Lavenham Woodland Group, pointed out that formerly Philip Gibson had been the Parish Council's representative on the Group but that at present there is no representation, he hoped that this matter could be put on the next agenda to rectify.

Police Matters – Go to <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/snt-newsletters> for the June 2019 copy of the new-look newsletter, Constable's County. With an introduction by Police & Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, and Chief Constable, Steve Jupp, the newsletter provides an update on policing from the East, West and South of the County.

The summary of crimes reported within the parish of Lavenham is listed on www.police.uk, search by postcode on Find your Neighbourhood. Update for April 2019: Violence & Sexual Offences x 2; Drugs Offence x 1.

It was understood that there had been some break-ins in the village recently and Dr Posner asked if the installation of CCTV cameras ought to be discussed by the Council. This matter had been discussed a few months ago but due to the possible cost, and the problems of how the information gathered would be reviewed and kept secure, also the ways in which criminals were able to hide their identity, it had been decided that this was something that the Parish Council did not wish to pursue further.

County Councillor's Report, Mr R Lindsay (circulated to Councillors, report follows these minutes)

Mr Reeve wondered what, if any, contingency plans the Council had in respect of their partnership with Kier, who had recently issued a profit warning .

Mr Lindsay assured Mr O'Mahony that Amanda Mayes is aware of the hole in the culvert on the grass verge near the old Gas Works and remedial work has been brought back to the top of the pile. Mr O'Mahony also asked if there would be a press release regarding the changes of materials suitable for recycling.

Dr Posner was concerned that recently released figures show that 28.5% of Suffolk children are brought up in poverty.

District Councillor's Report, Mrs M Maybury & Mr C Arthey (Mrs Maybury's briefing notes follow these minutes)

Mrs Maybury had emailed earlier to say that as newly returned or new Members are undertaking training there is little to report as no District business as such has been decided upon. The Council meeting in May revealed the new Cabinet, which does not include

Mrs Maybury but the Joint Local Plan draft is being reviewed and it does include her *homes for life* suggestions which asks for a percentage of new housing to be disabled friendly/wet rooms, etc.

Mrs Maybury was able to report more to the meeting and had produced a briefing note with more information in respect of support for rough sleepers, the Housing Service satisfaction survey and progress on the Kingfisher refurbishment.

Mr Arthey reported that the largest group on the Council are the Conservatives, the remainder comprised Independents, Green Party and Liberal Democrats. John Ward has been elected Leader, Mr Arthey Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning. The Cabinet of 8 Members is made up of 4 Conservatives and 4 others. The Cabinet has not yet met.

Mr Arthey is not happy that the Joint Local Plan is 2 years overdue.

The Parish Council's wish list has been given to Mr Arthey, he is aware that Kathy Nixon is helping to progress this. Mr Reeve said that we will be building a plan around the list, maybe with some additions. There is a need to build capacity. Mr Arthey said to bear in mind that bids for CIL will become more difficult.

The Minutes – Prop. by Mrs Baker, sec. by Mr Panton, the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd May 2019 were approved. Carried. Prop. by Mr O'Mahony, sec. by Mr Searle, the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 8th May 2019 were approved. Carried.

Declarations of Interest – none

Apologies for absence received from Mrs Twitchett.

Matters arising and update of outstanding issues

Mrs Baker reported that the Library continues successfully and looks forward to the summer season.

Finance and Strategy

Invoices paid between meetings:

20/05/2019 LCH CBS , drawdown of funds £3,000.00: 31/05/2019 Paul Holland, painting internal walls 2 Lady Street £540.00.

Cheques for payment:

The Wool Towns Association, donation (ref 05(i)/19 p.24) £150.00: idverde, public toilet works May £1,860.00: JPB Landscapes, grounds maintenance/street cleaning May (grounds maintenance £1,058.77, street cleaning £1,428.79) £2,487.56: Kinex, phone account May £23.93: Simpsons (East Anglia) Ltd, Drain Doctor descale of Church Street toilets (ref 05(i)/19 p.22) £1,098.00: Payroll £1,198.86: Anglian Water, water/waste services Church Street toilets £474.91: Anglian Water, water/waste services Prentice Street toilets £110.20: Anglian Water, water/waste services at the Cemetery £15.84: British Gas, electricity supply Church Street toilets £18.35: Cartridge Ink, inkjet cartridges £66.18: Lavenham Literary Festival, donation to 2019 event £100.00: Community Action Suffolk, annual subscription donation £50.00.

Correction: the Direct Debit payment to Total Gas & Power on 6th April 2019 was recorded incorrectly on the May list as £49.91, this should have read £48.91

Proposed by Mrs Baker, seconded by Mr Searle, that the transactions are approved. Carried.

Support for Lavenham Literary Festival 2019 – a request for funding had been received from Sue Burton, Chairman of Lavenham Literary Festival. It was prop. by Mrs Baker, sec. by

Mr Sheppard, that a donation of £100 should be made. Carried.

Timetable for approval of Annual Governance Statement/Annual Statement of Accounts – it is a requirement that the Statements are approved and published by the Council before 1st July and an additional meeting will be set up for this purpose before that date.

Planning

Planning Applications Received:

DC/19/02177 & DC/19/02178 - Balsdon Hall, Bridge Street Road, Lavenham

Planning Application & Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of 1.5 storey extension and bay window (following demolition of existing conservatories)

Prop. Mr O'Mahony, sec. Dr Posner, recommend approval, well-presented plan for improvements to Listed hall. Carried.

DC/19/00816 - Land To Rear Of Nos 42 To 45 , High Street, Lavenham

Planning re-consultation request in respect of Full Planning Application - Erection of 4 No. single storey dwellings and outbuilding

Re-consultation following revised plans and documents received 13th May. The revised plans show a change in layout within the proposed development.

The Parish Council recommended refusal of the original application as it forms part of the designated site covered by Planning Application B/16/00437 granted for up to 25 dwellings and subsequent Application DC/18/0365 granted for detailed layout of 25 dwellings. Together with this application it would give a total of 29 dwellings on the site. This is above the 24 units specified in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The revised application does not change this situation. There are concerns regarding vehicle, especially emergency vehicle, access using the narrow road and its restriction due to the site layout.

There is also the loss of the allotments, a community asset albeit commercially owned, with no proposals to provide for their replacement. The existing planning consent (DC/18/0365) does include for the replacement of the allotments

Also the following ruling has been found and its implications need to be considered before making a decision:

“Staffordshire County Council V NGR Developments Limited (21st May 2002 Court of Appeal)

The Court of Appeal applied existing authorities to hold that where one piece of land had benefit of two inconsistent planning permissions, both remained valid so long as development under one permission did not make implementation of the other permission impossible.’

Recommendation - Refusal on the grounds of over development of the site as set out in the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan and the possible impact on the existing planning consent.

Carried.

DC/19/02395 89 High Street Lavenham

Application for Listed Building Consent - Removal of roof tiles, carry out roof and timber repairs including lead flashing, barge and verge boards replace to match existing. Roofing repairs to garage (rear of 13 High Street).

Prop. Mrs Baker, sec. Mr Searle, recommend approval. Carried.

DC/19/01609 Lavenham Priory, Water Street, Lavenham

Planning Application - Erection 1no. dwelling and attached garage

Prop. Mr Searle, sec. Mr O'Mahony, recommend refusal on the grounds of detrimental impact on the setting of Lavenham Priory, the conservation area and the views into and out of the village. Also the proposal does not reflect its setting or enhance the conservation Area.

It was agreed that this response to the Planning Authority would be accompanied by a letter expanding on the reasons for recommending refusal which had been drafted by the planning working group and circulated to all Parish Councillors for their approval.

Planning Decisions Received:

DC/19/00468 & DC/19/00463 4 Church Street, Lavenham – Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent granted for erection of a single storey rear extension to replace existing rear porch.

DC/19/01046 Myrtle Cottage, 52 High Street, Lavenham – Planning Permission granted for erection of a two storey and a single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing rear extension)

DC/19/01255 Brights Farm, Brights Lane, Lavenham – Planning Permission granted for erection of single storey kitchen extension

DC/19/01411 13 Green Willows, Lavenham – Planning Application granted for erection of a single storey side extension to existing garage in order to provide a one bedroom annexe.

DC/19/01485 19 Prentice Street, Lavenham - Discharge of Conditions for DC/18/04601 - Condition 3 (Insulation Details), Condition 4 (Fenestration), Condition 5 (Roof light details), Condition 6 (Details of Eaves) and Condition 8 (Inspection of Materials)

DC/19/02013 The Grove, 5 Lady Street, Lavenham – Consent to Carry Out Works to Trees Protected by Preservation Order WS41/T49 - T1 (Holm Oak) - Reduce crown by 40%

DC/19/01360 2 Lady Street, Lavenham – Consent to Display Advertisements for erection of 1no. Fascia sign and 1no. Projecting/Hanging sign.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 18 Shilling Street, Lavenham - Discharge of Conditions for DC/18/05319 - Condition 3 (Heritage - Upper Valley)

Operations

Gas Works site – still awaiting survey results. CIL bids have now closed, it should be possible to apply in the next round. Mr Reeve said that SALC's note in respect of purchasing land for the purposes of car parking gave support to the proposal to purchase the Gas Works site.

Traffic and Road Management – having reviewed the figures arising from the use of SID Mr Panton had written to the Road Safety Partnership and as a result had been reassured that the village is still on the list the periodic enforcement visits. He will request the 2018 data for dates and results.

The Water Street scheme is scheduled to become substantive on 15th July. Comments are still sought by the County Council, from businesses, residents etc.

Lavenham Walk – Dr Posner said that he had had extensive correspondence with the County Council and they had provided a clean copy of the lease. A group will meet (Tuesday 11th, 10 am.) to discuss a statement of condition and tree reports and prepare a written recommendation for the next full Parish Council meeting.

Housing and Social

CLT - still aiming for September occupation at Peek Close.

Mr O'Mahony and Mr Panton had hosted a visit to Lavenham by the President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, Peek Close had been on the itinerary.

Mr Reeve and Mr Panton are still receiving invitations to talk to other Councils about CLT housing.

LED lighting – it was thought that there are still 8-10 units outstanding. It is understood that Babergh District Council is also updating 20 units owned by them in the village.

Correspondence had been received from:

Tina Starling, Flood Resilience Engagement Advisor, Environment Agency, launching the consultation on the draft national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England. Circulated to all Councillors. Views sought, consultation runs until 4th July. Elizabeth Ling, BMSDC Community Housing Enabling Officer, with details of an event celebrating Spotlight on Rural Housing Week 2019, a free 'Lunch & Learn' event, including

inspirational speakers from Hastoe Housing Association, Community Action Suffolk & local Community Land Trusts, and others about Assets of Community Value, Community Right to Bid & Community-Led Housing. On Wednesday 3rd July at Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston, Registration and coffee from 10.30 for a 11.00 start. Mr Reeve and Mr Panton will attend. Elise Hardy, Manager Lavenham Library, putting forward proposals to amend the library opening hours (circulated) based on her monitoring of use on different days and hours. The Parish Council is happy to support her initiative and the amended hours.

2 Lady Street – potential acquisition and lease to CBS

A date has been fixed for the parties to meet to determine and agree the boundaries of the site.

Three quotes for the lettering on the fascia have been obtained and are being considered by Mr Searle. Quotes for the glazing will also be required for a grant application.

Builders have been instructed to start work on the roof and exterior painting.

There had been a meeting with Wendy Hamilton of Post Office who was impressed with the steady increase in footfall, options for the development of the Post Office offering have been discussed.

VE Day 75 – 8th May 2020

The same organisation that had led the Armistice Centenary commemorations was establishing a similar programme for May 2020 VE Day 75, does the Parish Council want to subscribe and if so, what do we want to do. Mr Panton said that there is a meeting of FOLA soon and he could see if this may fit in with their weekend event in 2020. The Councillors agreed that they were in favour and Mr O'Mahony said an early start to planning is essential.

Suffolk County Council Highways Self-Help Scheme

Mr O'Mahony and Mr Sheppard had attended the presentation. SCC will set aside £100,000 to support the scheme, they are proposing that they will do essential Highways work and anything over and above will be done by the parishes. Free accreditation training will be available for one person per parish. It was suggested that now that Lavenham has been re-Warded with other parishes works could be done in partnership. As a first step it was agreed that the Parish Council should nominate somebody for accreditation training, decisions as to how the scheme would work for Lavenham could be made later with more information.

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

The overgrown state of Cock Alley would be reported to Babergh and the broken road surface at the lower end of Trinity Gild to Suffolk Highways.

Dr Posner reported on the badly trimmed verges in front of High Street and in Spring Street where the daffodil leaves had been cut down prematurely.

Mr Searle said that he would be listing any works which required attention in the Chapel before the retention sum is handed over in July.

In the Sudbury Warden's report for May Mel informed the Council that next month will be her last as Warden for Lavenham, she is moving to a new role within the Town Council organisation to learn another aspect of their work. Ben will be her replacement and she will brief him on the work in Lavenham. The role of the Sudbury Wardens in Lavenham will be discussed at the July meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4th July, 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.