

BURSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Pavillion on Tuesday 10th September 2019

Present: Cllr B Gaspar (Chair), Cllr R Catlin, Cllr M Smith, Cllr A Burchnall, Cllr N Fiske, Cllr N Eustace, Cllr J Rawlings, Cllr K Raby

1.9 OPENING

The Chair advised Councillors that the date of the meeting should have been the 9th September, with the minutes of the extra ordinary meeting, held on 27th August showing the 10th September, but a decision made for future ordinary meetings to be held on the second Monday of the relevant month. He stated the Council would continue to hold meetings on the second Monday as agreed at the extraordinary meeting and these minutes would show the 10th September was an error when making arrangements for this particular meeting.

2.9 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillors noted there were no relevant representatives available and that the County Councillor, Chris Hudson, had submitted a report online.

Councillors noted that the County Councillor had not attended a meeting for approximately four months and the Chair suggested if any representatives arrived during the meeting the Council could return to this item.

3.9 TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

The Chair requested the Clerk give a brief overview of disclosable and non-disclosable pecuniary interests to which it was explained that disclosable pecuniary interests related to the financial interests of a Councillor, such as property or land owned within the Parish, business or employment interests, and that any item on an agenda relevant to such a disclosable pecuniary interest should be declared, with the Councillor concerned expected to leave the meeting and have no involvement in the voting process for that item.

4.9 DISPENSATIONS

The Chair requested the Clerk give a brief overview of the dispensation process and explained that a Councillor with a disclosable pecuniary interest regarding an item on a meeting agenda could request a dispensation to allow them to participate fully in the meeting, dependent on certain considerations, including whether the number of members prohibited from participating at the meeting would impede business transactions.

No dispensations received

5.9 APOLOGIES

Cllr A Kerrison, Cllr A Cooper, Cllr L Raby

6.9 MINUTES

The minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on 27th August were approved and signed

7.9 BABERGH/MID SUFFOLK JOINT LOCAL PLAN

The Chair advised Councillors of the need to submit a response to the Joint Local Plan consultation prior to the deadline of the 30th September. He noted there were certain areas of land and property not included within the village envelope indicated on the map, including his own property.

Councillors debated a number of relevant issues and agreed for the Clerk to submit the following in response to the consultation document.

- Infrastructure

Councillors considered the level of detail included in the consultation document to be wholly inadequate with regard to future provision over the lifetime of the Joint Local Plan.

Para 11.1 states ‘The aim of the policy is to provide a...framework for securing an appropriate level of infrastructure...’ however, Councillors remain unclear as to how this is expected to be achieved.

Policy SP08 indicates infrastructure provision will focus on main road networks and a secondary school expansion project, with no mention of health-care provision while figures show a continuing ageing local population (page 11) and no doctor’s surgery places available.

Councillors note the mention of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan at Para 11.6 and ask whether this is available for public scrutiny.

Councillors note Local Policy LP31 - Managing Infrastructure Provision (Healthy Communities and Infrastructure) makes little change to the existing situation, where developers are merely required to show ‘outline’ provision for relevant infrastructure but often abandon a site leaving such provision unfulfilled.

Councillors would therefore like to express concerns as to the ability of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils to implement the provision of suitable and sustainable infrastructure to support continued development under this Joint Local Plan.

- Flood Risk

Councillors note that a main environmental objective of the Joint Local Plan (03-3.3-vi) is to ‘Ensure new development avoids areas of flood risk and reduce future flood risk where possible’.

Policy SP10 requires ‘...all major developments to take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change’ including the ‘...long-term implications for flood risk’ with little or no detail as to how this is to be monitored throughout planning processes.

Part 3 of Local Policy LP16 refers to the SCC Construction Surface Water Management Plan and the Water Framework Directive, with Councillors keen to establish how these documents support flood-risk issues with regard to the lifetime of the Joint Local Plan.

Councillors note the contents of Policy LP26 but feel that recent and current developments are already expected to comply with similar requirements while 'local knowledge' indicates this is not the case.

Policy LP27 refers to a requirement from developers to satisfy the implementation of 'sustainable drainage systems' however, similar to the lack of relevant infrastructure enforcement, there appears to be little clarity as to how developers will be compelled to undertake such activity to ensure housing safe from the risk of flooding.

- Oversized developments

Councillors noted the requirements for development within 'Hinterland' villages, such as Burstall, under Policy SP03, however they feel this doesn't take into consideration the potential size of individual development proposals and how these will be considered throughout the lifetime of the Joint Local Plan.

- Cumulative Effects

Councillors noted the cumulative effect of significant developments often appears to go unrecognised by planning decision-makers and were disappointed to find a lack of clarity as to how the Joint Local Plan will seek to monitor this going forward.

8.9 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Nothing received

9.9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 11th November 2019

8.35pm, Meeting closed

SIGNED

DATE