

# SAXTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 February 2011 at Saxtead School of Dance at 19:30 hours

### Present

George Cullingford (Chairman), Kevin Davis, Lisa Handley, Barry Mallion (from 7.40pm), Tony Hutt (Clerk).  
Also in attendance: Colin Hart (SCC), Colin Walker (SCDC), two members of the public.

### ACTION

#### 1. Apologies

Graham Ward, Robert Watts, Kate Hoare, Winter Rose (SCDC).

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

#### 3. Confirmation of Minutes

Councillors confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2010 without amendment.

#### 4. Public forum

Suffolk County Councillor Colin Hart told the meeting that the Council had adopted their 2011/12 budget last Thursday, following substantial government cuts of probably £50m; central government grants are being cut by 28% over the next four years, front-loaded in the first two years. Consequently SCC had to make cuts of £42.5m in 2011/12, which is 8% of what would have been spent. Cuts the following year will probably be £50m more. This is not popular—for instance halving the buses subsidy, closing libraries, axing crossing patrols (including Framlingham); the list is pretty endless. After a failed Labour amendment to reinstate crossing patrols, it was clear to Colin that no alternative arrangements had been considered and he voted against the budget adoption. He had talked to Framlingham primary school: the crossing patrol officer had resigned in January but despite there being budget available until July 2011 a recruitment freeze was preventing replacement.

GC asked whether a volunteer could run a crossing patrol. CW believed that only a patrol officer could stop traffic and use flashing lights, but he was seeking a definitive answer. The school couldn't use their grant to fund one but perhaps a PTA, local councils or local businesses could. He was endeavouring to resolve the situation.

The libraries consultation was asking how "community libraries" should be delivered in future. "County libraries" would stay open and continue to be run by SCC. Branch libraries such as Framlingham will close unless others come forward to take them on. It is not sufficiently clear what deal SCC was offering, but Framlingham Town Council are looking at it.

KD asked what would happen to mobile libraries. CH did not know yet. They are valuable to older people and those in rural areas, but expensive to run per visit. LH said we will need buses to get to a bigger town for a library. CH said it appeared that the number of people living in rural areas except by choice is reducing; older people tend to move to towns. BM said that with the internet increasingly being used instead of libraries by young people, mobile library users have dropped drastically. CH said the opportunity is there now to take over libraries; SCC are saying they can't afford to do it but "it's there if you want it". This will happen with other services too, a new way of doing things.

Suffolk Coastal District Councillor Colin Walker told the meeting that regarding reports about executives' salaries, when he became a councillor at SCDC three years ago he was told that the salary of an executive was not his business!

There were four projects of interest in Framlingham, :

1. Community Radio Scheme, to be established as a Community Interest Company limited by guarantee, which unlike charities can apply for grants, trade as a community organisation and receive rates concessions. They hope to start by end of May on internet; when licensed will cover 5,000 population around Framlingham, Badingham and Saxmundham (25W), then maybe later also Yoxford and Laxfield (10,000 total).
2. Library: he read out a letter he had sent to Framlingham Town Council (21/2/11). The Community Interest Company when set up would look into existing and potential library services and present and future uses for the building. A steering group of

George Cullingford (Chair) .....

## SAXTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 February 2011 at Saxtead School of Dance at 19:30 hours

five had formed. Some consultations had already been made (parishioners and SCC) and the he was seeking a meeting with FTC.

3. Public Toilets in Framlingham: he has asked SCDC if the facility (now 50-60 years old and dirty) can be relocated to The Elms car park.
4. Former Police Houses: Mr J Speight is working on a project with Suffolk Police, the Framlingham Sports Club and the Scout and Guide Association to convert these to a resource centre. Planning permission was obtained for 4 houses on the site in order to get a valuation for the land. He hoped Mills Charity will provide money to buy the land and develop it, perhaps costing £1.5m in total (a similar amount was raised for the previous, ill-fated project). Car parking would be on the Framlingham Sports Club land.

BM asked what funding was available. CW said grants were available for the radio station. Similar ventures had been started in Ipswich, Felixstowe, Southwold and Woodbridge (internet only). Schoolchildren are being offered the opportunity to be involved in setting up and running the business. It would have been very useful for local news on the recent gas leak.

GC asked whether the excellent *Framfare* magazine would still be needed with a radio station.

CW said there was a steering group for the library project but the radio scheme was a separate group with two levels of directors.

No police representatives were present and no members of the public raised questions.

5. **Standing orders, Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations**: deferred to the next meeting
6. **Saxtead Green management**

Clerk

The Chairman had circulated to Councillors a report of the meeting on 9 February, which is appended to the minutes. The council wanted proper, concise answers before being pressured into any arrangement that SCDC and/or Pembroke College might wish for. The cost of grass cutting for hay to SCDC was £1,600 last year, the area covered by the Stewardship Agreement, and funds available from a Higher Level Stewardship scheme would not be as high. The Clerk was asked to invite Peter Ross (SCDC) and Susan Stone (SWT) to the Annual Parish Meeting, the latter hopefully to talk about SWT and meet potential helpers in the village.

Clerk

John Davies (SCDC) has said that similar scheme in Woodbridge took three years to bring to fruition. A "Conservation Working Party" could work under guidance of SCDC as managers, and there would plenty to do.

#### Blocked Ditch on one side of The Green

It was believed that Mr M Sharman (Willow Farm, next door to Green Farm) will ask for brambles to be removed on The Green; the hedge is his side and he probably owns the ditch and pond, but there is another hedge on the other side of the pond. The Council needed a definitive, concise map of who owned which land.

7. **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Chairman hoped a guest speaker could come (see item 6 above). He read out a draft letter to parishioners advertising the Annual Parish Meeting, Royal Wedding Celebration and Litter Pick. KD would print and GC organise distribution.

KD  
GC

8. **Royal Wedding Celebration** (Friday 29 April)

Saxtead ladies had made suggestions for activities on 29th April but 1st May might be more appropriate. Provisional arrangements had been made: Mrs V Speight organising games and races; Mrs Cullingford teas; Sally Ellert her water facilities from Saxtead Green House; Graham Ward the biannual tug of war. The Chairman hoped for a bigger occasion for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 (*note: extra Bank Holiday on 5 June, and 4 June instead of 28 May*). He hoped we could re-enact some of the events held 60 years ago, for example: mugs for children, games, teas on the green; towards the end of the summer an

George Cullingford (Chair) .....

# SAXTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 February 2011 at Saxtead School of Dance at 19:30 hours

organising committee could plan this.

*Colin Walker and Colin Hart left at this point.*

### 9. Litter pick

After the last successful litter pick, a further one was planned for Sunday 10 April. GW would make the local arrangements and the Chairman would make arrangements with SCDC (letter 5/2/11) for materials. Hi-vis jackets and litter pickers did not appear to be offered but he would enquire.

GW  
GC

### 10. Matters of Report

#### a Clerk's Report

The Clerk apologised for not having invited Peter Ross to the meeting. He will be invited to the next one.

Clerk

**Elections:** Robert Watts was not standing for election so at least one more candidate was required to fill the places. The Clerk was considering attending the SALC election clerks' briefing on 24 March, cost £15+VAT, which would be shared with Framsdon PC. SCDC were trying to get Clerks to take all the nominations to Melton on an appointment basis; the Clerk declined the opportunity.

Clerk

**Public transport:** The new Demand Responsive Transport service centred on Framlingham was now running

([www.suffolkonboard.com/suffolk\\_links\\_demand\\_responsive\\_transport/suffolk\\_links\\_loes](http://www.suffolkonboard.com/suffolk_links_demand_responsive_transport/suffolk_links_loes)).

Some timetables were given out for councillors and to put in the church, in the pub, etc.

The 119 service appears not to be significantly affected by the SCC cuts. New timetables are available from Feb 2011, and revised timetables for April onwards will soon be on the [www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com) website according to Phil McGill.

The current OneSuffolk website system is being phased out, but probably not for a year or so. The replacement website will be <http://saxtead.onesuffolk.net/> but it may take some time to copy across the information. There is some training available via SALC which may be worthwhile. The Clerk requested feedback on what is useful on the website.

CLRs

b Blocked Ditch on one side of The Green At the meeting on 9 February the Chairman said there was some "whitewash" in that the problem (in front of the former council houses) was claimed to be related to farmland behind, but the problem was nowhere near there. He would have to get John Davies or Peter Ross on site and explain it to them. Pembroke College are not acting and the Parish Council does not have ready recourse to solicitors to force the issue.

GC

c Pond, overgrown area and wall at the Blue Shutters, The Green This is on the west side of Blue Shutters. There should not be a pond or scrub there, and it was up to the owners of the land (Pembroke College) to deal with it. The Chairman would speak to Peter Ross and suggest a site meeting.

GC

d SCC Flood Survey nothing further to report. It was believed that this had not been completed.

e Road Safety The road markings were now in place (A1120 at south end of playing field triangle).

f Hedgerow Survey A training session was arranged by Guy Ackers for Friday 13 May at provisionally 10am, venue to be decided.

11. **Emergency Planning** (Suffolk Emergency Planning, correspondence 5/5/10): nothing further to report.

### 12. Planning applications and notifications:

C/11/0307 Parsonage Cottage, Several Road, Saxtead, Woodbridge, IP13 9QN: Erection of single-storey front, side and rear extensions and pitched roofs over garage, workshop and living room. 14/02/2011. The Council had **no objections** to the proposal.

Clerk

### 13. Correspondence

A list of correspondence items was provided at the meeting. The following items were dis-

George Cullingford (Chair) .....

## SAXTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 February 2011 at Saxtead School of Dance at 19:30 hours

cussed:

- 31-Jan-11 from Andrew Nunn (SCC): Recycling bank provision - Saxtead. Banks for paper and cans will be removed from 1st April, so householders should use their own kerbside collections. Glass and textiles are unaffected.
- 01-Feb-11 from Ingrid Askew (SCDC): Parish Elections 5 May 2011, receipt of nominations (appointment 24/3/11 at 2pm)

#### 14. Financial matters and payments due

- a. **Audit:** The Review of Audit Effectiveness was deferred to the next meeting. Clerk
- b. **Bank Mandate:** The first attempt to change the bank mandate had failed owing to incorrect information and revised forms awaited signature. GC, GW,  
KD
- c. **Report:** To receive the report on the Council's financial position
- The 2nd half precept payment of £950 had been received.
  - The Clerk asked Councillors for information on what "Dividend from Hmt 2 1/2 Cons Ref: Hmt-C0000406461", £0.08 received on 30/9/11, might be. Could it be an unlisted asset? Noone knew. The Clerk would ask the bank. Clerk
  - Donation requests had been received from Disability Advice Service (East Suffolk) (21/1/11); Victim Support (8/11/10); Suffolk Preservation Society; Suffolk Age UK (17/1/11); Suffolk Wildlife Trust; Home Start (15/12/10). The Clerk was asked to look back at last year's donations. Clerk
  - The Council had a balance of £549.36 in its current account after adjustments for un-presented cheques.
  - The Council's deposit account had a balance of £ 294.27, making a total of Parish Funds of £843.63 (44% of total precept).
- d. **Payments:** The council approved payment of the following invoices:
- |  |   |        |
|--|---|--------|
| • Saxtead School of Dance (for 7/12/10)                  | £ | 12.00  |
| • SALC training: Clerk's practical workshop 8/2/11 (50%) | £ | 9.00   |
| • Clerk, salary/expenses Dec 2010 to Jan 2011            | £ | 195.96 |

#### 15. Urgent matters & matters of information

No urgent decisions or actions were taken.

Andy Daniels now runs the Community Payback Team at Aldeburgh and was looking for work, which had to be on public land with toilets available; clearing some "jungle" opposite Four Winds might be possible, which was outside the Stewardship Agreement area. The Chairman would see whether arrangements could be made. GC

#### 16. Next Meeting

Dates of future meetings were agreed as follows, all at the Saxtead School of Dance:

- Tuesday 29 March 2011 at 8.30pm
- Wednesday 27 April 2011 at 7.30pm (Annual Parish Meeting)
- Tuesday 31 May 2011 at 8.30pm (Annual Parish Council Meeting) [*later changed to 10 May at 8.30pm*].

The meeting closed at about 9.30pm.

#### Saxtead Green management

The Chairman had circulated a report of the meeting on 9 February, which is filed with the minutes (email 23/3/11 CW).

George Cullingford (Chair) .....