

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on Tuesday 21st April 2009 Queens Hills Primary School, Costessey at which the following were present:-

Mr J Amis – Vice Chairman

Mrs V Bell Mr R Smith Mrs L Glover Mr T East Mr J Denby
Mr D Bates Mr B Mackie Mr R Piesse Mrs R Jackson – Parish Clerk
Miss A Starkings – Assistant Clerk 28 Public

APOLOGIES

148/09: Apologies were accepted from Mr W Dinneen – Chairman, Mr A Todd, Miss M Doggett, Mr P Cockaday, Mr A Bedford, Mr G Watt and Mr S Watt.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

149/09: Mr J Denby, Mrs V Bell and Mr T East declared a non-pecuniary interest in the planning applications as they are, or may be, members of the South Norfolk Council Planning Committee. They made it clear, that although a view may be taken by this Council, they remain open to further information or views, which might be presented at the South Norfolk Council Planning Meeting. Mrs V Bell declared an interest in item 9c.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 31ST MARCH 2009

150/09: After two small spelling amendments the minutes were approved and duly signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 31ST MARCH 2009

151/09: Minute 141/09: Mr Denby received a telephone call thanking him personally for his payment of £2.00 to cover the hire of the hall for a successful local fund raising event held at the Parish Rooms.

QUEENS HILLS DEVELOPMENT AND COFTONS GOING INTO RECEIVERSHIP

152/09: Only a few days after the last meeting at Queens Hills, **Cofton Ltd** (the land agent for the Queens Hills development) **went into receivership**. The Parish Councils current understanding, is that the infrastructure is guaranteed by insurance so there will be funding for the Community Centre, play areas, etc. Efforts are being made to set up a company to deal with the provision of these facilities. The Parish Council has been invited to be represented at a meeting between representatives of the Residents Groups, and South Norfolk Planners to try to agree where the Community Centre should be sited. There is now at least one, possibly two other sites where it might go other than that identified near to the playing fields. Council **RESOLVED** it should be represented by Mr East, Mrs Bell and the clerk.

153/09: On the other issues – **the noticeboard** should be delivered in approximately three weeks. It is to go on the corner opposite the school.

154/09: Attempts continue towards **the road adoption** although part of the holding fee was released to fund bringing it up to standard before Cofton went into receivership and Mr A McGranigan of Norfolk CC P&T confirmed to Mr A Walker (Chairman of Queens Hills Residents Group) that this money has been lost. However, Mr McGranigan was impressed by how much work had been done on the construction of the bus land and felt the finishing off should be done to stop it falling into disrepair.

155/09: Lorries parked in Alex Moorhouse Way. The clearway markings appear to have worked but lorries are now parking where there are no clearways. The Police are aware. The County Council have stated there are no current plans to provide official parking for lorries in the area. Council asked if Tim Edmunds of Norfolk CC P&T could visit the area again and see if there are any further measures which might be introduced.

156/09: The receivers have given permission for residents to go onto **the sales area** to clear the litter left after the illegal encampment. The residents are to litter pick the area on May 4th and South Norfolk Council has agreed to remove the bagged litter.

157/09: McDonalds **opening extension** has been approved but there were **no reports of any litter problem associated with McDonalds.**

158/09: Mr Walker reported having been informed it is the house developers who refuse to allow the **traffic calming humps** to be removed as they feel it would be damaging to their sales if prospective purchasers thought traffic could just speed through the development.

159/09: Other items raised by members of the public present were:

- a) **Drains overflowing at the Carrefour roundabout.**
- b) **Buses blocking the road** as they wait to adjust the times.
- c) **Emergency services having difficulty locating addresses** as the development is not yet on satellite navigation systems
- d) The **replacement hedge on Ringland Lane** will not be planted until at least the Autumn.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS, APPEALS AND OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

160/09: RESOLVED to comment on the following planning applications as follows:

- ❖ **6703/4 – THE ROUNDHOUSE, 457 DEREHAM ROAD** – Alterations to existing property and construction of a 2 storey extension – Approved subject to no neighbour objection and approval of the conservation officer.
- ❖ **6705 – 84-86 DEREHAM ROAD** – Alteration to roof height, replacement of flat roof with pitched roof and loft extension – Approved subject to no neighbour objection.
- ❖ **6706 – THE OLD BARN, 62a WEST END** – Single storey garage – Concerned about the over development of the site. The conservation Officer must be consulted.
- ❖

161/09: Response to the Joint Core Strategy. RESOLVED to respond raising the following points:- *Spatial Vision*. Council is pleased to see that **all** villages will be allowed some development. It feels that had this policy been in place in the Local Plan it would have helped to make small communities more sustainable by adding to the numbers likely to use local shops and businesses instead of which many have now gone out of business. It would also have helped to reduce some of the 'urban sprawl' which many Parishes on the periphery of Norwich like Costessey are now suffering, changing the character and identity of the places in which we live. Norfolk is a large rural County and if we are serious about reducing the use of private cars then there should be greater emphasis on making rural communities more sustainable by providing housing to increase the potential viability of village shops, post offices, pubs and other businesses as well as rural bus routes.

162/09: That being said the Council remained concerned at the volume of housing that is being proposed on the periphery of Norwich. **It is noted that 1000 more** are to be sited in the Costessey and Easton area. Costessey has/is already taken/taking a significant number of additional dwellings over those stated in this document with the projected increase in the numbers on Queens Hills by a minimum of 300; 49 recently passed on land at the Roundwell Pubic House site on Longwater Lane; 35 on the Saffron site in East Hills Road and 5 on Norwich Road. **Council therefore felt Costessey has already had its fair share of this allocation and should have no more.**

163/09: Council noted there is still a need to identify sites for 1800 or so dwellings as yet unallocated. It has considered all the sites which local landowners have asked to be considered for development in the LDF and feels development in these - in the main - green spaces within the Parish would be very undesirable, would change the character and identity of the Parish beyond all recognition and in many cases would contravene current planning policy. The only exception in Councils view was part of the land adjacent to the Lodge Farm development on Dereham Road. **Whilst Council would have concerns about the development extending to the Norwich Southern Bypass it agreed it would be prepared to support an extension to the development of the Lodge Farm development (now called Fairhaven) up to the line of the access road to the original Lodge Farm, subject to design, layout, access and commensurate community benefits. Council estimated this area of land should accommodate approximately 200 dwellings and therefore be a significant contribution towards this 1800.**

164/09: *Spatial Strategy.* Council supported the statement in 6.2 concerning progressing the development of the Norwich Northern Distributer Route but point one should be amended to read the **COMPLETE** Northern Norwich Distributor Road. Support should not be given to anything other than the complete NDR. Anything less will not best serve the aims and objectives of this document nor the communities such as Costessey caught in the land between the Southern Bypass and the end of the Northern Distributor. Improved public transport is to be welcomed but consideration needs to be given to how people get from their homes to this 'rapid transport network'. The whole service needs to be 'joined up' to make it attractive to the general public.

165/09: *Service Villages:* Between 12 and 24 homes on average in each settlement is not enough to keep local business viable. Many service villages have had little or no growth for years and they need more people to be more viable and that must mean more development!

166/09: *Other Villages:* Again sustainability only comes with more people - more people will require more places to live and work. There has to be more development in villages to achieve this.

167/09: *Hierarchy of Centres:* Longwater Retail Park should be added to this list. There is now considerable housing within close proximity to the Longwater Retail Park and the likelihood is that there will be more allocated at Lodge Farm as above and Easton. This policy should therefore be extended to the Longwater Retail Park allowing retailers of

smaller goods to trade there and for it to become more of a local shopping area for the nearby residents of both Easton and Costessey.

168/09: Strategic Access and Transportation. THIS PART OF THE DOCUMENT IS INCORRECT AND IGNORES THE INTERESTS OF A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PEOPLE THE GREATER NORWICH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP IS SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT. It states the 'Norwich Northern Distributor Road will aid strategic access, significantly improve quality of life and environmental conditions'. Not for those communities stuck between the end of the NDR and the Southern Bypass it will not!! In fact it will do just the opposite. If the GNDP truly represents the 'Greater Norwich Area' then it will include a policy which clearly states it will not support the three-quarter option but will continue to fight for the development of the complete NDR. How does the NDR improve 'environmental conditions' if traffic from the A11 or A47 or indeed the A140 - the main feeder roads to Norwich - is expected to circumnavigate three-quarters or more of Norwich to get to the north of the City or the roads leading to the north of the County? How does the NDR improve the quality of life or indeed the environment of Costessey, Drayton, Taverham, Ringland, etc whose small roads and country lanes will be used as rat runs by all and sundry?

169/09: Easton: Land North of the River Tud, Costessey Quarry, Longwater Business Park – RESOLVED to approve subject to the County Council looking in detail at the noise assessment, dust management plan and flood risk assessment.

170/09: South Norfolk Local Development Framework – Norwich Retail Park Development Framework has been adopted. Noted.

171/09: Reply re **proposed changes to the South Norfolk Area Planning Committee system.** Noted

172/09: South Norfolk Councils **response re the possible planning application for land off Townhouse Road.** Noted

173/09: Norfolk County Councils consultation on Local Validation List for planning applications is ludicrous.

CORRESPONDENCE (VERBAL AND WRITTEN)

174/09: RESOLVED to approve **Costessey Posse using the Parish Rooms facilities free of charge when they undertake a further litter pick in Costessey in June.**

175/09: Invitation to an exhibition on the proposed closures of the Longwater Lane and Valley Road surgeries when the new surgery is opened at the Roundwell site – 1st July 2009. Noted

176/09: South Norfolk Council has put **two more bottle banks on Longwater Lane** car park as the demand at present is much greater. Noted

177/09: Local Government Review – Council were concerned about the reported £20million pounds that have been spent across the County on this issue. RESOLVED it is not opposed to

Unitary Government in principle but feels that neither of the options submitted for consideration by the Boundary Committee will be right for Norfolk.

178/09: Norfolk Alc – Quality Councils Networking Meeting – 15th May – Edwards Room, County Hall – 10 -2pm. For information

179/09: RESOLVED to approve a request from Anglian Water to use new material to restore the pot holes along Gunton Lane after the new pipe work has been finished.

TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS MATTERS

180/09: RESOLVED to approve the clerk spending £15.00 of the petty cash to supply a new speed gun battery for the Speedwatch team.

181/09: RESOLVED to contact the Highways Department to report a bollard at the top of The Street has been sawn off and needs to be replaced.

POLICE MATTERS

182/09: Norfolk Constabulary Changing Times. Noted

FINANCE AND STAFFING MATTERS

183/09: RESOLVED to review of all staff contracts to ensure complicity with recent legislative changes.

184/09: RESOLVED to approve the request for the Parish Council to cut the grass verges in Sir Alfred Munnings Way, Queens Hills.

185/09: (Mrs V Bell declared an interest and left the meeting whilst this item was discussed). RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Bell Electrical for the installation of two water boilers in Breckland Hall and the Owen Barns Room kitchens.

186/09: RESOLVED to approve the service charges for 2009/10 for emptying the dog bins within the Parish.

UPDATE ON COSTESSEY CENTRE PROJECT

187/09: The application to the Football Foundation has been submitted – all 157 pages. Congratulations to Richard who has worked on this since last November. The architects are to meet with the two lowest tenders in the near future. We await the outcome of a number of other grant applications but have recently received a refusal from Awards for All. No contractor can be appointed until we have the results of the Football Foundation application as this is crucial to the scheme going ahead.

COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME

188/09: Items raised were as follows:-

- ❖ Vehicles parked on the road and on the premises at 33 Beaumont Road.
- ❖ Hedges overgrowing the road in The Street.
- ❖ Members of **Speedwatch** and Kerry Johnson from the **Costessey Youth Group** should be **invited to the Parish Councils Annual Assembly.**
- ❖ The **hedge outside School House on Three Mile Lane is very overgrown.**

- ❖ PCSO's have been experiencing a **lot of problems with youths in the Bowthorpe area.**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm and 15 minutes was given for PUBLIC PARTICIPATION at which the following items were raised:-

- ❖ Residents **can now use bus passes to travel into the city centre from 8.30am.**
- ❖ The **door to the Roundwell monument has been vandalised.**