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MINUTES of EXTRAORDINARY MEETING held at Palgrave Community Centre at 7.30 pm on THURSDAY 10 AUGUST 2017

Present: Councillors M Bootman (Chairman), E Bootman, E Collins, W Cooper, K Mobbs, V Pudney, N Weston.
Also in attendance were District Councillor Burn (from 20.05) and four members of the public.

08.17.01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Brown and J Shirley-Smith and accepted by the Council. [Cllr M Sneddon had left a late telephone message, not received until after the meeting.] The Clerk, Ms S Foote, was on leave.

08.17.02 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

08.17.02.01 Councillors were reminded of their obligations under the Suffolk Code of Conduct including the Nolan Principles of Public Office.

08.17.02.02 There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest. Members were reminded of the need to update their Register of Interests as appropriate.

08.17.03 Public Forum

08.17.03.1 Two members of the public requested to speak about planning application DC/17/03178 and so were permitted to do so during the discussion under item 08.17.07

08.17.03.2 District Councillor David Burn was inadvertently delayed but was permitted before conclusion of the meeting to provide an update on the Boundary Commission's Review of Warding Arrangements, which is noted here for convenience. Cllr Burn reminded Councillors of the background, being a rebalancing of the numbers of registered electors in each Ward combined with a reduction in the number of District Councillors. Each political party will be submitting its own recommendations which will be considered and a final recommendation by the Commission be issued for public comment. The recommended Ward groupings to include Palgrave are:

Liberal Democrats = Brome & Oakley, Palgrave, Stuston, Thrandeston, Wortham and Yaxley

Greens = Gislingham, Mellis, Palgrave and Wortham & Burgate

Conservative Administration = Gislingham, Palgrave and Wortham & Burgate

08.17.04 Parish Sustainability Statement - this update to previous versions was circulated earlier in the day and tabled; as previously agreed it is to be submitted with all responses to planning applications for housing. The Chairman outlined the additions that explain the planning context, methodology for assessing sustainability and the duties to consult and co-operate, together with updates to reflect changing circumstances. Cllr Weston strongly objected to its late circulation and demanded that it be deferred to allow him time to read it. Following debate and a vote the Sustainability Statement was AGREED (5-1 in favour, 1 abstention).

08.17.05 Palgrave Community-Led Plan (CLP)

08.17.05.1 Councillors were referred to part 3 of the previously-circulated Local Planning Initiatives Update for a summary of the three workshops, the last of which concluded with an update of the evolving situation concerning a replacement school, permission for which had been granted by the author of the draft minutes of a confidential meeting between representatives of the school, local authorities and constituency MP. Cllr Weston, as he did during the third workshop, demanded that this document be made available as in his view it was in the public domain since it was being discussed in a public meeting. The Chairman again stated that it was not and that its author had re-affirmed this several times since. Cllr Weston was insistent, was repeatedly ruled out of order but would not be silent; the Chairman intimated he would be excluded from the meeting (under Standing Order 2) to which Cllr Weston challenged the authority to do so and called it the 'Bootman show'. The Chairman responded to Cllr Weston saying it was like 'The Neil Weston Show'.

08.17.05.2 At the conclusion of the third workshop, having discussed the latest situation, those present agreed the CLP should concentrate on the replacement school and housing sites together with roads and traffic issues. This was before the imminence of the Draft Joint Local Plan and accelerated timetable for the Neighbourhood Plan were known. Given the close timescales for both it is likely that the work usefully done will be put directly into both of those Plans without the additional complexity of a developing a third lower-level Plan.

Page 201726 Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting of Parish Council 10 August 2017

Signed Chairman

Date 27-9-2017

08.17.06 Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan

08.17.06.1 Councillors were again referred to the above update which summarises the situation to date. It was noted that public consultation on the Area designation ended on 31st July and that no objections to the Area had been received. The two Local Planning Authorities were combining comments into a single list to be published by both and it was hoped that the designation will be made soon. The presentation of one potential consultancy and a comparison of both their proposals to assist the Steering Group to 'Plan the Plan' had been circulated.

08.17.06.2 The recommendation of the Steering Group to appoint Tibbalds as consultants was approved by Diss Town Council (as Lead Council); the work should commence later this month and conclude by mid- October.

08.17.07. Planning - To consider the following planning applications:

Ref	Location	Application Details
DC/17/03178	Land to the east of Priory Road	Erection of nine dwellings – outline planning permission
DC/17/03443	The Old Guildhall, The Green	Construction of a three-bay cartlodge and associated internal driveway from site boundary.

08.17.07.1 DC/17/03178 - A neighbour to the application site was allowed to speak to this item. It was apparent that development at this location had most recently been previously refused on appeal (0352/08 - The Nook). Councillors concurred that decision was still relevant, based on policies that were in the main still deemed in date, and AGREED to OBJECT on those and other material reasons including: school is oversubscribed (ref. copy of submission from SCC and comment posted by Chair of Tilian Multi Academy Trust, the former emphasising ongoing cost to the public purse of transporting children to other schools); severely intrudes into countryside; development of 9 dwellings as generously laid out puts it under threshold for an affordable housing element and so does not meet need for such housing in Palgrave; single access to site and potential for further substantial connected development south of the site using same access; noise disturbance, intrusion of privacy and loss of amenity to those properties on Priory Close and elsewhere adjoining the access and site itself; no safe walking route along Priory Road (no continuous footway); pedestrian safety issues at Lion Road/Priory Road crossroads (under remedial investigation by Highways); may affect setting of medieval farmhouse known as Pell Howell and due to the downward slope intrude on the setting of the southern boundary of the Conservation Area.

08.17.07.2 DC/17/03443 - AGREED to respond 'NO COMMENT' but to remind the case officer that she had been informed that the owner of the land in front was the Highway Authority and so should be consulted. Noted that the list of consultees is not available for this application nor had any acknowledgement been received.

08.17.07.3 Other planning matters – a new application had been received (DC/17/03027 – Erection of petrol filling station and associated sales building, restaurant and drive-thru takeaway and associated works; construction of new vehicular access from A140 and exit to A143). Whilst other consultation letters had been issued weeks previously that to Palgrave was dated 9th August. Given the unavailability of individuals and venues it was to be deferred to the next regular meeting and the case officer to be so informed. *Action: Clerk*

08.17.08 Mid Suffolk District Council Draft Local Plan Consultation - Councillors were referred to part 3 of the previously-circulated Local Planning Initiatives Update for a summary of the plan's contents and possible form of the consultation, which has yet to be finalised. The Chairman encouraged all Councillors to read and digest the consultation draft, consider the options as set out and responses to consultation questions as the Council's collective response would be debated at a future meeting. Cllr Burn advised that the likely start of the 12-week consultation period would be 21 August, allowing it to be debated at the October meeting. *Action: Clerk*

08.17.09 Matters for information - Cllr Mobbs drew attention to the grass cutting at the Cemetery where a local resident has for a long time voluntarily close-mown the grass around the graves. There was some doubt as to whether that was still wanted or appreciated but a timetable from the present Contractor would enable him to time his mowing mid-way between the contractor's cuts. The Chairman recognised the situation and advised that there is an outstanding action with regard to monitoring the new contract; the matter of a timetable would be taken up and would the local resident please continue with his voluntary mowing. *Action: Chairman and Clerk*

08.17.10 Date of next meeting

Thursday 14 September 2017 at 7.30 pm Palgrave Community Centre followed by the Local Plan meeting on Friday 15 September 2017.

21.45 Meeting closed.