

A meeting of the Council was held at the Village Hall, Acton on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 at 7.45 pm

**Present:** Mrs. C. Johnson (Chairperson), Mr. P. Edwards, Mr. J. Matthews, Mr. P Chaplin, Mrs. T. Fisher, Mr. W. Shropshire, Mr N Antill and Mrs. L. Franks.

**16/029 Apologies for absence** were received from County Councillor Colin Spence and District Councillor Mrs M. Maybury.

**16/030 Declarations of Interest:** None

**16/031 Requests for Dispensation:** None

**16/032 Minutes:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 15<sup>th</sup> February and the 29<sup>th</sup> February were approved and signed.

**16/033 Police report:** No police were present and no report had been received.

**16/034 County and District Councillor's Reports** - No members from County or District present and no reports received.

**16/35 Local Area Co-ordinator:** Cally Boardman introduced herself and gave a description of the role. The local co-ordinator supports people in the local community in villages around Sudbury. Work alongside people to pursue their vision of a good life and be involved with their communities. They support people with physical/learning disabilities, mental health issues and age related difficulties. Cally can be contacted on 0771110433 or [cally.boardman@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:cally.boardman@suffolk.gov.uk).

The meeting was suspended at 8.03pm

**Public Discussion:**

No items were brought to the council's attention.

The meeting commenced at 8.05pm

**16/036 Parish Plan:** P Edwards, P Chaplin and L Bloomfield had met with Nick Ward and Melanie Yollard to discuss the next steps towards a parish plan. The main obstacle that the village face in completing this is gaining engagement from the residents of the village. There is a lot of hard work and time needed to establish a plan. After a discussion the majority of the

councillors believe that the support will not be there, it was decided to have a final push at trying to engage with the community. It was suggested that a survey be hand delivered by the councillors to every household prior to the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, with a manned drop box being available all day during the referendum vote at the village hall. Clerk is to contact the returning officer to seek approval for a member of the council to sit in the foyer of the village hall to assist people with their questionnaires. If this agreed clerk will organise a rota for members to volunteer to cover a time slot on the day. This will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April. *P Edwards, P Chaplin, L Bloomfield to organise the questionnaire and clerk to contact the returning officer and produce the rota.*

**16/037 Street Lighting:** The clerk confirmed the budget decision to go ahead with replacing all the street lights to LED lanterns. The council decided on option 2 from the quote provided by Pearce and Kemp.

The maintenance contract for Pearce and Kemp is also up for renewal. The new monthly price of £117 was accepted. Proposed by P Edwards and seconded by J Matthews. All agreed. *Clerk to place order.*

**16/038 Defibrillator Housing:** The clerk reported that the head of the local primary school who currently hold the AED is adamant that the AED should stay on school premises. The AED was given to the whole community by the East Anglian Ambulance Service who support the relocation to the Village Hall so the equipment would be available 24/7 365 days of the year.

The council feel very strongly that the equipment should be relocated so the clerk will write to the East Anglian Ambulance Service to ask if they can retrieve the AED and give to the council to house correctly. If this doesn't work Suffolk County Council will be approached. *Clerk to write to East Anglian Ambulance Service*

**16/039 County Councils Locality Budget:** County Councillor Colin Spence has very kindly agreed to grant £4000 from his locality budget for the purchase of a Vehicle activated speed sign. The clerk has completed the appropriate paperwork and is awaiting John Simpson from Suffolk County Council to make contact. *Clerk to pursue*

**16/040 Wildlife Area:** Correspondence had been received from Mr Colin Muddimer with regards to his work at the wildlife area. Mr Muddimer has been in contact with Alan Sawyer Chair of Woods around Towns and has spoken about his intentions to maintain the area. Mr C Muddimer has requested that a bin be placed within the area, which he would be willing to empty and find volunteers to empty when he is away. Proposed by P Edwards and seconded by N Antill that a green Plaza bin from Glasdons, be purchased at the price of £250.69. All agreed. *Clerk to order*

**16/041 Clerk Vacancy:** 4 Applications had been received. As P Edwards is a personal friend of one it was felt that he should not be on the interview panel. N Antill volunteered to take his place. First interviews will take place on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm.

**16/042 Bun Meadow Footpath:** Following a request from District Councillor M Maybury that the speed of the traffic be addressed along Clay Hall Lane, County Councillor C Spence and High ways officer Zach Smith came to Acton to look at the issue. County Councillor C Spence ask C Johnson to join them and discuss the situation. The footpath which runs from the high Street to Clay Hall Lane should be the preferred way for pedestrians to access Clay Hall. This footpath is in a bad state of repair. County Councillor C Spence is willing to part some money from his highways fund to help with the cost of repair and C Johnson suggests that the Parish Council do the same. The approximate cost for a new surfacing would be £7500.00. Proposed by P Chaplin and seconded by L Franks that the council should pick up any shortfall on the cost of this work using funds from the footpath reserve. All agreed. C Johnson is meeting with Zach Smith and the rights of way officer with the terms of progressing this further. *Chair to pursue*

**16/043 Allotments:** It was suggested that the March inspection was too early for the allotments. The inspection was completed with letters of concern being sent to two tenants. The next inspection will be on the Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 11am.

**16/044 Village Hall Project:** The council had received a letter from the trustees of the Acton Playingfield and Village Hall association requesting financial help to purchase a container to be used for external storage. 3 quotes had been obtained by T Fisher for a 20ft green container with doors at both ends. W Shropshire proposed and N Antill seconded that money from the Village Hall Project fund should be used to purchase a container from Adaptainer at a cost of £2100.00 . All agreed.

**16/045 Donation:** A request was received at the January Council meeting for a donation to help an individual in the village to purchase some life changing medical equipment. Unfortunately, the powers of the council does not allow it to give to an individual but the clerk was please to report that through fundraising events and donations from local people the amount £7000 had been raised.

**16/046 Grass cutting contract:** Proposed by Will Shropshire and seconded by L Franks that the quote from W Hickford for grass cutting for 2016 be accepted. The cost for cutting the Lime Tree Green is £81 per cut an increase of £1; cost for cutting Acton Church is £126 an increase of £3.

**16/047 Correspondence sent and received:**

The Department for Communities and Local Government has confirmed that the appropriate sum for parish councils for the purposes of **section 137 (4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (“the 1972 Act”) for 2016-2017 is £7.42.**

This is the amount that results from increasing the amount for 2015-2016 (£7.36) by 0.8% - the percentage increase in the retail index between September 2014 and September 2015, in accordance with Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act.

All correspondence was noted and/or circulated.

**16/048 Planning Applications:-**

(a) The following decisions were noted:

- B/16/00138 - The Pool House – Application Withdrawn
- B/16/00064 – 18 Clay Hall Place – Approved

(b) The Planning Applications Register was produced and signed.

(c) Outstanding applications:

- B/16/00270 – 38 Canon Pugh Drive – Erection of First-floor side extension and two story side extension – recommend approval

**16/049 Outstanding Accounts**

Cheques were signed for:-

J Doe	£268.80
Acton Playingfield & Village Hall Association	£193.00
Babergh District Council	£507.55
HMRC	£445.06
Mrs L M Edwards	£1679.89
Mr A Sawyer	£20.00
All saints PCC Acton	£25.00
Paul Clark Printing	£39.00
Realise Futures	£1319.40

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

**Next Meeting:**

Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Next council meeting will held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.45pm. AGM followed by the normal bi-monthly council meeting.

Signed ..... Chairman : 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016