

103 Doctors Surgery

Dr. Keith Heller informed the meeting of an application made by Mr. Abdullah applying to open a pharmacy in Glemsford. He explained that if this was approved, patients would no longer be able to obtain their medicines from the surgery. The practice had taken 24 years to build and had originally operated from a single bungalow and half of the old school at Hartest. At the present time it is one of most modern surgeries in West Suffolk and provides a good efficient service. This application will very much threaten this service.

The surgery does make money from dispensing, which supplements the income and is put back into the building for improvements etc. The partners have mortgages on the practice properties, and as a practice have high overheads, some because of vandalism in the village. Over the past months a new roof, windows and umpteen repairs have had to be carried out. The practice does have a low list size but due to this can provide a prompt service for the patients. If the dispensary is lost, the liability of the practice is bought into question for the three doctors. In the long term this would involve decreasing the number of doctors and there would be little likelihood of being able to replace them. There was also the very strong possibility a surgery closure at Hartest. The doctors do not want to do this and had never wanted to until they saw application for the new pharmacy last Friday. The practice could not provide a good service with two doctors, and this is something that the surgery really wants to avoid as they have spent long time building up the practice, and want to maintain the service.

If the doctors were to be reduced, this would have a knock-on effect for nursing time and clerical work, not just for the doctors. The practice could become non-viable. Doctors were concerned that the applicant does not know what services are available in the village as he has cited Melford as the nearest place to get medicines. He quotes over the counter goods as an advantage. Up to now GPs have not been able to sell these to patients, but this is now under review and as soon as it does change the surgery would sell over the counter goods. Doctors had concerns about the proposed needle exchange service. The postcode of Lion Road has been used on the application and it was quite obvious that the applicant had not visited the village before making his proposals.

Cllr. Young expressed concerns that Mr. Abdullah had not been invited to the meeting in case the council could be accused of prejudice. Cllr. Knox asked why this had not been addressed before the meeting when the email had been circulated on Friday. Cllr. Thake said that the surgery must be protected, and the livelihoods of the doctors, the council should be looking at the service that the surgery supplies to the village and whether the application would be detrimental to this. He explained that there would be no question of prejudice as the applicant could have approached the parish council to attend the meeting, as the surgery had done, but he had chosen not to do this. It was not the responsibility of the parish council to approach the applicant but vice versa.

The practice manager explained that there is only forty five days to voice objections to the proposal. The Doctors have tried to contact the applicant but have had no reply.

Dr. Heller explained that the surgery has patients from Melford and if they live within a mile of the chemist then the doctors cannot dispense to them.

The doctors were asked if the surgery supplies a needle exchange service? Dr. Giblin explained they are not asked for it at present but would be open minded if need be. Nick Hunt, the pharmacist in Long Melford says that addicts tend to go to specialist centres.

PC. Mullet said that he had spoken to the practice nurse regarding a needle exchange and he was not aware of any discarded needles in Glemsford or Melford, and there were no problems with intravenous drug usage in the village. He feels it would encourage people to come into the village from elsewhere and was concerned about the risk of discarded needles and drug taking if an exchange was allowed.

104 District Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Thake reported his attendance at a Be Active day in Great Cornard. He was very impressed and proud of the officers who were from a very small team. He had spoken up for the activities taking place at Glemsford and would want this to be expanded and integrated.

The Budget will be discussed on 26th February. Cllr. Thake thought it would be straight forward and did not envisage any votes against the budget. It had been passed through the strategy committee with one or two minor amendments but the actual rate will not be changed. It is set at inflation or lower. Cllr. Thake did not envisage such an easy passage next year, and was concerned that Babergh would soon be dipping into the reserves. As there would be no room for manoeuvre, rates may rise sharply in the future. The Community Achievement awards would be held soon, unfortunately our nominations had not been chosen this year, due to the high standard and so many nominations.

Cllr. Young reported the provision of a graffiti hotline website at www.GraffitiHotline.co.uk. A new briefing on crime and disorder was now available.

World champion power lifters would be helping people across Babergh to improve their fitness.

The proposed increase of 2.9% against benchmarking figure of 3.6% will mean that the Babergh part of the council tax will be about £126 for a band D property.

Samba soccer sessions were discussed. The Clerk was concerned about the lack of advertising for the sessions and also that the second session had not been a success. Cllr. Thake would speak to Babergh about lengthening the sessions for an hour and a half, and also ask if the hall could be locked so councillors do not need to mind the front door.

105 Clerks Report

The Babergh Meetings with parish councils had been set for 8th November 2007 at 7pm at Stoke by Nayland Golf Club. Reminders would be sent out later in the year.

The Clerk had liaised with the parent of the youth reprimanded for the vandalism in the village hall and weekly payments were now forthcoming to pay for the damage.

Hannah Watkinson was interested in the container but councillors felt this should go to someone in the village and as Tony Mitchell was interested, it was decided that he would be the successful applicant.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Knox

SECONDED: Cllr. Thake

The Clerk had received a telephone complaint about dogs mess in the cemetery. Councillors felt that this was not an issue at the moment but it would be monitored.

The Fun Day would be held on 23rd June this year. The Clerk would contact the organisers and ask them to get quotations for generators as there was now no electricity on the playing fields.

The Clerk's son had been training with Babergh as a sports coach and was being inducted this week.

106 Financial Matters

Account Status

Income	632.27
Expenditure	9570.93
Cash in hand	16585.79
Petty Cash	169.89
High Interest	43478.85

Payments received

Village Hall	471.50
Burials	90.00

Payments made out of Council

Alfred McAlpine	408.79
Viking for new printer and carts	208.97
Portaramp	176.25
Jocks Locks	118.66

Accounts to be paid

BDC	154.58
Mrs. P. Jones	16.63
Wolseley Centres	211.31
Inland Revenue	238.08
Mr. W. hickford	45.00
Alfred McAlpine	1950.96
Mini Waste	137
Alfred McAlpine	408.79
Industrial Supplies	33.33

PROPOSED: Cllr. Knox

SECONDED: Cllr Boone

Any other financial matters

The Clerk and Vice-Chairman had looked at the Contracts for the street cleaners and village hall cleaner but it was now felt that a Finance Committee meeting should be arranged. This would be on the 28th February 2007 at 8pm.

The Clerk and Vice-Chairman had met with Ian Fegan from Alfred McAlpine regarding new street lights.

The provision of an emergency plan was discussed and it was agreed that until we were legally obliged to have one in situ, this would be left.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Boone

SECONDED: Cllr. Searle

The Gardening club had sent a letter with a long list of complaints about the village hall ranging from the urinals to the crockery. Councillors felt this was totally unjustified so the Clerk would formulate a reply.

As the Gardening Club had sent their accounts, the Parish Council agreed to donate £50 to the costs of their open day.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Thake

SECONDED: Cllr. Boone

The audit forms for the accounts from 2003 to 2005 were signed.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Knox

SECONDED: Cllr. Boone

A letter had been received from the Long Melford Scout Group. Councillors were divided as to whether to donate money as although they had members from Glemsford, the general consensus was that donations were made within the village. After putting this to the vote, there were three for and three against, leaving the Chairman with the deciding vote. He voted to give them the money.

The chairman stated that he was not happy with the base of the pavilion. The Clerk pointed out that Newman Ford had carried out the work in agreement with his quotations and the parish council had already paid the money so they could not ask him to do anything further. Cllr. Searle would ask if we could borrow a top loader and clear the pipes ourselves.

107 Planning Matters

New Applications

B/07/00039/FHA/CJT 30a Hunts Hill

Erection of single-storey extension.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Searle

SECONDED: Cllr. Boone

Applications Granted

B/06/02003/FHA/AT 18 The Pippins

Erection of two-storey side extension.

B/06/01923/FUL/DB Willow Tree Farm, Lower Road

Erection of extension to retail area of shop.

Applications Refused

B/06/01158/AGD2 Park Farm, Churchgate

Notification under Part 6 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 – Erection of grain store/machinery shed.

B/03/01791/OUT Nos. 20 and 24 Egremont Street

Erection of 7 no. single storey dwellings.

Any other planning matters

Councillors recommend that we support the local surgery and write our objections to the NHS regarding the proposal for a pharmacy in the village.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Parmenter

SECONDED: Cllr. Knox

108 Village Hall and Youth Facilities Park

The Vice Chairman had made enquiries about badminton lines for the village hall and this had proved very frustrating. After meeting with a company she had been told that the lines may only last for a period of a year so it was decided that until the Parish Council were contacted in writing by someone wanting to set up a badminton club, this would not be pursued any further.

The Vice-Chairman had made enquiries about CCTV but as the mosquito alarm was working so well, it was decided not to pursue this at the present time.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Thake

SECONDED: Cllr. Boone

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Next meeting 13th March 2007

Approved

Date