



MINUTES

Meeting of the Woolverstone Parish Council

Thursday 22nd April, 7.30pm at Berners Hall

1. **Apologies:** Simon Quantrill, Mark Bostock, David Wood
2. **Attendance:** Simon Pearce, Elspeth Iskander, Derek Davis, Alistair McCraw, Jen Young, Allison Glading
3. **Declaration of any prejudicial interest** – none.

4. Minutes

22nd March 2018 – Phil Mayhew proposed. – Elspeth Iskander seconded.

5. Matters Arising.

The Rector has suggested a traditional noticeboard on the iron railing. There is to be a traditional service on the first Sunday in May. Simon Pearce will put this in the newsletter and the council have been asked to promote this.

Hedge and Noticeboard – Mike Wooby has worked hard on this area. Kathryn Deaton is to send a letter of thanks.

The Parish response for the Walled Garden development was submitted within the deadline. Derek Davis has been called to present to the planning committee chair, vice chair and officer next week.

Elspeth Iskander, Allison Glading and Jen Young have not changed their declaration of interests.

Phil Mayhew collected the tables, which are very good.

6. Report from Councillors and District Councillors

Peter Patrick (by e-mail):

David Wood:

A report was sent by email in his absence.

Primarily this dealt with the ANOB boundary extension consultation which is discussed later.

Derek Davis:

Caravans – this is with the Department of Health – one will be removed this week. There is also now the possibility that the second one may also be removed.

Tiffers Bus – there is still no permanent site for this.

Derek Davis has been invited on to the cabinet to cover the phone system, website and access points (Hadleigh and Ipswich). Simon Pearce offered the Woolverstone Village Hall as a pop up venue as a local access point.

Today there was an option to view the application for housing on the “Corks Lane” site. This would re-use the building and also be within the car park which has had a history of flooding. There are further open days (Cricket Pavillion, Wednesday 18th April) and the plans can also be viewed online.

7. Boundary Commission Response

Last time the Council presented a good case for the area to be viewed geographically and also to look at the history and location. We have now been asked to respond on the Ward name of Berners and the Boundary Plans.

For context I have included the section from the New Electoral Arrangements for Babergh District Council which relates to Woolverstone:

Berners

88 We received significant opposition to our initial draft recommendations for the Shotley peninsula on the basis that the proposed wards either did not adequately reflect community identity across the area or that they linked villages that had no common interests or historical links. We received a number of alternative proposals for this area and have considered whether any of these proposals provided for a better balance of the statutory criteria.

89 We received a submission from Woolverstone Parish Council that was supported by a local resident. This proposed to group together the parishes of Woolverstone, Holbrook, Freston, Chelmondiston, Harkstead, Stutton, Tattingstone and Wherstead in a two-councillor ward to be named Berners. They also suggested a ward comprising the parishes of Harkstead, Shotley and Arwarton in a single-councillor ward to be called Ganges. Lastly, they suggested that the parishes of Brantham & Bentley should become a single-councillor ward. The proposal was supported by good evidence of connectivity through these parishes, with consideration given to the geography and history of the area. Also made evident was the strong sense of community identity in this area, centred around its inclusion in the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and its historical

connection with the Berners family and estate. However, the wards as proposed offered a poor level of electoral equality with Brantham & Bentley at 27%.

90 A local resident proposed to group the parishes of Woolverstone, Holbrook, Freston, Chelmondiston, Harkstead and Tattlingstone in a two-councillor ward to be called Berners. However, such a ward would have poor electoral equality at -32% by 2023.

91 We also received and carefully considered a detailed submission from a district councillor that offered several alternative proposals for the area. However, none of the proposals provided for a pattern of wards that had acceptable levels of electoral equality, therefore we were unable to adopt them.

92 We have attempted, based on the evidence received, to identify a pattern of single-councillor wards across the area that both reflect community identity and have good electoral equality. We have been unable to achieve such a pattern that does not split individual parishes across two separate wards.

93 We are therefore recommending a three-councillor ward comprising the parishes of Arwarten, Belstead, Chelmondiston, Freston, Harkstead, Holbrook, Shotley, Stutton, Tattlingstone, Wherstead and Woolverstone to be named Berners. The proposed Berners ward will have good electoral equality at 0% by 2023.

94 We recognise that the preference in this area is for single-councillor wards and are therefore particularly interested to hear of proposals that group parishes together in a way that effectively reflects community identity, offers good electoral equality and allows for single-councillor wards. Where there is evidence to do so, we will also consider splitting a parish between two wards. Additionally, we would be interested to receive feedback on the proposed ward name of Berners.

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Alistair McCraw looked at the numbers over Babergh. There has to be electoral equality and for there to be a relationship between the Parishes. He feels that the larger populated areas should form the centre of each area. The proposal is:

Brantham Ward

Stutton to Shotley which covers 11 parishes. (INSERT FROM NOTES)

Alistair McCraw talked through possible options having looked closely at the numbers: Shotley and Erwarton is 2414

Brantham has 2383

The remainder would be a two member ward with nine Parishes of 4561.

Yesterday Stutton approachd him to ask if Stutton, Holbrook and Harkstead (2451) would work but this leaves six Parishes which have then too few.

He recommends the two member ward. Simon Pearce is to write to Babergh on behalf of the Parish Council and recommend the two member ward.

## **8. AONB Extension Response**

This needs to be in by 20<sup>th</sup> April.

There are three questions

Does the landscape have sufficient natural beauty?

Alistair McCraw advised that manmade developments were not considered ie Alton Water.

The Parish Council agreed.  
Is it desirable to protect the areas?  
The Parish Council agreed.  
Where should the boundary be drawn?  
As detailed.

#### **9. Speeding / Danger at Chelmondiston end of the Village**

Simon Pearce received a strong email from a member of the village as you leave in the direction of Chelmondiston. There are seven houses within Woolverstone but outside of the 30mph zone. Simon Pearce advised we asked David Wood to extend the speed limit between Woolverstone and Chelmondiston. Derek Davis advised that there are problems with speed limit signs, as these are broken the police cannot prosecute.

#### **10. Register of Interests**

See above in matters arising.

#### **11. SCC: Community Self Help**

The Parish Council agreed that we would state no.

#### **12. May – Annual Parish Meeting and PC Date**

This will be 24<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **13. Friends of Woolverstone: update**

Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> June - Jazz and Picnic – 7 – 9pm  
[www.experiencetickets.co.uk](http://www.experiencetickets.co.uk) – to buy tickets.

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> July – Classics on the Park  
Cars can be shown for free and donations on the day.

#### **14. Finance**

There is no change. The balance sits at £8489.96

#### **15. Planning: Dairy House /38 Main Road**

Dairy House - no comment.

38 Main Road – There was a lot of discussion which included the building being outside the village boundary, the 30mph boundary with access to and from the property being on a stretch of 60mph road, the building style of both the planned and existing buildings and the “space” left between buildings that was a key factor of the Woolverstone estate. It was agreed that the Parish Council should object to this in view of the above comments.

#### **16. Correspondence**

Shotley TAG group are working on a WW1 and Naval heritage theme. Simon Pearce suggested we cover the use of Woolverstone Hall in WW1 and the decoy of the landing buoy on the River Orwell.

Options discussed and agreed were:

Woolverstone House as a hospital  
Use of Woolverstone Hall as a training school

Paul Rogers wrote and queried why all villagers did not have fibre. He has asked for other villagers who are interested to contact him and he will source a price. Simon Pearce will include this in the next newsletter.

## **17. AOB**

None

Meeting closed at 2140

Signed:

Simon Pearce, Chairman.

Date: