

# **POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk: Christine Hargan 4 Northfield Road, Onehouse, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 3HF

Telephone: 01449 674727

Email: [clerk@polstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@polstead-pc.gov.uk)

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

A Meeting of Polstead Parish Council will be held on  
**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 starting at 7.30pm**  
**at Polstead Village Hall.**

The Public and Press are invited to attend with the public participation session being held at the meeting.

Except where members of the public have been excluded due to the confidential nature of the business, any person may film, photograph, audio record or use social media to report on meetings of the Council including the public participation session.

*Christine Hargan*

**Signed by Christine Hargan** Clerk to Polstead Parish Council Dated 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022

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Dear Councillor

You are summoned to a Meeting of Polstead Parish Council on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 starting at 7.30pm in Polstead Village Hall. The Agenda for the meeting is listed below.

*Christine Hargan*

**Signed by Christine Hargan** Clerk to Polstead Parish Council Dated 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022

147. Apologies for absence
148. Receive **declarations of interests** and **requests for dispensation** from Councillors
149. Agree **Minutes** of Polstead Parish Council (PPC) meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022
150.
  - a. Receive **reports from County Councillor and District Councillor**
  - b. Receive **questions from Parishioners** (contributions to be limited to 2 minutes)
  - c. Consider update on **Proposed planting schemes** in the Parish
  - d. Comprehensive
151. Receive **reports and questions from Councillors**
  - a. Query from Cllr Sowman regarding a Defibrillator
152. Agree actions on **emails distributed** by Clerk since the last meeting
153. Agree actions required following the **Clerk's Report**
154. **Planning**
  - a. **Consider Planning application no:**
    - [DC/22/04278](#) Jesmond Lodge Polstead Hill Polstead Colchester Suffolk CO6 5AH Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce crown of 4No. Sycamores (T1 -T4) by 30%. Reduce crown of 1No. Oak (T5) by 30%. Reduce crown of 1No. Silver birch by 30%. (T6)
    - [DC/22/04165](#) Rockalls Lodge Rockalls Road Polstead Colchester Suffolk CO6 5AT To vary plans from previous application DC/21/05091 dated 17/11/2021. Erection of an extension to provide accessible accommodation for the benefit of a registered disabled person, creation of portico to rear, replacement of existing roof covering and windows and reinstate entrance door on rear elevation
    - [DC/22/04840](#) Yvans Hall Evans Heath Polstead Ipswich Suffolk IP7 5NX Conversion of former barn outbuilding to annex/holiday let accommodation comprising extension to reinstate first floor and pitched roof to west end. Erection of single storey sun room to dwelling. Replacement of 4 No window units to dwelling. Roof extension and reinstatement to outbuilding to form domestic animal pens (former built range now dilapidated). Installation of wall enclosures, hayloft mezzanine & windows to existing steel barn for domestic animal accommodation. Erection of pergola timber garden structure to footprint of former cartlodge.
    - [DC/22/04841](#) Yvans Hall Evans Heath Polstead Ipswich Suffolk IP7 5NX, Application for Listed Building Consent
    - [DC/22/04844](#) Snail Hall Millwood Road Polstead Colchester Suffolk CO6 5AU Proposed installation of ground mounted and roof mounted photo-voltaic panels.
    - [DC/22/03949](#) The Ride Straight Road Polstead Heath Polstead Colchester Suffolk CO6 5BB Reconstruction of mono pitch roof with extended roof overhang and insertion of new windows
    - [DC/22/05106](#) Mill Street Polstead Suffolk Development by a Statutory Undertaker (UK Power Networks) - Installation of a Substation
  - b. **Consider any planning application received** since the agenda was posted requiring a response before the next scheduled meeting.
  - c. **Consider the status** of planning applications, appeals, enforcement referrals and any potential planning issues
155. **Finance**
  - a. Receive the **RFO Report**
  - b. Review the Reconciliation of Accounts against Bank Statements and the Statement of Accounts vs Budget
  - c. Consider transfer of funds from the Barclays bank accounts to the Unity Trust Bank equivalent accounts
  - d. Consider whether to close the Barclays accounts

# POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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- e. authorise payments made since the last meeting and to be made:
- f. Note income received since the last meeting.
- 156. Consider update on **Polstead WI's plans to convey their land in Polstead**
- 157. Consider any issues raised regarding **Highways and Footpaths**
  - a. Hidden 30mph signs - Possibility of painting the signs on the road
  - b. Hedge trimming Footpath 2 cut back vegetation to improve visibility for pedestrians crossing the bypass.
- 158. Consider any **Asset, allotment, playground or playing field** issues including report on Footpath management
  - a) Purchase of outdoor gym equipment and football nets
- 159. Review Grit, Litter and Dog bins
  - a. posts to dog bins – report of a replacement required
- 160. Review Notice Boards
- 161. Litter pick, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022
- 162. Christmas 2022
  - a. Carol Service – plans, publicity and support
  - b. Christmas tree
- 163. Contribution to Village Hall Committee toward Broadband installation and upkeep
- 164. Warm Space Fridays at the village hall
- 165. Future **agenda items**
- 166. Time date and place of next meeting 7.30pm Thursday 17th November 2022 at the Village Hall, Polstead.

**Agenda Item 148 Request for Dispensation**

If there is an item on this agenda for which you have a pecuniary interest you will not be able to take part in any of the discussion or vote on a resolution. However, if you wish the council to consider your request for dispensation you need to write to the Clerk ahead of the meeting stating your reasons on why you should be given a dispensation.

**Agenda Item 150 Reports**

From County Councillor, District Councillor and annual report from Nature Citizen attached to Summons

Request for funding of further £250 for Nature Citizen

**Agenda Item 151 Reports and questions from Councillors**

None Received

**Agenda Item 152 Clerk's report**

**Correspondence**

SCC new dog/rubbish bin request form

Apologies from CCllr Hall and DCllr Ward

Gate to Heath Road playground – estimate for replacement gate post £300 maximum

Reports from CCllr and DCllr for the September and October meetings

National Grid consultation response received from the Action Group and posted on the NG website.

Annual Report from Nature Citizen

Additional funding for the Rural Coffee Caravan towards the hire of village hall each Friday as a Warm Space during the winter months

Leavenheath Neighbourhood Plan notification of updated document consultation deadline 4 November 2022

Avian Flu – notification of an outbreak in Stoke by Nayland

Obstructed speed signs – various correspondence including request for road marking

Replacement bin post required Footpath entrance opposite Green Farm Barn

BMSDC notification of major developments – draft 5 year housing supply plan – 1 new property planned in Polstead

DCllr Ward information on council services for publication in village magazine

Possible sites for public sector housing

Warnings regarding scam emails from 'fellow councillors';

Tree canopy survey

Feedback following the litter pick

Notification of CIL funding bid window 1-21 October 2022

[Suffolk online book of condolences for Her Majesty the Queen | Suffolk County Council](#)

Speeding in Heath Road – obscured and twisted 30mph sign reported to farmer and SCC Highways no action taken

Grit bins vegetation trimmed back by Cllr Davey

Boxford Farms letter re caging around trees sent to MP, response from MP and update from DCllr Ward

SALC updates on cyber security and schemes to help the vulnerable, Climate emergency survey

Notification that WIFI has been fitted in the village hall – Request for funding

Funding streams for gym and playground equipment £7k+ S106 available for outdoor parish projects additional funding streams (following applications) Suffolk County Council, postcode lottery, Sport England

Suffolk Wildlife Trust webinar Wilder ecology.

Various correspondence re Cackle Down Wood

SAAA notification of the change of nationally approved auditors \ and opportunity to opt out and to choose an external auditor

Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement various correspondence and following correspondence to team up with councillors from other PC's re the response

SALC advice re data protection and councillors – adopt the standard model of not publishing private telephone numbers and email addresses

RSPB – Wildlife friendly councillor tour Flatford Mill 28 September Do you want to attend?

PKF Littlejohn confirmation that the external audit is complete and their bill.

## Associated Papers PPC for Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Coffee Caravan – request for a donation of £50 to help with the cost of the hall during the winter months.

Village Hall committee request for £1000 donation to cover the 50% cost of installation and running costs of broadband for the next 12 months

Litter Pick John Ward confirming that we can borrow equipment

### Agenda Item 153 Clerk's Report

Minute	Action	who	Complete
22/106	To identify the footpath where an incident was reported and report back. The footpath has been identified as behind Hill Farm. SCC footpaths have investigated with Natural England for Consent to undertake work to ensure public safety. The landowner assured SCC that they would erect warning signs. On 11 October no feedback on the investigation had been received.	Clerk	ongoing
ongoing	Editorial to LSPN news	Clerk	✓
22/116	Liaise re Rockalls Road gate auto closer outstanding. A closure was fitted but was not satisfactory, so an alternative is being sourced.	JO	ongoing
22/128	Ask if the shop will act as a viewing point for the Jubilee photograph book	JF	✓
22/135	Check hedgerows for cricket equipment	All	
22/136	Notify Clerk of the final location of the dog bin removed from Stackwood Road. Awaiting confirmation for final position from landowner	JO	ongoing
22/144	Comments to planning applications to BDC Planning Green	Clerk	✓
22/144	Contact BDC Planning to advise that structures are currently being erected in White Street Green on the border with Boxford and suggest they write to Boxford Orchards prior to an excess of 5 hectares being erected cc Boxford Clerk.	Clerk	superceded
22/145	Pay suppliers	Clerk	✓
	Litter Pick Clerk to check that hall is available for the Saturday morning as venue for refreshments	Clerk	✓
	Clerk to enquire if the Village Hall committee are aware of what happened to the Bunting following the Jubilee Celebrations, they are not aware	Clerk	✓
	Order refreshments from Village shop - sufficient bacon, rolls and ketchup for 12 people for litter pick	CC	✓
	Clerk to send a map of the village footprint to Cllr Cheeseman	Clerk	✓
	Agenda items for the next meeting Carol Service Purchase of outdoor gym equipment and football nets Contribution to Village Hall Committee toward Broadband which is being fitted on 31 August Footpath 2 cut back vegetation to improve visibility for pedestrians crossing the bypass.	Clerk	✓
	Forward email address for BDC Planning to member of public	Clerk	✓

### Agenda Item 154 Planning

#### Status of Planning applications

Reference	Address	Planning Details	PPC Minute	Parish Council Comments	Babergh DC Comments
AP/22/00001	Heath Farm, Hadleigh Heath, Polstead, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 5NY	re outline planning permission for 3 no dwellings following demolition of outbuildings	22/090		Awaiting decision

## Associated Papers PPC for Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022

DC/22/02502	Alverstoce Farm White Street Green Polstead Colchester Suffolk CO6 5DW	Application to determine if building consent is needed	22/090	No objection	Formal Approval not required.
DC/22/02201	Yeomans Cottage, Mill Street	Erection of a pitched roof rear porch (following demolition of existing), partial re-rendering, re-laying of existing roof tiles, erection of a boiler flue, erection of a greenhouse, and internal alterations as outlined in design and access statement Open for comment icon	22/111	No objection	refused
DC/22/02202	Yeomans Cottage, Mill Street	Application for listed building consent	22/111	No objection	refused
DC/22/02963	The Grange Mill Street Polstead Colchester Suffolk CO6 5AD	Householder Application - Erection of single-storey side extension, and insertion of window in place of existing door	22/131	No Objection	Granted
DC/22/03353	Upper Meadow Polstead Hill Polstead Colchester Suffolk CO6 5AH	Householder Application - Erection of two storey front extension and two storey garage, loft conversion and installation of dormer windows (following demolition of existing extension and garage)	22/131	No objection	Granted
DC/22/03742 & 3741	Bankside Mill Lane Polstead Colchester Suffolk CO6 5AB	Application for a Non Material Amendment relating to DC/22/01797 - Alterations to proposed bifold door on North Elevation, decrease in width and addition of new glazed screen. Alterations to proposed window on the East Elevation. Reduction in no. of roof lights in proposed cart lodge from 8 no. to 3 no. Addition of glazing to cart lodge doors allow more natural light internally. Open for comment icon	22/144	No objection	Granted
DC/22/03863	Red House Potash Lane Polstead Colchester Suffolk CO6 5DJ	Householder Application - Erection of two storey side extension with rear balcony and link to existing outbuildings extending annexe and other internal space and erection of garage (following demolition of existing conservatory, garage and outbuilding). Open for comment icon	22/144	No objection	Granted
DC/22/04278	Jesmond Lodge Polstead Hill Polstead Colchester Suffolk CO6 5AH	Notification of work to trees in conservation area	22/154	No objection	no objection
DC/22/04165	Rockalls Lodge Rockalls Road Polstead Colchester Suffolk CO6 5AT	Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/21/05091 dated 17/11/2021. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Erection of an extension to provide accessible accommodation for the benefit of a registered disabled person, creation of portico to rear, replacement of existing roof covering and windows and reinststate entrance door on rear elevation (following demolition of existing rear additions) - To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) Open for comment icon	22/154	no objection	Awaiting decision
DC/22/03466	Cockledown Wood	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use, Operation or Activity including those in breach of a Planning Condition. Town and Country Planning Act 1990: Section 191 as amended by section 10 of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991. Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Use of Woodland as Wellness Centre Retreat and siting of cabins.	22/154		Awaiting decision

DC/22/04484	The Old Post Cottage, Water Lane, Polstead, Colchester Suffolk CO6 5AA	Discharge of condition 4 biodiversity enhancement strategy		Not consulted	Granted
DC/22/02912	Bankside Mill Lane Polstead Colchester Suffolk CO6 5AB	Discharge of conditions for DC/22/01797 agreement of materials		Not consulted	Granted
DC/22/03949	The Ride Straight Road Polstead Heath Polstead Colchester Suffolk CO6 5BB	Reconstruction of mono pitch roof with extended roof overhang and insertion of new windows -			Pending

### Potential Planning issues – Boxford Farms planting of fruit trees and enclosures

Letter as sent to MP AONB and planning below:

Polstead Parish Council

Clerk Christine Hargan, 4 Northfield Road, Onehouse, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 3HF

Tel 01449 674727

clerk@polstead-pc.gov.uk

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

Mr James Cartlidge MP – by email

James.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Mr Cartlidge,

We write to express our deep concern about the change of agricultural use of around 65 acres of land in your constituency and its detrimental impact on the landscape in and adjacent to the Dedham Vale AONB. The area concerned stretches from Polstead to Boxford along Wash Lane. Boxford (Suffolk) Farms Ltd have recently purchased the land and begun to change its use from arable to Future Orchard Productions Systems (FOPS), using 4m concrete and wood posts to support espalier trees which will be covered with black plastic netting for much of the year. Similar structures are already in place in Leavenheath and Brick Kiln Lane.

Of course, orchards in themselves are not a 'problem'. But difficulties arise in this particular case with respect to their scale, siting, cumulative impact, and location in a sensitive area. The net effect of the interplay of these factors is already visible through the despoilation of the visual quality of the AONB. So far, the issue has been addressed by the planning system at our request The Chief Planning Officer at Babergh District Council, Philip Isbell, is not confident that it is a breach of planning as the scope of GPDO is quite wide ranging. He felt possible enforcement action to be a heavy-handed approach. It was suggested that Babergh District Council would ask the Economic Development team to make enquiries.

We think that protected landscapes, by definition, should be accorded special treatment. AONBs are working landscapes which, to some extent, have to deal with challenges to their established character and function. These include changes to agricultural land uses and practices. But all public bodies, by virtue of Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, have a duty of regard for the primary purposes of AONBs which is to preserve the visual beauty of the landscape. The Dedham Vale Management Plan 2021-2026 clearly states (inter alia) that:

- land use management decisions pay regards to the purpose of the AONB to conserve and enhance its natural beauty
- the AONB and Stour Valley project area's heritage, landscape and wildlife are conserved and enhanced
- decision makers consider the purposes of the AONB
- many of the key landscape features . . . are dependent on farming practices that do not have a significant detrimental impact on the purposes of the AONB designation

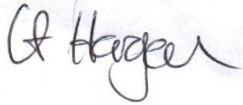
Furthermore, the description of the Dedham Vale AONB includes "picturesque villages, rolling farmland, rivers, meadows, ancient woodlands . . .". It does not mention hectares of concrete poles, netting and plastic coverings.

The farming practices of Boxford (Suffolk) Farms Ltd do have a significant detrimental impact on the purposes of the AONB designation. Residents, your constituents, are worried that one the most beautiful landscapes specific to Boxford (views of which have been adopted by the local neighbourhood plan) will be destroyed and covered in a sea of concrete, plastic and netting/fleece. This part of the valley has many footpaths used on a daily basis by locals and tourists alike. If the beauty of the landscape is diminished not only our enjoyment but also revenue from tourism will be diminished.

We, together with Boxford Parish Council have approached the Dedham Vale AONB team, along with the Leader of Babergh District Council and its Planning Department but so far with no constructive response. There is so much at stake here because these industrial structures will destroy this ancient and beautiful valley forever.

We would be very grateful indeed if you could investigate the issue for us. It would also be very useful if you, along with Philip Isbell (Chief Planning Officer for Babergh) and representatives from The Dedham Vale AONB team arrange with us to meet for a site visit so that you can see the scale and severity of the damage and to arrange appropriate and timely action to be taken.

Yours faithfully



Christine Hargan  
Clerk to Polstead Parish Council

cc [simon.amstutz@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:simon.amstutz@suffolk.gov.uk),  
[Philip.isbell@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.isbell@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)  
[John.ward@babegh.gov.uk](mailto:John.ward@babegh.gov.uk)

**From:** James Cartlidge MP <[james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk)>  
**Sent:** 05 September 2022 16:38  
**To:** [clerk@polstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@polstead-pc.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Re: Polstead and Boxford AONB (Case Ref: JC39613)

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your email.

I do understand your concerns surrounding preserving our countryside and the Dedham Vale AONB, however, I am sure you can appreciate that Boxford Farms is an important local business, which supplies the area with both locally produced food and job opportunities. Coincidentally, I recently visited both Stoke-By-Nayland Resort and Boxford Farms for a tour of their new site.

In terms of the farms proposed new developments, please be assured that all businesses comply with the appropriate planning regulations, but enforcement of adhering to such regulations is the statutory responsibility of Babergh District Council. As such, I am afraid that I do not get involved with planning matters on a local scale. As you have identified, I take exception with the occasional case, such as the national planning matter of proposed electricity pylons across our countryside, but only as it is the Secretary of State making the final decision on such matters, as opposed to the local Council.

In this case, it would be most appropriate for you to contact the local planning authority, Babergh District Council, as they are ultimately best placed to address and log your concerns and any potential objections to this proposal.

I appreciate that this may not be the response that you wished to receive, however does serve to clarify my position on this matter.

As always, please do not hesitate to get back in touch if I can be of any assistance with other matters in the future.

Regards,  
James

**James Cartlidge MP**  
Member of Parliament for South Suffolk



or iOS and Android.

Get started

RE: Polstead and Boxford AONB



Simon Amstutz <simon.amstutz@suffolk.gov.uk>

To Polstead Parish Council

Cc Beverley McClean



30/09/2022

Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

Christine

I have finally received a response from BMS. I am aware that they have engaged head of planning and possibly their legal dept on this topic. They say:

*The Local Planning Authority have advised that, on the information to hand, these structures do not appear to be development under the Planning Acts which requires planning permission. This is not a decision of the planning authority. If a matter is not development then no application or decision of the LPA is required.*

This is not what the AONB might have anticipated but is a pretty clear indication of the LPA's position

Simon Amstutz

07971 909 649

[Respect, Protect and Enjoy AONBs: Our National Landscapes](#)

si-mon am-stutz (pronunciation)

Pronouns: He/Him/His ([Why is this here](#))

-----  
Cllr John Ward  
Leader, Babergh District Council  
Member for Brett Vale Ward  
Phone: 07802 414981  
Email: [john.ward@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:john.ward@babergh.gov.uk)  
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road  
Ipswich IP1 2BX  
[www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk)  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Christine Hargan <[clerk@polstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@polstead-pc.gov.uk)>

Sent: 11 October 2022 13:03

To: [john.flather@polstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:john.flather@polstead-pc.gov.uk); John Ward (Cllr) <[John.Ward@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:John.Ward@babergh.gov.uk)>

Cc: 'Andrew Wade' <[andrew.wade@polstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.wade@polstead-pc.gov.uk)>; 'John Engleheart'; 'James Oxford' 'Stewart Sowman' >; 'Chrissie Cheeseman'>; Taff Davey

Subject: RE: New Fruit Cages at Boxford Suffolk Farms

Good afternoon John and John

Thanks for providing the required clarification. You have saved me time in asking the question.

I shall look forward to seeing you at the meeting next week.

Kind regards

Christine Hargan  
Clerk to Polstead Parish Council

Prepared by Christine Hargan

-----Original Message-----

From: [john.flather@polstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:john.flather@polstead-pc.gov.uk) <[john.flather@polstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:john.flather@polstead-pc.gov.uk)>

Sent: 11 October 2022 08:47

To: John Ward (Cllr) <[John.Ward@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:John.Ward@babergh.gov.uk)>

Cc: Polstead Parish Council <[clerk@polstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@polstead-pc.gov.uk)>; Andrew Wade>; John Engleheart>; James Oxford>; Stewart Sowman; 'Chrissie Cheeseman'Taff Davey

Subject: Re: New Fruit Cages at Boxford Suffolk Farms

On 2022-10-10 16:38, John Ward (Cllr) wrote:

> Hi Christine,

>

> I will pass this on to the Chief Planning Officer to see if he has more to add about this. Do you know if the polytunnels were the subject of a planning application or was it merely a voluntary consultation outside of the planning process?

>

> Regards

>

> John

> -----

> Cllr John Ward

> Leader, Babergh District Council

> Member for Brett Vale Ward

> Phone: 07802 414981

> > Email: [john.ward@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:john.ward@babergh.gov.uk)

>

> -----

>

> From: Christine Hargan <[clerk@polstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@polstead-pc.gov.uk)>

> Sent: 10 October 2022 15:14

> To: John Ward (Cllr) <[John.Ward@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:John.Ward@babergh.gov.uk)>

> Cc: Andrew Wade John Flather, John Engleheart, James Oxford, Stewart Sowman>;

> Subject: RE: New Fruit Cages at Boxford Suffolk Farms

>

> Good afternoon John

>

> Thanks for your email of 30th September about the Fruit Cages.

>

> Whilst we are grateful for your summary of the planners' conclusions we would like to see further clarification from Philip Isbell on the matter. In particular we would like to see an explanation about why

> and how they have reached their conclusions regarding what constitutes a permanent structure. For example, a few years ago, Boxford Farms were obliged to approach relevant parish councils, as well as Babergh, with proposals to construct polytunnels on a site adjacent to Stone Street because they wanted to grow blueberries. There is a clear parallel between the two situations as the polytunnels appear similarly impermanent. They can be moved or removed as necessary without permanent change to land use. We need to have sight of the official ruling by Philip Isbell with particular reference as to what constitutes a "permanent structure".

>

> As a Parish Council we remain extremely concerned by a proposed development which will cause untold damage to a protected landscape which is one of the most precious assets of our region.

>

> We look forward to a response from Babergh Planning as a matter of urgency.

>

> Kind regards

>

> Christine Hargan

> Clerk to Polstead Parish Council

>

> From: John Ward (Cllr) <[John.Ward@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:John.Ward@babergh.gov.uk)>

> Sent: 30 September 2022 09:58

> Cc: Bryn Hurren (Cllr) <[Bryn.Hurren@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:Bryn.Hurren@babergh.gov.uk)>

> Subject: New Fruit Cages at Boxford Suffolk Farms

>

> Dear all,

>

> I have been contacted directly by you all about the fruit cages and so I thought I would send the same update to all of you. I have been discussing this at length (as has the councillor for Boxford, Bryn

> Hurren) with the Chief Planning Officer, who has investigated the works in detail.

>

> I do understand the concern that this development has caused, but it is a very difficult situation - balancing the protection of the AONB with the needs of a local agricultural business. Many of you have referenced the regulations that are in place regarding developments > within the AONB. Our planning policies do support those and are very specific about what can and cannot be done.

>

> The fruit cages do not constitute permanent structural development: there is no permanent affixation to the ground of the pole and wire structures. The structural integrity is provided by wire, tensioned to

> pegs/metal spikes driven into the ground rather than foundation works or similar. They appear to be quite reversible as the cropping of the field dictates, even if present for over a year, and can be removed

> straightforwardly, leaving the soil as it was.

>

> Having regard to this, the structures are not development that would require planning permission within the meaning of the Planning Act. This also means that any consideration of whether they would be

> covered by Permitted Development rights would not be engaged.

>

> I will be talking to the business to see if green netting could be used, which would blend in better with the environment and be less visible. I know they are keen to engage with residents and are sensitive to the issues that the works have raised.

>

> I am sorry that I can't be more helpful - we simply do not have the powers to intervene.

>

> Kind regards,

>

> John Ward

> Cllr John Ward

> Leader, Babergh District Council

> Member for Brett Vale Ward

> Phone: 07802 414981

> Email: [john.ward@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:john.ward@babergh.gov.uk)

> -----

Hi John,

Thankyou for seeking further clarification. We do not know whether the application was voluntary or requested but I expect Philip will have it on file.

There are undoubted parallels between polytunnels and the proposed Fruit cages. Previous rulings in Herefordshire have stated re polytunnels "Whilst their planning status has been open to interpretation, it has been accepted through the court that if a polytunnel proposal is of significant size, has a substantial degree of permanence and physical attachment to the ground then it does constitute development that requires planning permission"

[WWW.herefordshire.gov.uk](http://WWW.herefordshire.gov.uk).

We think this applies to proposed development.

Regards

John

### **Agenda Item 155 Finance**

#### **Approve payments that have been made**

##### **Payments to be made**

£482.88 Clerk salary for August including tax rebate

£376.48 Clerk salary for September

£303.17 Clerk expenses Working from home allowance 1 April-30 September, July – October travel, printer cartridges and postage

£404.00 Ben Patrick CO10 Gardening additional costs due to Polstead pond and hog weed removal (and destruction) Charge for August

208.00 Ben Patrick CO10 Gardening bill for September

£96.00 Village Hall Hire May-December 2022

£240.00 PKF Littlejohn LLP 2021-22 audit fee

£36 SALC provision of payroll services

£462.60 Sudbury Town Council

? Donation to Village Hall contribution toward Broadband

? Donation to Coffee Caravan to help with Village Hall rental for Warm Fridays

Associated Papers PPC for Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Budget to Date				
	2021/22		2022-23	
	Budget	To year end	Budget	YTD
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Balance Brought Forward from current a/c</b>	19500	<b>19,500.00</b>		<b>36,306.55</b>
<b>Balance b/f from Business Premium a/c</b>				<b>3,335.25</b>
Grants	745.00		745.00	194.32
Bank Interest	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.46
Allotment rent	120.00	81.68	120.00	81.68
Wayleave	22.00	21.01	22.00	0.00
CIL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Precept	<b>19,500.00</b>	19,500.00	22,500.00	22,500.00
Transfer				500.00
VAT Repayment	0.00		0.00	1,043.70
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£20,387.00</b>	<b>£19,603.69</b>	<b>£23,388.00</b>	<b>£24,321.16</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
	Figures exclude VAT where paid as it is reclaimed, and is shown as VAT paid			
Clerk Salary	4,700.00	4,500.00	4,700.00	1,855.80
Insurance	600.00	580.00	600.00	0.00
Admin	2,355.00	2,305.00	2,355.00	735.36
Audit	380.00	340.00	380.00	140.00
Donations	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	250.00
Chairman's allowance	60.00	100.00	60.00	0.00
Community Wardens	710.00	700.00	710.00	385.50
dog and litter bins	950.00	850.99	950.00	838.00
Footpaths	950.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	720.00
Grass Cutting (P3 Scheme)	5,500.00	4,825.00	5,500.00	680.00
Ditch Clearance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,539.29
Projects	2,000.00	1,825.00	2,000.00	3,178.15
Village Hall	965.00	965.00	965.00	113.00
Contingency	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
CIL	0.00	7,537.00	0.00	0.00
VAT paid	0.00	1,700.00	0.00	513.26
Transfer				500.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£21,870.00</b>	<b>£32,127.99</b>	<b>£24,120.00</b>	<b>£11,448.36</b>
<b>Totals Income - Expenditure</b>	<b>-£1,483.00</b>	<b>-£12,524.30</b>	<b>-£732.00</b>	<b>£12,872.80</b>
<b>Totals Income - Expenditure including balance B/F</b>				<b>£52,514.60</b>
<b>Bank Reconciliation</b>				
<b>Barclays Community Account at 30/9/22</b>				<b>£49,063.98</b>
<b>Barclays Business Premium Account at 30/9/22</b>				<b>£3,336.53</b>
<b>Unity Trust Bank Current account at 30/9/22</b>				<b>£408.91</b>
<b>Unity Trust Bank Deposit account at 30/9/22</b>				<b>£0.18</b>
<b>Uncashed Cheques</b>				<b>295.00</b>
<b>Total Held in all accounts</b>				<b>52,514.60</b>

**Income since August**

£194.32 grant from Suffolk County Council for the cutting of footpaths

£11,250 Precept, that completes all of the income for this year.

18p interest from Unity Trust Bank

£21.01 Wayleave payment from UK Power Networks, received 11 September and not currently showing in the bank statement

£1.03 interest from Barclays Bank

As all income for the year has been received propose transfer of funds to Unity Trust Bank?

**Receipts & Payments**

You will notice that the reports have changed. This is because I couldn't work out how to make all of the formulae work the previous Clerk's spreadsheet and having discussed it with him he suggested that it would probably be better to start again. In addition once we establish electronic banking we will not need to show unbanked cheques.

Personally I like the new clean format, it automatically updates so every time a payment is made the budget is adjusted but if you would prefer something different I'm happy to discuss and amend.

**Actual v's Budget at 30 September 2022**

Associated Papers PPC for Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Budget to Date				
	2021/22		2022-23	
	Budget	To year end	Budget	YTD
<b>Income</b>				
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CIL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Precept	<b>19,500.00</b>	19,500.00	22,500.00	22,500.00
Transfer				500.00
VAT Repayment	0.00		0.00	1,043.70
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£20,387.00</b>	<b>£19,603.69</b>	<b>£23,388.00</b>	<b>£24,321.16</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
	Figures exclude VAT where paid as it is reclaimed, and is shown as VAT paid			
Clerk Salary	4,700.00	4,500.00	4,700.00	1,855.80
Insurance	600.00	580.00	600.00	0.00
Admin	2,355.00	2,305.00	2,355.00	735.36
Audit	380.00	340.00	380.00	140.00
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<b>Unity Trust Bank Deposit account at 30/9/22</b>				<b>£0.18</b>
<b>Uncashed Cheques</b>	(Nature Citizen and Coxes Boxes)			<b>295.00</b>
<b>Total Held in all accounts</b>				<b>52,514.60</b>

**Payments made since last meeting**

Date	Ref:	Details	Expenditure	Income
18/08/2022		Councillor Expenses	<b>£33.49</b>	£0.00
18/08/2022		Ben Patrick CO10 Gardening	<b>£296.00</b>	£0.00
18/08/2022		Clerk Salary	<b>£349.88</b>	£0.00

**Agenda item 134 – Highways and Footpaths**

**Agenda item 156 Polstead Village Hall**

**Agenda item 157 Highways and footpaths**

**Agenda item 158 Allotments and Playing fields**

Replacement gate post to Heath Road playing field – CO10 Gardening have provided an estimate of £300 which includes as a worst case scenario 4 hours work for 2 men to remove the existing rotten post and replace the post with a hard-wood equivalent and when sound to reattach the existing gate. He is hoping it will take much less time than that and will charge only the actual hours taken. The work is scheduled for week commencing 24 October.

**A. Outdoor gym equipment**

Business case by Angie Davey **Consideration of the purchase of outdoor gym equipment for the recreation ground.**

I have been approached by several ladies in the village asking for outdoor gym equipment for the recreational ground here in Polstead, as an added resource in their current fitness regime. I visited Stoke-by-Nayland’s recreational ground to see for myself the apparatus and do feel that this would be a great addition to the current activities we have on the recreation ground. In today’s climate of increased young people and adult obesity coupled with the rise in type 2 diabetes any opportunity for people to start a fitness programme should be worthy of consideration. Coupled with the current cost of living crisis this is an additional reason to consider this proposal as many people may not be able to access those facilities when money is a contributing factor. To be able to access outdoor equipment for fitness and exercise at no cost would I believe be a positive step to encourage people to help themselves. Research by Clerk – S106 funding of £7k + available from BMSDC and has been apportioned for use at Polstead, Further funding is available from SCC, Sport England and various other organisations depending upon the business case and cost. As a guide each piece of equipment costs on average about £800

[Sunshine Gym](#) – installation at Thorington Nr Colchester CO7 8JA|

[Fresh air fitness](#) Installation in Kersey IP7 6HB and Hadleigh IP7 6SJ

[caloo](#) installation in Copdock or East Bergholt

**Agenda item 159 Review Dog and litter bins**

BMSDC reported a rotten post to a dog bin. Is there mileage in checking the condition of posts so that any requiring replacement can be done at the same time?

**Agenda item 161 Litter Pick**

Litter picking equipment was delivered and the event successfully undertaken

**Agenda item 163 Contribution towards Wi-fi**

The Village hall have taken a 2 year contract out for the provision of WIFI with BT the cost of which is £2000, they have asked for a 50% contribution toward the fitting and running of the system.

**Agenda Item 164 Warm Space Fridays**

The Coffee Caravan has requested a donation toward the hire of the village hall during the winter so that they can provide warmth friendship and possibly a soup lunch to help villagers stay warm and safe this winter.