

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 1 March, 2022 at the Elmsett and Aldham Village Hall.

- 03.22.00 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Andrew Morton, Nick Bird, John Sones, Andrew Woodgate, Fiona Watt, Paul Firman, District Councillor L Jamieson, , Sasha Lawrence, Mrs Katie King, rep from the village hall and the clerk was present
- 03.22.01 **APOLOGIES:** County Councillor R Lindsay
- 03.22.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** John Sones declared an interest under Planning **DC/22/00275** - Construction of 12no solar panels roof to barn, Mill View, 9 Mill Lane and would take no part in discussion.
- 03.22.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January were signed as an accurate record.
- 03.22.04 **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Previously forwarded - **Signage on Hadleigh Road, Elmsett** The county council road safety team has said no to extra signage on Hadleigh Road. However, they are prepared to move the road narrows sign outside Chippendale further down the road, but they believe the one on the other side is correctly located..
Biodiversity Recommendations to Enhance Suffolk County Council will be doing more for the county's natural environment, after cabinet approved plans to enhance the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land by 2030. For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/councils-commitment-to-further-enhancing-suffolks-natural-environment>
Bus Back Better Government has written to highways authorities, including Suffolk to advise that it is cutting the pot available for investing in buses from £3bn to £1.4bn. It is not clear whether this will affect the £77m bid for bus improvements from Suffolk County Council.
Changes to Highway Code Several new changes to the Highway Code are now in force as of the 29th of January a link to further information - <https://www.quiz-maker.com/QG20TF8NL>. For more Government information on the changes you need to know, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022>
Devolution Deal Government published its White Paper on Levelling-Up, within which it has agreed that Suffolk will be one of nine initial 'County Deals' up for negotiation.
Full Council Budget Meeting County Councillors met on the 17th of February to debate and vote on the Council's budget for 2022-23. For more information on Suffolk GLI's Budget amendment, visit: [https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(17-02-2022\),%20County%20Council](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(17-02-2022),%20County%20Council)
Warmer Homes Suffolk Suffolk residents who are struggling to keep their homes warm can contact a new project, named 'Warm Homes Suffolk', which offers funding and free advice. The project can offer expert advice on reducing energy bills, energy usage and identify benefits that residents may be entitled to, to help keep their homes warm. Visit: www.warmhomessuffolk.org

4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Budget Review At February's Full Council meeting, councillors agreed to increase Babergh's element of residents' council tax by 2% - meaning an extra £3.48 per year, an average Band D household. Councillors also agreed to freeze sheltered housing charges and garage rents at 2021/22 levels, but council tenants will see an increase of 4.1% to their rents, to cover inflation and allow investment in improving the quality of council homes. The increase, in line with Government guidance.

Council Tax Rebate The Government will provide funding for councils to give all households in England whose primary residence is valued in council tax bands A to D a one-off 'council tax energy rebate' payment of £150. This payment will operate outside of the council tax system (it will be a payment rather than a reduction in your council tax bill), using council tax lists to identify eligible households.

Funding to support Rough Sleepers Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council have been awarded £324K to provide specialised emergency accommodation for rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness. The funding will see the development of two new self-contained eco emergency accommodation units in Stowmarket and two self-contained units in Sudbury to house vulnerable adults at risk of being homeless.

Council to down-size accommodation Babergh Cabinet voted to reconfigure the workspace that they use at Endeavour house. This will allow them to give back a floor saving approximately £338,000.

Empty homes funding Owners of empty homes may be eligible to an Empty Homes Renovation Loan designed to help improve vacant properties across the districts which have been empty for over six months and in need of significant repairs. Council pledges support to addressing violence against women and girls. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have signed up to a new county-wide strategy outlining how Suffolk will address violence against women and girls. The strategy has been prepared collaboratively by the Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) – consisting of representatives from Suffolk County Council, district and borough councils, the police, Suffolk's Police & Crime Commissioner, community safety partnerships, health and probation services, the Norfolk & Suffolk Criminal Justice Board and Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership.

Andrew Morton asked what was happening regarding the provision of parking on the wide verges on Garrards Road. Leigh to follow this up.

03.22.05 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Chairman confirmed that he had been in touch with Ipswich BDC who have been appointed to do regular tree surveys, they are going to be carrying out the work imminently in the Squeech and Rectory Meadow.

He confirmed that the footbridge between Garrards Road and Downlands had been repaired by BDC.

03.22.06 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Representative from Village Hall confirmed that the planning application for the pavilion had been withdrawn as there was a problem with bats. She also said that the litter bin on the meadow had not been emptied.

03.22.07 **FOOTWAY WHATFIELD ROAD:** As a sliver of The Green is required to carry out the work, there are legal costs incurred which would be repaid by the County Council once the work is carried out. (see proposal under finance)

03.22.08 **CORRESPONDENCE** Katie King attended the meeting following writing to the council and put forward proposals for planting wild flowers in areas of the village. As some of these were within visibility splays, it was agreed that the chairman meet with Katie for a walk around the village to identify appropriate areas for planting.

03.22.09 **QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS:** Sasha Lawrence attended the meeting and put forward proposals for a large-scale event with a cost of some £8-10,000. The chairman opened the meeting and the PC together with others present felt that the proposal was more than anticipated and that the celebrations should be kept to a smaller local event.

03.22.10 **PLANNING: DC/22/00275** - Construction of 12no solar panels roof to barn. Mill View, 9 Mill Lane – It was agreed not to restrict the grant of permission. **DC/22/00612** Proposal: Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for conversion. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development)(England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of barn to form 1No dwelling, using existing access - Cobwebs Farm (Land to The Rear of 6 Manor Road), Elmsett – The parish council made the following comment to BDC - We understand that development under Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (general permitted development) is tightly drawn around the existing agricultural building and does not allow for demolition and subsequent rebuilding. The existing building is in a very poor condition and would require substantial works to convert. Should you consider Class Q to be appropriate, no doubt you would monitor this operation closely and should any demolition be required in our view would mean a mainstream planning application requirement. We would remind you that the application site is outside the built-up area boundary of the Rookery Road Hamlet as defined in Policy EMST1 of the Elmsett Neighbourhood Plan and should consequently be refused. We note the neighbour objection and are also concerned about the potential for additional conversions on this site. **DC/22/00940** - Erection of single storey rear extension and construction of front and rear dormers in conjunction with loft conversion - 6 Mill Lane, Elmsett. – The council made the following response to BDC - Elmsett Parish Council noticed the neighbour objections received and felt that these were matters that fell under your jurisdiction and we trust that you will give the objections due consideration.

03.22.11 **FINANCE:** The following invoices were verified for payment and signed

ICO	Data Protection Fee	40.00	LGA 1972
CPRE	Annual Subs	36.00	LGA 1972
E & A VH	Hire 1-3	22.00	LGA 1972
Alan Newman	Reimbursement zoom licence	143.88	LGA 1972
E & A VH	Hire 1-3 (increase in fee)	4.00	LGA 1972

Proposed by Nick Bird and seconded by Andrew Morton to make an application for the deregistration of The Green and to appoint a legal representative to carry out the work at a cost of approximately £500, to be paid for initially by PC but to be reimbursed by SCC.

A quote had been received to eradicate the moles from The Green from Command Pest Control for £150.

It was agreed to go ahead.

A quote had been received to repaint the village sign from W.T. Signwriting in two parts. Shotblasting £330 plus VAT and repainting including gold leaf £400. The sign would have to be removed and taken to Sudbury. It was agreed to accept the quote and that Nick Bird and Chairman would meet at the site to discuss removal. It was agreed that CIL funding would be used.

03.22.12 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** 12 April, 7.00pm APM followed by PC Meeting at 7.30pm, 24 May, 28 June, 26 July, 13 September, 25 October and 6 December at the village hall.

The meeting closed

Signed:-..... Dated:-.....
Chairman