

Minutes of the Remote Parish Council meeting held on 7 September, 2020 via Zoom.

- 09.20.00 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Stan Coram, John Sones, Andrew Woodgate, Andrew Morton, County Councillor Robert Lyndsay, District Councillor L Jamieson (arrived late) and the clerk was present.
- 09.20.01 **APOLOGIES:** Nick Bird and Fiona Watt.
- 09.20.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 09.20.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June and the planning meeting of 20 July, 2020 were signed as accurate records.
- 09.20.04 **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Robert's report had been distributed to councillors prior to the meeting. **Footway on Whatfield Road** Following our Zoom meeting. hopefully Highways can make some progress with the design so that it fits with the needs of the village

Changes to Children's Centres challenged The proposal to close a number of childrens homes has been challenged. The decision will be suspended until it has been looked at by the Scrutiny Committee on 11 September. who will either confirm the Cabinet's decision or ask the Cabinet to reconsider the decision.

Update on school transport arrangements for September Suffolk County Council has confirmed that it will initially not be offering spare seats on school transport. This is due to social distancing requirements, which have reduced the capacity on school buses. However, parents may be able to apply for a spare seat from October half term. The council has also confirmed the arrangements for masks and social distancing on school transport. The rules vary depending on the type of transport used. <https://www.suffolkonboard.com/school-travel/bus-getting-to-school-college-or-sixth-form/coronavirus-faqs/>. Robert had been notified of the closure of Haverhill school following some teachers being tested positive and were now isolating. Although surprising, he said that it proved that the systems in place are working.

Council takes giant loan for ballooning costs of Lowestoft bridge The cabinet in late August decided to borrow the county's largest ever single sum - £65m - to finance the ballooning costs of the planned third crossing at Lake Lothing, Lowestoft. The cabinet heard that estimated costs had risen from £92 million to £145m. The interest costs alone for the loan will be £3.3m a year for the next 30 years. This is essentially a road bridge (although with a footway attached) and personally I do not see how it matches with the county's goal of reaching zero carbon by 2030.

Climate emergency recommendations for Suffolk wide carbon reductions published When on July 14th, the county council Cabinet approved a plan to bring council carbon emissions to zero by 2030 it also authorised the Suffolk Climate Partnership to commission a report detailing how emissions by the wider county could be brought to zero by 2030. That

initial report, by consultants Ricardo, has been published and is due to go to public consultation via series of five workshops. It is available on the county council website <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/pledge-to-climate-emergency-declaration/>

It includes proposals for eliminating one in four car journeys across Suffolk by 2030 and massive investment in electric charging points to enable the remaining three in four cars to be electric by 2030.

Infrastructure Board established to oversee costs of large projects It has emerged that Suffolk County Council established an Infrastructure Board in November 2019 to oversee large infrastructure projects and ensure they remain within budget. This is in response to a number of recent projects where costs have increased dramatically, including the Upper Orwell Crossings which was eventually abandoned after costs increased by £43m. The board is currently only made up of officers.

4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Corks Lane/Angel Court The Angel Court development is back on.. We anticipate completion of the homes by June 2021.

The Former BDC HQ site has resolution to grant planning, subject to S106 and agreement with the adjacent cricket club.!

Discretionary Business Payments. The Council will do all they can to ensure that as much of the outstanding fund is used up as is possible.

Solar Carport Funding The growth of sustainable technology across the districts – a major part of the councils' ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030 - will receive an injection of up to £800,000 in matched funding from the "Getting Building Fund", with the money going towards a pilot scheme to introduce electricity micro-generation and storage solar carports in Sudbury and Stowmarket.

The successful bid for funding will provide up to 50% of the budget for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council to install multifunctional solar carports, which will generate and store electricity for electric vehicle charging. The locations currently being assessed are surface car parks at Station Road, Sudbury and Gainsborough Road, Stowmarket with a flexible third option also to be modelled.

Compost Giveaway Babergh is giving away 480 bags of free compost all in the name of recycling, gardening and homegrown veg on the **19 September, 9am-12pm, Bridge Street, car park, Hadleigh.**

Leigh joined the meeting and was asked about the provision of additional car parking in Hadleigh, with the loss at the BDC HQ site Leigh said that he would take the matter up again with the Councillor at Babergh dealing with the matter.

09.20.05 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** The chairman informed the meeting that there is to be a meeting of the Airfield Liaison Group on 16 September at the Airfield. A number of violations had been recorded which would be discussed at the meeting.

Possible closure of the shop and Post Office. Members of the council are concerned that the village will lose a valuable facility if the closure goes ahead. The possibility of creating a community shop was discussed. It was agreed that the chairman should establish the likelihood of closure and what if anything the parish council might be able to do.

There had been further consultation requests for planning applications at The Quarry Aldham and Burstall Lane – agreed not to add to comments already provided.

Chairman reported on the communication regarding possible development in Hadleigh Road. It was pointed out that this would be contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan.

09.20.06 **FOOTPATH WHATFIELD ROAD:** The chairman reported on a zoom meeting which had been held between parish councillors, highways and Cllr Lyndsay regarding the provision of the footpath in Whatfield Road from the new development to the existing footpath. The chairman said that the meeting had been quite positive and that highways would come back with a design. Robert Lyndsay was thanked for his involvement in arranging the meeting.

09.20.07 **CORRESPONDENCE:** Planning for the Future White Paper. Councillors expressed their concern about the impact this might have. It was agreed to express the council's concern to our local MPs.

Website Accessibility – The clerk pointed out that the new regulations come into force at the end of September. The council's website hosts have been working on making sure that templates etc comply.

Next Door App. The chairman reported on a letter which had been received by a number of residents regarding the App. He had been approached by some residents who had been concerned about the authenticity of the letter. It was acknowledged that there are other similar apps that are used for reporting lost dogs, property or other security issues.

VHMC – is holding its AGM on 29 September.

09.20.08 **ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICIES** – Councillors reviewed and approved Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, Internal Control Statement, Risk Assessment and GDPR.

09.20.09 **FINANCE:** Accounts Due – invoices were verified (having been previously circulated electronically) cheques were made out to be signed as shown below. The clerk to make arrangements for signature.

T Hitchcock	Grasscutting	120.00	Open Spaces Act 1906
CAS Bus Serv	Insurance	226.11	LGA 1972

The clerk had produced a bank reconciliation which was approved by Councillors.

Councillors agreed to increase the clerk's salary in accordance with the new NJC payscales to take effect from 1 April.

09.20.10 **PLANNING – Applications approved** 2 Manor Road, Elmsett. Ryecroft, The Street. **Applications refused** – Shrublands, Whatfield Road..

09.20.11 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** 12 October, 9 November, 14 December, 18 January and 15 February. The chairman confirmed that the Council would continue to meet virtually via Zoom during the current Covid crisis. Following advice from SALC it was agreed to meet more frequently for shorter periods.

The meeting closed

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