

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 September, 2021 at the Elmsett and Aldham Village Hall.

- 09.21.00 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Andrew Morton, John Sones, Andrew Woodgate, Fiona Watt, two reps from the VHMC, a member of the public and the clerk was present.
- 09.21.01 **APOLOGIES:** Nick Bird (Work commitments) County Councillor Robert Lindsay and District Councillor L Jamieson
- 09.21.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 09.21.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June were signed as an accurate record.
- 09.21.04 **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** – Robert was not present but he sent a report - **Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan** This document was released in June by the 'Suffolk Leaders Group' (County, District and Borough Council leaders) as a follow up to the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership report of 2019. This sets out broad goals for change in behaviours and technology to achieve zero carbon by 2030. Robert's group, will be proposing a motion at the next Council Meeting to require the Council to set specific benchmarks and targets each year up to 2030 to encourage the modal shift in behaviour.

Devolution for Suffolk without need for unitaries? Suffolk county council and the districts have together expressed an interest in talking further with Jenrick on this. There is already a Suffolk leaders group in place which includes the CCGs and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Suffolk Biodiversity policy development panel - some basic terms of reference were agreed - including reversing biodiversity losses by 2030. There is a different regime for verge management as well as moving towards phasing out the use of glyphosate on the pavements in Suffolk's towns (and potential county farm land and SCC property). Babergh are already trialling use of acetic acid and West Suffolk are trialling FoamStream which uses an organic foam to smother the weeds on pavements. Kier currently cut the verges for us but their contract runs out in 2023 so there is an opportunity here. They also looked at changing the management regime on rural verges so that clippings are taken away (with use of cutter collectors). It was agreed that the council would examine costs and alternatives and draw up some proposals. They also discussed the harm salting the roads is likely to be causing ecosystems and the ground water. Much salt is currently spread on Suffolk roads that don't end up needing it. But there are new technologies which allow authorities to monitor temperature by individual lorry route, allowing a big reduction in salt use.

4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Leigh Jamieson was not present but he submitted a report - **Planning** - A recent planning application for a Gas Fired power station in Sudbury was rejected narrowly by committee. Both the ward councillors, Clive Arthey and Margaret Maybury and the Parish Council were opposed to the application and Councillor Robert Lindsay attended as an objector. I put forward a proposal to reject the application, while Peter Beer proposed that we approve. Both proposals were tied 5-5 with the Committee chairman rejecting the application with his casting vote.

Angel Court Hadleigh The former Angel Court care home in Angel Street, Hadleigh has been converted into 21 new homes, all available as social housing, helping lower income house-hunters find a home of their own. The development, funded by Babergh District Council and Homes England, is a mix of one and two-bedroom flats – offering affordable rent (below market rate) and shared ownership options to residents – as well as adding a further nine homes to Babergh's council housing stock.

Devolution Public sector leaders in Suffolk have written to the Secretary of State responsible for local government to say they welcome early discussions with Ministers about a possible devolution deal for Suffolk. In a joint letter sent to Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Babergh's Cllr John Ward and Mid Suffolk's Cllr Suzie Morley, joined leaders of all of Suffolk's six councils and Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore, seeking early discussion over devolved decision-making powers and public funding for the county.

Afghan refugees On Wednesday 18 August, the Government announced its new resettlement scheme for Afghan refugees. Whilst the full details are yet to be confirmed, it is crystal clear that the Government needs local authorities everywhere to step up and support this national effort. All councils in Suffolk are committed to this cause. In the coming days and weeks, the district, borough, and county councils will continue working with the Government to do what we can to aid vulnerable refugees.

Local Energy Showcase will champion green businesses The Local Energy Showcase, organised by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, will promote how different types of energy can be used by communities and businesses help reduce their impact on the environment, lower costs and contribute to the fight against climate change. The event, which takes place on the 21st and 22nd October at Wherstead Park, is open to all businesses with an interest in finding out more about local energy solutions and as well as community groups and parishes who would like to understand and explore the benefits of using local energy solutions.

Babergh agrees funding to identify wildlife corridors Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have given the green light for £72k - £32,849 and £38,678 respectively - to go towards biodiversity mapping and a tree canopy survey across both districts.

- 09.21.05 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Chairman updated members of the council on progress with regard to the footpath on Whatfield Road.
Car Park Resurfacing – the Chairman confirmed that the village hall car park had been resurfaced during the school holidays.
Boundary Commission – Although Elmsett along with Aldham PC opposed the proposal to join the Brook constituency, the Boundary Commission have not changed their recommendation.
The Chairman reported on the meeting of the Elmsett Eco Group who will be writing to the parish council regarding wildflower planting within the village.
Car Parking Consultation Babergh/Mid Suffolk – Chairman reminded the meeting that this closes on 15 October.
The Chairman confirmed that the parish council has purchased a new computer and software and that files were being transferred.
The Council had received notifications from Babergh DC re consultations on Gambling Act and Hackney Carriage Act.
Babergh District has advised of funding for litter/dog bins 'Welcome Back Funding'. The clerk has responded requesting a dog and litter bin and additional litter pickers, including child size.
Emergency Plan – the Chairman had located the equipment to be used in an emergency which will now be stored in the village hall. It was also agreed that the Plan needs to be updated. Fiona Watt agreed to start on the update.
- 09.21.06 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Members of the village hall management team together with the Secretary of the Hadleigh Football Team, outlined the condition of the pavilion on the Rectory Meadow and the decision to condemn the building. They are actively seeking funding to have a new building and have a meeting next week with Babergh DC. They said that the Football Club is anxious to support the project as they need the facility so that they can continue playing. They also pointed out that there would be a meeting room which other groups may hire.
- 09.21.07 **VILLAGE HALL/PAVILION:** Having heard from the representatives of the village hall management committee the parish council discussed what assistance might be available from the Parish. It was agreed that further information would be required and to wait until the VH committee have spoken to Babergh regarding funding avenues but to place an item on the agenda for the next meeting.
- 09.21.08 **HEDGE MAINTENANCE AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY:** Andrew Morton reported on progress being made with both landowners and Suffolk County Council to improve the public rights of way in the village. He also mentioned that there are a number of other paths being walked that are not part of the official network and therefore are not the responsibility of the County Council. He also confirmed that he would be organising a Litter Pick on 30 October.
- 09.21.09 **CORRESPONDENCE:** BDC – Notification of consultation on Parking Strategy. BDC – Updated car parking charges. And invitation from BDC to Suffolk energy-from-waste facility virtual tours 10th & 11th September. SALC an invitation to attend a meeting regarding Festival of Suffolk which will be a celebration of Suffolk during The Queen's historic Platinum Jubilee.

BDC – notification of SALC forum on 9 September.

09.21.10 **REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF POLICIES AND CONTROL SYSTEMS:**
The following Policies were presented for review and were adopted – Code of Conduct, Wildlife Policy, Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Risk Assessment, Subject Access policy, Data Protection and Information Management Policy, Website Accessibility and Internal Control Statement. Clerk to insert SAR within the Data Protection Policy and to prepare a register for requests.

09.21.11 **FINANCE:** The following invoices were verified for payment and cheques signed –

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Hitchcock	Grasscutting x 3	195.00		Open Spaces Act 1906
A Morton(Reimburse)	Printing & Copying	21.50		LGA 1972
A Newman(Reimburse)	Laptop & software	704.97		LGA 1972
Elmsett & Aldham VH	Hire	22.00		LGA 1972
Bus Serv at CAS				
Ltd	Ins Renewal	226.11		LGA 1972
Taydal	Carpark resurfacing	11,827.20		CIL
T Hitchcock	Cutting triangles	40.00		Open Spaces Act 1906

In accordance with the insurance renewal, the Asset register was reviewed and values confirmed. It was agreed that members should check the need for any maintenance. The clerk also produced a copy of the budget for review against expenditure (to be brought forward to next meeting)

06.21.12 **PLANNING: DC/21/00060** Installation of renewable led energy generating station comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with substation, inverter/transformer stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements including Nature Areas Location: Land To The East Of The Channel, Burstall Hill – Members of the Council discussed the application and had no further comments to add to previous responses to similar applications.

DC/20/05895- Installation of renewable energy generating station, comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with substation, inverter/transformer stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements including Nature Areas. Location: Land to the South of Church Farm, Somersham, and Land to the East of The Channel, Burstall. – Response as above.

06.21.13 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:.** Next meetings to be held on 19 October, 2021 and 30 November at the village hall.

The meeting closed

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