

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

- 12.21.00 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Andrew Morton, Nick Bird, John Sones, Andrew Woodgate, Fiona Watt, Paul Firman, District Councillor L Jamieson, County Councillor R Lindsay and the clerk was present
- 12.21.01 **APOLOGIES:** No apologies
- 12.21.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 12.21.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November were signed as an accurate record.
- 12.21.04 **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Footway, Whatfield Road**
Robert has pushed again on this with the county council solicitor who is still waiting for internal sign off.
Hadleigh Quarry – The appeal by the quarry developers was allowed by the planning inspector in a decision in mid-November. This means their application to expand the quarry can go ahead.
County council buildings to be made carbon neutral. The Cabinet met on the 9th November, and unanimously voted in favour of a £12.8m investment into ensuring Council buildings become carbon neutral. This is in response to the Council's climate emergency, declared back in 2019, and includes offices, fire stations, libraries, and other buildings owned by Suffolk County Council. Schools are not a part of this investment, as the Council do not have budgetary control over their buildings, but they are working to provide support via knowledge sharing.
A12 widening The Cabinet nodded through recommendations outlined for the Dept for Transport's A12 Major Network Project, which would include dualling a stretch of current single carriage road north of Woodbridge. The Cabinet committed to spending £10m on drawing up a full business case for the £57m project and is hoping the Department for Transport and local developers will contribute much of the balance. The project includes a short stretch of cycle lane, and some footbridges. My group have brought up issues of large areas of natural beauty (including many oaks by the side of the A12) being cut down to incentivise more personal vehicle use.
Speed limits and road safety - full Council Meeting 2nd December
Our Group were able to submit two motions to council since Labour did not submit their allowed quota of one. Our first motion calls on the County Council to urge Suffolk police to publicly commit to enforcing 20mph zones, in light of the newly amended Highway Code, which makes clear that all speed limits within a red circle are obligatory – including a 20mph limit. Our second motion asks the County Council to confirm its responsibility to making our roads safer for Suffolk residents and visitors, by committing to further education, enforcement, and engineering. Further commitments include expanding the Bikeability scheme, meaningful engagement via a visit from a Road Safety Specialist to every school at least once every academic year, and more coordination between services. **Both motions were passed unanimously at full council on 2nd December.**

Shortage of Flu Jabs in East On the 26th November, my political group met with Stuart Keeble, the Director of Public Health at Suffolk County Council to discuss recent shortages of flu jabs reported in Suffolk. It was confirmed by Mr Keeble that there is a regional issue with the supply of flu jabs, and that the entire East of England is experiencing this. Our Group was concerned that Suffolk's agencies would not be able to provide the flu vaccine to all that fit the Government's new broadened criteria for those who are now eligible for a free flu jab. For further details on the new criteria for a flu jab, please see here: [National flu immunisation programme 2021 to 2022 letter - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92112/national-flu-immunisation-programme-2021-to-2022-letter.pdf)

4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Babergh parking charges postponed Plans to introduce new car parking tariffs, including an hour's free parking, in Babergh car parks from January next year, have been postponed, which means that improvements due to be funded by car park income, such as signage, resurfacing and access improvement works, active travel improvements, and extended resident parking permit schemes, are also expected to be delayed.

Joint Local Plan delayed The hearings that are part of the examination process have been postponed. The process hit a roadblock during the hearing that looked at spacial distribution and site selection. The inspector expressed concerns about how the decisions were made to discount some proposed allocations. The inspector now requires more evidence to satisfy him that the process was robust. To achieve this the Council now have to revisit and review all 600 of the rejected allocation sites. This work will take a year to complete and may result in more sites in our market towns and along the Ipswich fringe being accepted.

National Tree Week Last year the council put out a call to Parishes and Towns to apply for free trees and hedgerow plants to plant on their own publicly accessible land. With tree planting season in full swing, nearly 300 locally sourced trees and over 4,600 hedgerow plants are being planted across Babergh and Mid Suffolk, thanks to the local tree planting scheme launched in 2020. The scheme is due to reopen for applications for 2022 planting schemes in the New Year. Guidance around eligibility and how to apply will be sent out to all town and parish councils and posted on the councils' website.

12.21.05 **FOOTWAY, WHATFIELD ROAD:** .Progress is still being made, Chairman to organises a meeting between highways and the parish council in the new year to finalise the provision.

12.21.06 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** The chairman reported that he had contacted Ipswich Parks Department regarding carrying out a tree survey on all trees in the ownership of the parish council. They confirmed that this would be done in the new year.
The Chairman reported that he had attended the meeting with the ECO group.

He confirmed that Babergh had delivered litter pickers, vests and bags and were arranging to erect a litter and dog bin as part of the 'welcome back' funding. Clerk to thank Babergh.

12.21.07

FOOTPATHS: Andrew Morton reported on the recent meeting he had attended with Suffolk County Council’s Rights of Way team when a number of issues regarding the state of the footpaths was discussed:-

‘Discovering Suffolk’ Project – Should start in the new year and will involve installing plaques on existing marker posts. Plaque has a ‘Q’ code that can be read using a smart phone. Gives details of the route and points of interest. Is an attempt to get younger people interested in using the RoW network.

Regarding missing and damaged RoW marker posts - SCC RoW Team have confirmed that their priority (due to lack of funds) is to replace missing/damaged finger posts where routes cross roads. Intermediate way marker posts not a priority but could be dealt with by the PC if we wished to.

Undocumented diversion on the footpath linking Whatfield Road (Haslemere Farm) and Rookery Road (Boarded Barn) to be investigated and dealt with by SCC.

The overgrown state of the bridleway along Corn Hatches Lane to be dealt with in January. A programme of work has been agreed between SCC RoW and the landowner.

12.21.08

FINANCE: The following invoices were verified for payment and signed

RoSPA	Play Eqt Inspection	103.20	LGA 1972
SALC	Cllr Training	30.00	LGA 1972
Elmsett & Aldham VH	50% cost of cutting Meadow	600.00	Open Spaces Act 1906
Elmsett & Aldham VH	Hire 7-12	22.00	LGA 1972

The clerk had prepared and circulated a copy of the proposed budget for the year 22-23. It was agreed to include a sum for software and to increase the sum for hire of hall to also include zoom licence. It was proposed and agreed with one abstention to request a sum of £10,640 as being the precept requirement. (copy attached)

12.21.09

DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS: 18 January, 2022, 1 March, 12 April, 24 May, 28 June, 26 July, 13 September, 25 October and 6 December. at the village hall.

The meeting closed

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