

Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council meeting held on 11 January, 2021 via Zoom.

- 01.21.01 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Nick Bird, John Sones, Stan Coram, Andrew Woodgate, Andrew Morton, Fiona Watt, District Councillor L Jamieson, County Councillor Robert Lindsay, the clerk and one member of the public was present.
- 01.21.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Nick Bird declared an interest under planning – Mill Farm, Hadleigh Road. A note was made in the Interest Book.
- 01.21.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 December were signed as an accurate record.
- 01.21.04 **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – Robert's report was previously circulated - **Green budget amendments for county council 2021-22 budget** The county is currently preparing its budget for 2021-22 and my political group – LDGI - is planning a few amendments. We have chosen three key priorities for our budget amendment: Warm homes, Supporting community groups and charities through the pandemic, and Income generation & the climate emergency. We will be proposing multiple projects and policy decisions around these three key themes.

**Views wanted on the new Suffolk Streets Guide** The county is currently running a consultation on its proposed Streets Guide, which will assist with the design of new housing estates showing how best to create road layouts that promote walking and cycling. A new Street Guide has been commissioned to update guidance for residential streets. Comments on the draft guide are welcomed and there is a survey to complete. The consultation closes at 5pm on 10th February 2021.

Link: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/planning-and-development-advice/suffolk-design-streets-guide/>

#### **Consultation on the Suffolk Climate Change Action Plan**

In November and December SCC ran a series of six online workshops for invitees from the six sectors on the Suffolk Climate Action Plan. They were each video recorded and can be viewed online

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/initiatives/pledge-to-climate-emergency-declaration/>

The public are being asked to give their own feedback on online forms to each sector.

- Sustainable Buildings
- Large Industrial & Commercial Energy Users
- Transport & Air Quality
- Small Industrial & Commercial Energy Users
- Energy & Planning
- Community Action & Schemes

#### 4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - Car Parking Charge

The Cabinet were due to make a decision on the implementation of Car Parking charges across the district on the 7<sup>th</sup> January. Following public outcry and the submission of a valid petition, this has now been deferred until the February Cabinet meeting. This allows members to debate the decision at both Overview and Scrutiny on the 18<sup>th</sup> January and at Full Council, the following day.

The main charges causing concern are –

Sudbury Main car parks	Hadleigh Main Car Parks
30 mins Free	30 mins Free
1 hour 50p	3 hours £1
2 hours £1	
3 hours £2	

**Vehicle Fleet** Cabinet have agreed to move to using HVO.

The Council will now procure a supplier for the provision of HVO fuel and the supply and installation of a fuel tank at Chilton Depot, Sudbury. The storage tank will cost the Council approx. £50K but will be the only expense. HVO is an alternative way to produce high-quality bio-type diesel fuels without altering the vehicles themselves. These fuels are colloquially referred to as “renewable diesel fuels” instead of “biodiesel”.

**Precept Survey** Last year the government gave PCCs the ability to raise the policing element of the precept by up to £15 per annum for a Band D property for the next financial year. Suffolk's PCC, Tim Passmore, is proposing to use this maximum increase. It is said that this extra funding will provide in the region of 70 additional police officers recruited to the force in the next financial year. A survey to gauge the public response to his proposal opened on the 5<sup>th</sup> January and closes on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Fees and Charges 2021/22** The 2021/22 schedule for fees and charges was agreed at Cabinet on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Fees and charges are an important source of income to the Council, enabling important services to be sustained and provided. In 2021/22 Babergh's fees and charges are budgeted at £4.0m, which is 12% of the Council's gross expenditure. In addition to the proposed parking charges mentioned above other key changes/increases relate to licensing, the green environment (bins and dog bins) and household waste.

01.21.05 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Helping Hands** – The Chairman reported on the recent meeting held between members of the two churches, members of the two parish councils, District Councillor and volunteers to resurrect the above. He introduced Liz Cope who had chaired that meeting to explain the reasons for it. She said it was felt that with the 'lock-down' being re-introduced and that we are now in tier 4 there may again be isolated incidents of need/hardship. In an attempt to reach those it was agreed to produce a flyer to be delivered to all households in both parishes – Elmsett and Aldham. Whilst it was felt that shopping etc had been taken care of, loneliness was probably the main problem. The chairman thanked Liz and all those involved for their contribution.

The parish council agreed to place the item on the agenda again depending on the responses from the distribution of the leaflets

**New Footway Whatfield Road** - The chairman reported that the County Council had not responded to an email sent before the Christmas break, County Councillor said he would take this up.

**Litter Pick** – A request had been made that the parish council should consider doing a litter pick as there was a considerable amount of litter accumulating. Whist members felt that it was frustrating to see, now was not the time to put people at risk by asking them to carry out a litter pick. It was agreed that in the meantime a note be placed in the newsletter reminding people of their responsibility to take home their litter.

01.21.06 **WILDLIFE POLICY:** Parish Councillor John Sones was keen for the parish council to introduce a wildlife policy. The clerk had contacted SALC but they did not have a template or model policy. It was agreed that John should produce a draft policy for the council to consider.

01.21.07 **FINANCE:** Accounts due – invoice agreed to be signed as shown below, once monthly invoices were received from VHMC

VHMC	£550 50% of grasscutting Rectory Meadow		
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**Precept 2021-22** – Information from Babergh regarding this year’s precept showing a 4.6% increase had been seen by members of the Council. Although it was noted that there would be a grant from Babergh it was proposed to precept for the same amount as the previous year - £10,400. This was agreed by all members of the council.

01.21.08 **PLANNING:** DC/20/05886 - Erection of 1No dwelling and associated parking (following demolition of redundant outbuildings) - Mill Farm, Hadleigh Road, Elmsett – members of the council considered the previous permission at this site for conversion of the existing building to a residential dwelling and resolved that they did not wish to restrict the grant of permission for this application.

01.21.09 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** 15 February, 22 March, 19 April, 17 May, 14 June, 19 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December.

The meeting closed

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