

Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council meeting held on 15 February, 2021 via Zoom.

02.21.01 **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, and the clerk was present.

02.21.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no declarations of interest.

02.21.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 January and the Planning Meeting of 8 February were signed as accurate records.

02.21.04 **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** – Robert's report was previously circulated - **County precept** - The county council agreed to raise the precept on the council tax for 20/21 for the general budget by 1.99% and by 2% for social care (below the 3% maximum allowed). The council is assuming about £41m extra spending over the previous year and so is taking £16.7m from "risk reserves" to balance the budget. **Green budget amendments for county council 2021-22 budget** – Robert's group LDGI – proposed a few amendments to highlight the areas where they thought the county needed to focus more resources and attention to. They proposed using the full 3% rise in social care precept in order to fund these and reduce the amount that has to be taken from reserves. However, this was voted down.

He had still not heard from highways about refilling the grit bins.

In answer to a question he was still awaiting a response from highways, who are seeking legal advice, regarding the footway on Whatfield Road. Robert will chase.

4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Leigh had previously circulated his report - **Car parking** - Cabinet met on the 4th and resolved to approve the implementation of charges in Hadleigh, Sudbury and Pin Mill. The revised proposals were generally the same, but instead of 30minutes free parking an hour's free parking was agreed and will begin no earlier than 1st October. Members of the cabinet also agreed that the strategy should ensure that a proportion of the income generated will be allocated to deliver sustainable travel.

General fund budget 2021/22 and four-year outlook -The Cabinet approved that proposals for 2021/22 and four-year outlook set out in the report be endorsed. The General Fund Budget for 2021/22 is based on an increase to Council Tax of £5 per annum (10p per week) for a Band D property, which is equivalent to 2.96%. The transformation fund reserves in the General Fund currently stand at £775,000.

Housing revenue account (hra) budget 2021/22 and four-year Outlook - Cabinet also agreed to send the HRA Budget proposals for 2021/22 for approval. This report includes a CPI + 1% increase of 1.5% in Council House rents, equivalent to an average rent increase of £1.35 a week. That Sheltered Housing Service charges be increased by £0.69 per week to ensure recovery of the actual cost of service. That in principle, Right to Buy (RTB) receipts should be retained to enable continued development and acquisition of new council dwellings.

The HRA reserves currently stand at £12.167M.

Adoption of the revised table of fares for hackney carriages After a protracted debate at cabinet and licencing committee the Council has approved new taxi fares. The basic rate for daytime fares will increase by 20p from £3.00 to £3.20. Night rates will start at £4.80 and apply between 11pm and 7am instead of between midnight and 6am.

- 02.21.05 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Chairman confirmed the meeting to discuss the two Solar Farm planning applications would be via zoom on 1 March. In answer to a question he confirmed that residents who volunteer to spread grit/salt should contact the clerk to be added to the list for Suffolk County Council's insurance.
- 02.21.06 **WILDLIFE POLICY:** Parish Councillor John Sones had drafted a policy which was circulated to all members of the council. Andrew Morton had supplied a map which had been included. It was agreed to adopt the policy. Which will be placed on the parish website. It was noted that the policy confirms that the Squeech does not have a right of way.
- 02.21.07 **FINANCE:** Training for councillors – Andrew Morton confirmed he was interested in attending some of the SALC training days. It was agreed that as these dates are filling up he should apply direct to enable getting his preferred dates.
- Robert Lindsay reported that he had met with Joy Moran, Hadleigh Community Transport and donated £1,000 from his locality budget to support 461/462 bus route.
- 02.21.08 **PLANNING: DC/21/00704** - Erection of single storey rear extension – Rookery Farm Bungalow, Manor Road - members resolved that they did not wish to restrict the grant of permission for this application
- 02.21.09 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** 22 March, 19 April, 17 May, 14 June, 19 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December.

The meeting closed

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