

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 18 January at the Elmsett and Aldham Village Hall.

- 01.22.00     **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Andrew Morton, Nick Bird, John Sones, Andrew Woodgate, , Paul Firman, District Councillor L Jamieson, County Councillor R Lindsay and the clerk was present
- 01.22.01     **APOLOGIES:** Fiona Watt (work commitments)
- 01.22.02     **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 01.22.03     **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December were signed as an accurate record.
- 01.22.04     **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** County Councillor reported -  
**Platinum Jubilee Road Closures** - the website will show details of the procedure.  
**Cabinet Meeting** - The Cabinet met on the 7<sup>th</sup> December and agreed additional £20m to replace broken pipes, new installations, and the maintenance of selected footways. The Council wish to enter a contractual agreement with a private developer, aiming to deliver up to 3,000 new homes across Suffolk, using former county farmland near Mildenhall and Lowestoft.  
**Scrutiny Meeting on SEND Report** - The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met to discuss the damning SEND report. A new report from the SEND services was presented, which included extended training, newly appointed managerial posts, and new accountability structures to help deal with the issues outlined in the previous report.  
**Significant Investment in Firefighting Equipment** - Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has recently added to its lifesaving kit. A significant investment has enabled improved digital radios, smoke hoods and smoke curtains to be provided to every crew in the county. This equipment can be used in a range of incidents, with it already proving invaluable in Lowestoft, when two occupants were rescued after a kitchen fire. Although crews are ready to attend emergencies with this new kit, it's important that every home has its own lifesaving equipment – smoke alarms, which should be fitted and tested regularly.  
For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/significant-investment-in-firefighting-equipment-secures-safer-future-for-suffolk>  
**Free Bus and Taxi Services for All Travelling for a Vaccination** - Stuart Keeble, the Director of Public Health at Suffolk County Council, expanded the 'Vaxi Taxi' service to all members of the public. in order to get to their appointment for a first, second or booster vaccination. Following request from GoStart, operator of the 112 bus, I have asked that community bus operators be included on the list of services that can be awarded these contracts. GoStart has been taking people for vaccinations for some time, without receiving anything from the county.  
**Suffolk budget proposals – 4% council precept rise, below the 5% cap** - Suffolk County Council is proposing a 4% rise in council tax for next year. This is made up of the maximum 2% they are allowed on general budget and 2% rise for social care precept (below the 3% cap they are allowed). They had a similar rise last year. They are having to dip into reserves to meet a

forecast budget deficit for the year. Savings they were hoping to make by implementing new ways of working particularly with Special Educational Needs and adult social care – have not happened as soon as they would like.

**4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** The District Councillor reported - **Joint Local Plan** - Concerns were raised by the inspector during the examination hearings, The council will review site allocations and a full review of policies will take some time to complete. The JLP will be split into two parts with the remaining policies in Part 1 of the JLP continuing through the examination process. This will allow the council to have a new local plan in place at the earliest opportunity. The initial ask is for the council to identify an upper and lower figure for housing need within the district.

**Cabinet overturns Audit committee recommendation.** The leading councillors on Babergh and Mid Suffolk Council's joint cabinet have, in a private meeting, overturned a unanimous recommendation by their joint audit committee to look at divesting investments that contribute to carbon emissions. When cabinet members were privately briefed about the recommendation by officers, they insisted on changing the recommendation to one that asks the cabinet to simply "monitor" the funds as standards "develop" and consider changing investments at an undefined "appropriate time".

**Warmer Homes** - Babergh has received funding from the Government's Sustainable Warmth Competition after a successful bid by district councils in Suffolk. The funding is designed to support improvements to low income, low energy efficiency rated homes and will allow the council to install measures including solar panels, air source heat pumps, as well as a variety of home insulation.

**Neighbourhood Plan pilot** - Babergh will be part of a pilot scheme to allow residents an easier way to shape and influence development in their area. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced that Babergh will be chosen as part of a pilot scheme to boost participation in neighbourhood planning. The councils will now receive an award of £45,000 in Government funding to go towards a new post, designed to encourage even more people in the districts to engage with the planning system.

**Leisure Centres renewable energy drive** - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are halfway through installing £2.8m worth of green energy measures at their leisure centres.

**Christmas Holiday schemes** - During the Christmas holidays Babergh and partners worked with a range of partners to deliver the varied programme of activities to help families through the festive period as part of the Government's holiday activities and food programme.

Andrew Morton reminded the District Councillor about the state of Garrards Road caused by vehicles parking on the verge. He said that he would chase this up again.

01.22.05

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Chairman confirmed that he would renew Zoom subscription to enable the council to hold informal meetings.

He reported that he would be attending the teams meeting to be held by Babergh Planning on 19 January as they have the application at Hadleigh Road for 41 dwellings on their agenda. Councillors agreed that he should emphasise no street lighting, parking of vehicles adjacent the entrance to the dwellings and the dangers of the frontage ditch.

He acknowledged the receipt of the update on the large solar applications from Babergh which was felt to be very useful.

The Chairman also confirmed that two planning applications had been dealt with since the last meeting - DC/21/06732 - Erection of a rear extension. Mallards, Hadleigh Road and DC/21/06835 - Erection of single storey rear extension.- Ryecroft, The Street. The response to both was no reason to restrict the grant of permission.

- 01.22.06 **FOOTWAY WHATFIELD ROAD:** Chairman reported that the legal consultant who had been working with the parish had recently been hospitalised, so a meeting had been postponed. A further meeting is to be arranged when possible.
- 01.22.07 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS** Andy Morton commented on the state of The Green which was being damaged by moles. It was agreed to get advice from the contractor who cuts the Green and to get a quote from a pest controller.  
John Sones reported on the condition of the bus shelter – agreed to look further to see if any remedial action should be taken.  
Clerk to create a list showing assets and councillor to be responsible for checking condition.
- 01.22.08 **QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS:** A note has been placed in the newsletter asking for ideas from residents. The Chairman had spoken to the owners of the shop and pub as they would be affected should there be a street party and both parties had been amenable to having celebrations adjacent. Sasha from the shop had been particularly interested and said that she would be prepared to help organise.  
Ideas from the floor were planting a tree, repainting the village sign.  
District Councillor said that there was likely to be some funding forthcoming to help finance celebrations.
- 01.22.09 **FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS:** Paul Firman highlighted the fact that there was no separate collection in the village although it has been mooted that there is a five-year plan to introduce a scheme locally. There was discussion on selective use of compost bins and changes being introduced to ‘use by’ dates. He was thanked for raising the issue.
- 01.22.10 **FINANCE:** The following invoice was verified for payment and signed
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|---------------------|---------------|--------|----------|
| Elmsett & Aldham VH | Hire 18-01-22 | £22.00 | LGA 1972 |
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- 01.22.11 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** 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