

Minutes of the Remote Parish Council meeting held on 29 June, 2020 via Zoom.

06.20.00 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Nick Bird, John Sones, Andrew Woodgate, Andrew Morton, District Councillor L Jamieson, County Councillor Robert Lyndsay, one member of the public and the clerk was present.

06.20.01 **APOLOGIES:** Stan Coram and Fiona Watt (unable to join).

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

06.20.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 18th May, 2020 were signed as an accurate record.

06.20.04 **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Robert's report had been distributed to councillors prior to the meeting - **New footway south side Whatfield Road** The design of this, between the pond and junction with Hadleigh Road, which was commissioned when the county council received the £26k from the developer, is "ongoing" and Highways will be urged to make it a priority. **Virtual meetings, attendance of public** Like Babergh, the county's equivalent of planning meetings (Development and Regulation) is meeting online and making decisions as normal. Members of the public can speak at these meetings (to object or support) as normal after this was initially ruled out due to IT issues. **Traffic calming measures to protect walkers/cyclists** Hadleigh Town Council and Sudbury TC and a few villages, including Lavenham, have taken advantage of this emergency funding to get traffic measures installed including 20mph limit and one way traffic organised. **Cycling** On 16 June, the county council cabinet approved a new costed, prioritised list of cycle routes around the county. **Suffolk Pension fund** At the last pension committee meeting on June 1 we heard that the value of the Suffolk Pension Fund fell by £327m in the quarter January to March 2020, to £2.802bn, a drop of just over 10%, as stock markets, led by oil stocks, plummeted in the wake of the pandemic Since the quarter end the markets and the fund has recovered slightly with an increase of £170m to £2.976bn at the end of May.

In January, before the plunge began, SCC completed the transfer of £260m from three ordinary tracker funds into a low carbon "Climate Aware" tracker. The low carbon tracker lost 16% in the quarter while the 3 funds transferred from lost 21%, 17% and 21%.

4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Funding for Babergh Communities Communities across Babergh received funding of nearly £300,000 this month. Projects in Sudbury, Newton and Chelsworth shared funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The project in Chelsworth was particularly pleasing as it was one that I was involved in and involved a substantial contribution from CIL and the communities' team. The money will help the village regenerate the church into a community centre.

While Chelsworth had no Neighbourhood CIL themselves, Elmsett currently has £15,000 and as the funding above shows, Babergh will be happy to contribute to communities from the local infrastructure fund.

Environment proposals The Environmental task force set up last year have now finalised a set of proposals to help Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils achieve their ambition of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. Cabinets for both councils are due to meet next month to consider the proposals. If agreed, the proposals will form the councils' first Carbon Reduction Management Plan, setting out how they aim to fulfil their ambitions of becoming carbon neutral within the next ten years.

The proposed actions are the first steps in achieving the long term objective to reduce the councils' current emissions of approximately 5,452 tonnes (Mt) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) per year, looking into how best to invest in order to reduce this to net zero.

The task force has taken expert advice on which areas to target first for the greatest impact

Headline proposals include:

- Exploring the use of the councils' owned or controlled commercial estates, for renewable energy generation schemes, solar ports, and battery storage
- Working with the councils' leisure providers to move towards both green tariff energy, and the buildings becoming less energy intensive to operate
- Transitioning existing diesel-powered waste and fleet vehicles to a more sustainable fuel source such as waste vegetable oil, with a longer-term ambition with partners to introduce electric or hydrogen fuelled vehicles
- Identifying further efficiencies and opportunities for waste collections in line with the Government's anticipated Environment Bill
- Introducing an electric vehicle charging plan, cooperatively with our wider partners, to explore opportunities for expanding EV charging infrastructure in the districts
- Actively encouraging a digital-first culture at the councils and exploring incentives to reduce staff mileage
- Increasing tree and hedgerow planting and coverage across the district
- Ensuring new and current council housing is as efficient and environmentally friendly as possible, whilst also working more proactively with private housing developers to build sustainable communities
- Working with partners to improve the infrastructure necessary to increase sustainable travel in our key towns and beyond
- Continue to work on Suffolk-wide initiatives with our partner authorities through the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership and Suffolk Waste Partnership along with other business or academic organisations

While the proposals go a long way to improve the position of the council the original motion was to reduce the carbon used by the council and that has been looked at, but it shows little ambition to reducing carbon usage in the wider community.

Premier Inn Sudbury As published in the press recently Whitbread have pulled out of the deal to take on a hotel, for their Premier Inn chain, in Belle Vue park, Sudbury following the financial downturn caused by the coronavirus crisis. .New ideas for the park are now being looked into

06.20.05 **CORRESPONDENCE** – Correction to minutes of the meeting held on 2 March. The minutes referred to a ‘Permissive Right of Way’ adjacent St Peters Church, Offton Road. Councillors agreed that this should read permissive path. A note to be made to the minute of 2 March.

06.20.06 **FINANCE:** Accounts Due – invoices were verified (having been previously circulated electronically) cheques were made out to be signed as shown below. The clerk to make arrangements for signature.

A Newman	Zoom Reg May	14.39	LGA 1972
SALC	Internal Audit	234.00	LGA 1972
A Newman	Zoom Reg June	14.39	LGA 1972
T Hitchcock	Grasscutting	100.00	Open Spaces Act 1906

The clerk had produced a bank reconciliation which was approved by Councillors.

The clerk confirmed that SALC had carried out the internal audit. Their report was circulated to all councillors. Section 2 of the Accounting Statement was approved by council and signed by the Chairman. The clerk to put all the documents on the website.

Councillors discussed the merits of an annual subscription to Zoom. Agreed to place on the agenda of the next meeting.

06.20.07 **PLANNING:** Appcn - DC/20/02428 - Erection of single storey side extension - 2 Manor Road, Elmsett – the parish council resolved not to restrict grant of permission.

06.20.08 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** It was agreed that the next meeting would be in September unless there was a need for a meeting to discuss planning. Details to be announced on the website and parish noticeboard. It was agreed to put a note in the newsletter to confirm that the parish council was holding virtual meetings via zoom and to contact the clerk for joining details.

The meeting closed

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