

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 29 June 2021 at the Elmsett and Aldham Village Hall.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman reminded everyone of the restrictions in place and the need to register attendance. Social distancing was being maintained as well as the wearing of masks.

- 06.21.01     **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Andrew Morton,(Andrew signed a declaration of acceptance as Vice Chairman) Nick Bird, John Sones, Andrew Woodgate, Fiona Watt, County Councillor Robert Lindsay District Councillor L Jamieson, a rep from the VHMC, a member of the public and the clerk was present.
- 06.21.02     **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 06.21.03     **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 17 May were signed as an accurate record.
- 06.21.04     **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:** – Robert confirmed that he was re-elected last month and is deputy leader of the group for the first year. The first council meeting at the end of May took place at Wherstead Park, as apparently the only venue large enough. The meeting in July has been cancelled and an extra meeting will be held in September in the hope that restrictions will have lifted and a venue can be found by then.
- New cabinet** The cabinet has been reshuffled and new roles created.
- School travel and split villages and split siblings** I have written to Rachel Hood as the relevant new cabinet member about the issue of split villages and siblings, asking if the policy could be reviewed. She has said she will talk to the senior officer regarding this and get back to me.
- Special educational needs (SEND) Review** Rachel Hood’s first act as education and SEND cabinet member is to order an independent review into the way parents and carers are communicated with by Suffolk County Council. A SEND team from Lincolnshire County Council has been appointed to do the job. They started week beginning June 21 and will take six weeks.
- Some parents and carers of children with SEND - known as the Campaign for Change (SEND Suffolk) – have called for a lawyer-led audit of the council’s compliance with the legal requirements set out for the service. Suffolk County Council has refused since it says it is the role of Ofsted to inspect such aspects, as they have been doing. The SEND service has been criticised for failing or delaying to provide needs assessments for children that may have special needs, and then when they are drawn up, failure to provide the actual services that they need.
- Bus Back Better** Government has given Suffolk county council a series of tight deadlines over the next few months if it wants to benefit from a pot for bus funding. It must agree “enhanced partnerships” with commercial bus operators by the autumn which detail how they will invest to improve services. However, this does not appear to affect large parts of rural

areas like ours where bus services are already non-existent or minimal and largely dependent on dial a ride services.

Andrew Morton asked CC Lindsay about the reporting tool used by SCC. He wondered whether there could be a facility to show when a job had been carried out and also an area to thank them when the job is complete.

**4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Leigh reported on: **Virtual High Street** Over 100 new businesses have signed up to the Virtual High Street as the site launches in Hadleigh and Stowmarket, joining over 130 already signed up to the platform in Sudbury. This allows shoppers to shop local at a range of high street stores, independent retailers, and market stalls, as well as cafes and restaurants. Customers will be able to visit their local shops online to browse stock, place orders and arrange click and collect or a delivery from home or on the move.

**Joint Local Plan Examination** It is anticipated that the Stage 1 hearings sessions scheduled for June and July will now take place over a concentrated period from September and it is envisaged that the Stage 2 hearing sessions will continue to be able to take place in mid-Autumn as originally planned.

Appropriate notice will be provided to all who made a representation to the Regulation 19 consultation, so they can participate in the hearings. Further information for anyone who wishes to follow the proceedings will be published on the councils' dedicated Joint Local Plan examination webpage nearer the time.

The change of dates does not alter the status of the Joint Local Plan regarding weight in the planning decision making process.

**CIFCO** This summer the Council will review the CIFCO annual business plan. While the property investment company have brought in more than £5.4m to help fund services and projects for residents in Babergh and Mid Suffolk, the strategy of borrowing to generate income is still controversial and does not garner unanimous approval. Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk Greens have been particularly outspoken on this topic.

Putting the Councils in to debt to get a return may be seen to be working, but it is not without risk. CIFCO have already had to wipe off £240,000 in debt from unpaid rent. This concern is shared by the Government who have now banned this type of income generation for Local Authorities.

**Locality Award Fund** Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' have again made money available for Locality Awards funding – enabling communities to improve facilities, learn new skills and work towards becoming environmentally sustainable.

Babergh have provided each Councillor with £2000 to support the villages in their wards. The Locality Awards grants can be used towards combating loneliness in communities by installing hearing loops, providing Wi-Fi in rural areas, or hosting coffee mornings or lunch clubs.

Groups can also apply for funding for sports and play equipment, exercise classes, walking festivals and other initiatives which support the councils' aim for communities to lead active lives and manage their own health and wellbeing. Applications are also welcome for providing medical skills such as first aid to communities, as well as supporting them in other training including safeguarding, fire safety and anti-social behaviour prevention.

06.21.05 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Chairman updated members of the council on progress with regard to the footpath on Whatfield Road. Nearby residents have been visited by County Council Highways and the scheme is still moving forward.  
 He also reported that the farm trip to Buckles was taking place this evening and a record number of people had shown an interest.  
 He thanked Andrew Morton for continuing to report potholes and footbridge repairs on the SCC website.  
 He confirmed that he had written to Suffolk Housing asking that the visibility splay at Church View be grubbed out in accordance with the Planning Conditions.  
 The School Allotment – request for support has been forwarded to the Hazelwood Trust who seemed to be positive about being able to help.  
 The chairman also said that he had tried to get an appointment with James Cartlidge MP regarding the new planning policies.

06.21.06 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No matters arose.

06.21.07 **CORRESPONDENCE: BDC – Active Travel Consultation –** reminder that the period for consultation is still available. **VHMC – pavilion.** The parish council were saddened to learn of the state of the pavilion and that it is likely to be demolished. The chairman opened the meeting for discussion. After discussion with the VHMC rep it was agreed that this was probably the right decision. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the Village Hall Committee next week.

06.21.08 **FINANCE:** The following invoices were verified and approved for payment and cheques were signed. Councillors agreed a donation of £50.00 to Suffolk Accident Rescue.

Payee	Amount	Chq No	Purpose	Authority
SALC	238.80	874	Int Audit	LGA 1972
T Hitchcock	130.00	875	Grasscuts 13&29 May	Open spaces Act 1906
E&A vh	22.00	876	Hire	LGA 1972
E&A Newsletter	150.00	877	Donation	Sec 137
SARs	50.00	878	Donation	Sec 137

The Internal audit report had been circulated to all members of the council and Section 2 Accounting Statements 2020/21 were approved and signed. The clerk to put all relevant documents on the website. All policies for review will be circulated before the next meeting, including additions recommended in the audit.

Car Park Repair – Andy Morton reported on quotes that had been received for the repair and resurfacing of the village hall car park. It was resolved to use CIL money for this work and to accept the quote from Taydal of £9,856. The work to be carried out during the school holidays.

06.21.09 **PLANNING: DC/21/03146 -** Erection of 1no. dwelling with associated cartlodge, parking and turning area (following demolition of existing outbuildings with the exception of single storey brick outbuilding to be retained and repaired for use as garden store) Mill Farm, Hadleigh Road. The council response to Babergh - The parish council noted that the floor area of this new application exceeded the previous, but in view of the existing permission did not wish to restrict the grant of permission'

**DC/21/03269** - Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/20/04231 - Condition 5 (Landscaping Scheme) and Condition 11 (Method Statement for Works), Mill Farm Hadleigh Road Elmsett – although this submission should have been made prior to commencement and that the two dwellings are now almost complete, in respect of the detail submitted did not wish to restrict the grant of permission .

**DC/21/03561** (Reserved Matters application) relating to Outline Planning Permission **B/17/01009** 41no dwellings land to The East of, Hadleigh Road, Elmsett - The Parish Council does not object to the principle of this application as it is in line with our Neighbourhood Plan but we have real concerns in three areas that need to be resolved.

**Parking on Hadleigh Road** We are still very concerned that the approval of this application in its current form will lead to long term highway safety issues. Currently vehicles belonging to or visiting numbers 5 and 6 Hadleigh Road have no alternative other than to park on Hadleigh Road. When the new estate road access is constructed it will be immediately opposite number 6 and parked vehicles at this location will be a real road safety hazard. This situation is in no way the making or fault of the residents who have no off road parking. All of this was pointed out at the outline stage and ignored by the planning committee. Can this now be taken seriously and some provision made to avert this danger.

**Frontage Drainage Ditch** A further serious concern is that the approval of the application with a wide and deep frontage ditch will be a hazard for the life of the development. It will be a considerable maintenance burden as can be seen at any roadside ditch in the countryside and will also require a safety fence along the whole of its length between the ditch and the new footpath which will in itself cause further maintenance difficulties leading to an eyesore in the centre of our lovely village.

In addition the ditch will require headwalls set further back from the new estate road because as shown any overrunning of the 6m radius kerb will result in vehicles falling into the ditch, moreover there is no facility for pedestrians from Hadleigh Road at the new junction.

Finally there doesn't appear to be a connection between the ditch and the existing pond at the southwestern extremity of the site.

**Street Lighting** There should be no street lighting on Hadleigh Road or the new estate.

06.21.10 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** It was agreed to continue with the use of the village hall. Next meeting to be held on 7 September, 2021

The meeting closed

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