

Minutes of Elmsett Parish Council meeting held on 31 October 2023 at Elmsett and Aldham Village Hall.

- 10.23.00 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Andrew Morton, Nick Bird, John Sones, Paul Firman, Fiona Watt, Andrew Woodgate, County Councillor Robert Lindsay, District Councillor Leigh Jamieson, the clerk, and 3 members of the public were present.
- 10.23.01 **APOLOGIES:** All present
- 10.23.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no declarations of interest
- 10.23.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 12 September, zoom meeting 28 September and 16 October, 2023 were signed as accurate records.
- 10.23.04 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Storm Babet which hit the county on the 20th cut off many villages across both Mid Suffolk and Babergh leaving homes, and businesses counting the cost. With another storm due this week we need to do what we can to ensure everyone remains safe.
Whatfield Road-Maltings application – to clarify why the decision was made before the consultation due date he confirmed that the date is not provided for members of the public or parish councils to provide comments. On Discharge of Conditions applications, parish councils and members of the public are not statutory consultees and are not procedurally consulted.
Storm Babet: Flooding Following the storm, Babergh provided emergency contact numbers and worked through the weekend and subsequent days to help people in the most need. Fortunately, a relatively small number of our tenants were affected and Building Services have supported with some dehumidifiers and welfare checks were made on tenants too. The team also collected information about any businesses affected by flooding, support and advice were given where possible.
Joint Local Plan Part one of the joint local plan has now been fully approved by the examiner and will go before both councils next month for adoption. The decision, which has been long in coming will provide the council with up-to-date policies to direct planning decisions.
Shaping the Future of Babergh The new council administrations have outlined their initial long-term visions and strategic priorities for the districts and now want the views of residents, businesses, and communities to further develop these. A six-week exercise opened on the 19th of October and will run until 15th November. This will include an online survey, which has opened today, and in-person workshops with different groups, businesses, and organisations.
Young people wellbeing Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils have introduced a new scheme to improve the wellbeing of young people in schools and connect them with their communities. This is being achieved through the implementation of a 'youth link worker' in the schools and will complement existing work that already takes place. These workers have been embedded in time for the start of the new term and will work with young people and their families to identify and access community activities that suit their interests. They will also work to overcome any barriers that are in the way of individuals participating in the activity they are interested in. This might involve setting up

new after-school clubs, securing new equipment, improving facilities and beyond.

New Website The council has launched a new website that it hopes will be more user friendly and easier to use for people across the district.

Silver Sunday support Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils are once again supporting the Silver Sunday campaign. The councils are joining forces with local groups to help tackle loneliness for older residents, by bringing generations together for free sing-alongs, games, and fun. The Silver Sunday campaign is designed to help tackle the issue of social isolation, particularly for older residents in rural communities.

Local events include the Sporting Memories group at the Kingfisher Leisure Centre, and a rock and roll themed party hosted by the Ansell Memories Café at the Ansell Centre in Hadleigh.

Leigh was asked about parking at Garrards Road – Babergh is lacking a surveyor to carry out the work, so there is a delay.

COUNTY COUNILLOR'S REPORT: Bus funding Is there demand in and around the village for an extra service on an existing route or new services? The county council has some funding that it has to spend in a tight time frame and is asking parish councils and/or bus operators to put together bids for bus services. Details are here <https://www.suffolkonboard.com/news/bus-service-improvement-plan-where-should-the-money-be-spent/>. If it is an additional service to an existing route such as the 461 or 462 then the bid will need to be made in conjunction with the operator, in this case Hadleigh Community Transport.

Fingerpost sign Aldham corner I am prepared to contribute towards the cost of a new fingerpost sign if the parish and/or the airfield can meet me halfway. Highways have made it clear they will not replace the one that has collapsed. I have asked about cost and whether they will actually maintain it.

Lower speed limits A1141 Hadleigh to Semer I am told that my request to lower the speed limit on this road from 60mph to 40mph has been improved. It will be some time before the change actually happens however, as it must be designed and funded.

Suffolk Pharmacies On 11 October, councillors from my group attended Health Scrutiny which was looking at the service provided by pharmacies in Suffolk and the challenges they face with funding, staff recruitment, medicine shortages and pharmacies closing. Representatives from the NHS, Suffolk GPs and the Suffolk Pharmaceutical Committee joined the meeting and recommendations were made to write to minister about funding, and work with local schools and the University of Suffolk to promote pharmacy as a career path. It was noted that in order to provide extra services (such as blood pressure checks, cholesterol tests and asthma advice) which take pressure off GP surgeries, more space and consulting rooms would be required than Suffolk pharmacies currently had available.

Budget Consultation Suffolk County Council is keen to hear from Suffolk residents, businesses and local communities as it decides how it will spend money next year and has launched an online consultation to give Suffolk residents a say in budget setting for the financial year 2024-25. There will also be a number of focus groups to explain the council's current financial

situation, along with the chance for Suffolk residents and businesses to have a say on Council Tax proposals.

There are three key questions, the first is on which services people have recently used, the second asks for thoughts on seeking a greater contribution to Council Tax to help fund public services, and the third on which service area you would like to see more money spent. The online survey can be found at the link below http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Budget24_25/

Robert was asked again about the fingerpost at Aldham junction.

10.23.05

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Flooding - despite the continued rain the village fared well. There was some garden flooding, the routes into and out of the village were mostly impassable for a short time but access via Priory Road remained available. Within the village the Whatfield Road pond overtopped its roadside bank and Whatfield Road was impassable to cars and smaller vehicles. SCC declared the general flooding as a major incident. As Babergh DC were on call and working all weekend I phoned most councillors and the vicar to see if they were aware of anyone in need of assistance.

Emergency Plan - as a result of the flooding I was reminded to get the Emergency Plan completed. I have now re-read the plan and will arrange to meet with John Sones to get it completed.

Post Office Closure - the Post Office counter in the shop will close on 3rd November. The Parish Council has secured a mobile PO service for one hour once a week. This service will start on Tuesday 14th November and operate between 12:30 and 13:30. We have arranged parking for the Van at the Rose & Crown car park, displayed notices around the village, placed a note in the village newsletter, contacted Charles Course re the Airfield business hub, sent notices to Aldham and Whatfield PC's, posted a note on the village Facebook page and placed a notice on the parish web site. It should also be noted that the village shop has confirmed that they have no intention of closing and continues with business as usual, albeit they declined to display the mobile service notice in the shop.

Tree Survey - Ipswich Borough Council parks department who look after the safety inspections for us have been contacted. They are checking the repeat times and would be in contact with us shortly.

New Vicar Geoffrey Clement - I represented the PC at Geoff's Licensing Service at Kersey Church on 26th September.

Service of Remembrance - As usual I will be attending the annual service of remembrance at St Peter's Church, this year on 12th November, to undertake a bible reading and to lay a wreath on behalf of the village.

Lastly Andy, Fiona and I met village hall reps Jo King and Ally Leach last night to have informal talks to see if we could work together to achieve a wholesale improvement to the hall or whether it would be better to build a new hall. No one had the time to lead a major project so if the project is to move forward we would have to hire professional support. However, it was decided that before engaging professional support the hall should be structurally surveyed to make sure we had a sound building to work with

- 10.23.06 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** A member of the public was very concerned about the possible danger arising from the open ditch along Hadleigh Road opposite the Denbury development. Robert Lindsay confirmed that the chairman had raised this issue and it was now in the hands of County Council highways. Chairman agreed that the Parish Council was also concerned and at the planning stage had asked that the ditch be piped. County Councillor to pursue this.
- 10.23.07 **SPEED SURVEY UPDATE:** Andy Morton now has the results of the further survey which was done recently on Whatfield Road. He also said that following the note in the newsletter one or two residents have been in touch. He also confirmed that there has been correspondence with Leigh about speeding concerns outside the centre of the village. Rather than dealing with the problem in a piece meal fashion the Parish Council would look at all the information being gathered and then be able to recommend solutions.
- 10.23.08 **BROKEN FINGERPOST ALDHAM ROAD JUNCTION.** See comments in County Councillor report.
- 10.23.09 **CONDITION OF BEACON RECTORY MEADOW:** As the beacon is on village hall land Fiona Watt said that she would check the situation at the next meeting of the village hall committee.
- 10.23.10 **NEW POLICING MODEL:** John Sones said that he had attended a public meeting about the new policing model which will come into effect in December. This will comprise three parts: Community Policing Teams, (CPTs) Response Investigation (RITs) and a County Partnership and Prevention Hub (CPPH). There will be new Community Policing Areas with 80 Community Policing Officers. This should increase police involvement locally. Although a new structure, there are no new resources.

He also said that the control room has been expanded and money invested in new equipment aimed at improving wait times and offering alternative ways to contact the Police. They will no longer deal with mental health issues. There is an on-line public meeting on 7 November spcc@suffolk.police.uk.

Also, there is a contact email address to share any views about the new model. cpcoperatingmodel@suffolk.police.uk

- 10.23.11 **FINANCE:** The following invoices were verified for payment –

Village Hall	Hire 16 & 31 Oct	45.50	LGA 1972
A. Morton Rmbt	Plaque for seat on Green	45.97	CIL
CAS	website hosting	60.00	LGA 1972
A Newman Rmbt	Ink cartridges	128.26	LGA 1972
A Newman Rmbt	Norton Renewal	99.99	
A Newman Rmbt	Stamps	6.00	
A Newman Rmbt	HP Printer	184.30	

The clerk confirmed that the registration for electronic banking was underway, but not finalised. Cheques to be signed for the above.

The bank reconciliation was circulated prior to the meeting.

Additional Savings Account – It was proposed by Fiona Watt and seconded by Andrew Morton that the Council sets up a further saver account with Cambridge Building Society in the sum of £70,000 – the clerk to set up the account.

The current budget, clerk confirmed was on track.

10.23.12 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** 12 December and 23 January, 2024
The meeting closed.

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