

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Elmsett Parish Council held on 13 May, 2025 at the Elmsett Methodist Church.

- 05.25.00 **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR:** As there were no other nominations it was proposed by Nick Bird and seconded by Fiona Watt to elect the existing officers – namely Alan Newman Chair and Paul Firman Vice Chair, seconded by Fiona Watt – this was unanimously accepted. As well as Village Hall Rep – Fiona Watt and revolving rep for SALC. Declarations of Acceptance of Office were signed.
- 05.25.01 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Paul Firman, Nick Bird, Andrew Woodgate, John Sones, Fiona Watt, Fran Williams the clerk was present and a representative of the village hall management committee.
- 05.25.02 **APOLOGIES:** District Councillor Jamieson and County Councillor Lindsay
- 05.25.03 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Fiona Watt and Paul Firman declared an interest under finance 6) donation to VH for funding toilet refurbishment and signed the declaration of interest book.
- 05.25.04 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on 1 April, 2025 were signed as an accurate record.
- 05.25.05 **5.1 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Leigh sent his report prior to the meeting as follows - **Flowton Road** Work is due to start in Flowton Road on the 19th May to 13 June to install the five passing places agreed as a condition of the Hadleigh Road development.
Local Government Reform The district and borough council have received the Government's response which supports them moving their proposals forward.
Multiple unitaries are vital in order to keep councils truly local to the people they serve and to meet the differing needs and aspirations of our county's diverse communities. Providing a locally based unitary authority big enough to deliver but small enough to care.
The interim report submitted to Government by the borough and district councils said creating multiple unitary authorities for Suffolk would achieve greater outcomes for residents, grow the economy and provide flexible solutions to meet the needs of local communities – in a way that a single mega-council covering a vast geographical area would fail to do.
Solar boost for businesses Babergh has teamed up with Mid Suffolk and Suffolk Councils to offer companies access to the successful Solar for Business initiative. Businesses can now reduce their carbon emissions and save money on energy bills by signing up to have solar panels provided and installed on their premises, for free.
Electricity generated by the panels will be sold to the business at a rate lower than their current tariff, helping to slash energy bills and improve their bottom line.
Solar for Business has been running successfully in West Suffolk for nine years – helping more than a hundred companies to save a total of around £700,000 and 2,000 tonnes in harmful CO2 emissions per year.
To be eligible, businesses must be within West Suffolk, Babergh or Mid Suffolk's district boundaries, and must have a minimum electricity consumption of 5,000kWh per year. For a firm paying 25p/kWh this would mean electricity bills of around £1250 per year.

To find out more about the scheme, email: environment@westsuffolk.gov.uk, call 01284 757631 or visit: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/solarforbusiness

Funding injection Communities continue to receive funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Developers pay a fee when work starts on a development, which the councils then reinvest in neighbourhoods via their towns and parish councils. Twenty-two of Babergh's town and parishes receiving a portion of £274K.

Community Development Fund A community development fund has been introduced to coincide with the start of the 2025/26 fiscal year and aims to streamline the administration of council grants.

The new Community Development fund encompasses both capital and revenue funding, making the application process simpler for organisations to complete and receive the funding they need.

Local VCFSE (voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise) organisations could apply for up to £20,000 toward new or existing projects that provide important services and support to their communities.

Plug In Suffolk Car Club From this summer, residents and visitors across Suffolk will be able to book electric cars, as part of an initial 18-month trial. The aim is to provide Suffolk residents with easy access to electric community vehicles.

Two rentable electric cars will be placed at each of the following locations in Babergh and Mid Suffolk:

- Crown Street, Stowmarket
- Station Yard Car Park, Needham Market
- Maiden Way Car Park, Hadleigh
- Girling Street Car Park, Sudbury

With cars also becoming available to hire across the County.

Neighbouring local residents to the locations will receive free membership to the Suffolk Car Club, as well as credit added to their account.

Suffolk County Council are managing the trial and will monitor appetite for a wider scheme across the county. If successful, community electric vehicles could become available at more locations in Suffolk in the future.

Council partners with EEZYBIKE to launch new electric bikes in

Sudbury Two new electric bikes can now be hired in Sudbury thanks to a new partnership between the council and Suffolk-based electric bike company EEZYBIKE

From May this year, residents and visitors in Sudbury can hire an electric bike to make their journeys more environmentally friendly.

Two new electric bikes have been located by Kingfisher Leisure Centre, Situated within a solar-powered pod, the bikes make for an exciting new way to enjoy the local cycle routes and surrounding area.

5.2 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: Robert sent hi report prior to the meeting as follows - **Increasing School Places for SEND Students** On Tuesday 1 April, Cabinet voted to increase the number of school places in the county for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND).

1. £18.6m to be spent creating about 100 places would be created within existing mainstream schools, from next academic year.
2. Up to £12m to create 100 places the following year in "satellite" locations of existing special schools in Suffolk.

Since the Cabinet report was tabled, the government has announced that Suffolk will receive an extra £9.4m to invest in new SEND school places. Plans will now be drawn up by the Local Area SEND Partnership on how to spend the money.

£4m for “skills bootcamps” The Department for Education has allocated Suffolk County Council up to £4m to be spent delivering free skills training to an extra 1,345 adults across Norfolk and Suffolk this year. Courses last up to 16 weeks and offer a combination of online and in-person learning. Employers can work directly with training providers to create courses that align with their needs. Those interested in taking part in the Skills Bootcamps can find more information here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/business/supporting-employers-training-your-workforce/skills-bootcamps>

6,000 Public EV Chargepoints Planned Suffolk County Council will be installing around 6,000 new public electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints across the county. From the summer, many will be on residential streets, with many locations suggested by residents following the survey which was undertaken last year, or by liaison with communities and district/borough councils. The majority of installations will be bollard-style units at the kerbside, suitable for long-stay or overnight charging, when drivers will be able to benefit from an overnight off-peak tariff, and there will also be a dedicated resident’s tariff which features discounted charging at all times. Public car parks will also see a number of rapid and ultra-rapid chargepoint installations, for quicker charging. This project has been made possible due to a successful £5.3 million bid by SCC to the government’s Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure fund. This summer’s roll-out will use a proportion of this funding, with a further £16 million of funding provided by the chargepoint operator, *Believe*.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy The County Council is asking the public to provide specific local suggestions for nature reserves and habitat creation in their area by responding to their consultation by 11 June 2025 at www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultation

05.25.06

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: The chairman reported on his meeting with the Chair of the VHMC regarding the possibility of supporting them in their application for grant funding to refurbish the toilets in the village hall. The item is on the agenda under finance to be resolved.

He confirmed that interviews for the clerk’s position will take place on Thursday afternoon.

Remedial Works at the Squeech following the tree survey. The Chairman reported that Rowan Bennett had carried out the work recommended in the report by Ipswich Borough Council.

He also confirmed that our planning consultant had submitted the appeal statement supporting our objection to the planning appeal at land adjacent to Aldham End Hadleigh Road.

Domain addresses he confirmed that Community Action Suffolk had made available domain names for the chairman and clerk. clerk@elmsett-pc.gov.uk chairman@elmsett-pc.gov.uk. He also said that it was best practice for all councillors to have separate email accounts. The clerk to request CAS to set up dedicated email addresses for the remainder of the councillors with the exception of Andrew Woodgate who did not a further email address.

05.25.07 **VILLAGE HALL UPDATE:** Fiona reported on a number of projects proposed by the village hall to be funded by the Village Hall. She said that now there is a dedicated web address for the village hall there was a lot more interest in bookings, but the hall is looking tired and needs a refurb.. Projects include the bar area, to include a cooler and new optics. A false ceiling to help with the acoustics, they had been advised to leave the original ceiling as it is. They are also organising a 'painting party'. She also referred to the refurbishment of the toilets for which the village hall is applying for a grant from BIFFA. Pauline Scott (VHMC) has put together a business case which she presented to the Parish Council, seeking sponsorship as the application requires a sponsor to donate 10% of the grant. This is an item to be discussed under finance on the agenda. She also mentioned that the AGM is to be held on 20 June with social drinks/canapes and a chance to see the newly refurbished bar.

COMMUNITY SHOP: Fiona then reported on the progress of the community shop. She said that they will be extending their opening hours for the summer months, for a trial period 8-5.30pm Monday to Friday and 9-3pm on Saturday. Amy Hill, the manager will start working full time and will be making sandwiches. They are also selling sliced Suffolk ham as well as other local produce. She also said that they were able to do home deliveries for those unable to get to the shop. The InPost lockers are proving to be popular. The chairman thanked Fiona and all the volunteers who work for both the shop and village hall.

05.25.08 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no members of the public in attendance.

05.25.09 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFRESH:**

The chairman confirmed that this had been submitted for consultation to Babergh and that copies are available for loan from the Community Shop. Fiona agreed to put a note on Facebook to remind residents of the consultation.

The clerk to put a link on the parish website.

05.25.12 **FINANCE:** The following invoices were verified and donations agreed. Payments to be created by the clerk and authorised by Paul Firman and Fiona Watt.

Ed Seeley	50% invoice for St Peters maint Inv 0725	£120.00
Hitchcock	Grasscutting Inv 267	£225.00
SARs donation	Suffolk Accident Rescue	£150.00
Meth. Church	Hire 1-4, 13-5 & 15-5 3x£27	£81.00
Rowan Bennett	Tree maintenance The Squeech	100.00
CAS	Domain names – clerk and chairman	73.00

Audit – The clerk had prepared the AGAR returns for approval prior to internal audit. Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 24/25. This had previously been circulated to members and was verified for the Chair to sign. Section 2 Accounting Statements 24/25 also previously circulated were verified for signature by the Chairman. The bank reconciliation was also presented and approved. The clerk confirmed that all the other necessary paperwork had been submitted to SALC for them to carry out the internal audit.

Donation to SARS it was proposed by Fiona Watt and seconded by Fran Williams to make a donation of £150 as last year. All agreed.

Donation to VH to enable them to access grant funding from BIFFA to have replacement toilets in the village hall. It was proposed by the chairman and seconded by Nick Bird for the Parish Council to act as donor and to make a donation of 10% up to £7,000 to facilitate the grant. The money to come from the CIL funds held by the council. (Paul Firman and Fiona Watt declared an interest and did not vote). This was agreed by all other members of the council. Purchase of laptop for new clerk. It was proposed by Fiona Watt and seconded by Paul Firman to the purchase up to a sum of £1,000 to include necessary software. All agreed.

Transfer of funds – it was agreed not to transfer at this time. There are a number of projects in the pipeline and it may be easier to have funds readily available in the current account.

Verification of CIL Account. The clerk presented the end of year CIL statement for verification and signature. Members agreed and the statement was duly signed by the chairman. Clerk to put the statement on the council's website and submit to Babergh.

05.25.13 **PLANNING:** *DC/25/01345* - Erection of a single storey rear extension and front extension; Re-cladding of existing dwelling; Installation of new windows and doors -The Cedars, Hadleigh Road – Councillors had no objection to the grant of permission.

DC/25/01592 - (Reserved Matters in part) pursuant to Outline Planning Permission *DC/21/06806* - Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for Erection of 5 no. dwellings with garage (Plot 6 Only) Land At, Hadleigh Road, Elmsett (in The Parish Of Aldham). As this was an application to change the size of the layout it was felt that this was a matter for the planning authority to decide.

DC/25/01488 - Erection of 2.4m high security fencing and gates - Elmsett C Of E Voluntary Controlled Primary School. Members had no objection to the fence but suggested it would be better if it was kept clear of the garage roof.

05.25.14 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** 17 June, 23 July, 10 September, 22 October and 10 December.

The meeting closed.

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