

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 18 January, 2016 at the Methodist Church Hall.

- 01.16.00 **PRESENT:** Mr A Newman in the chair, Mrs C Garrity, Mr M Quinn, Mrs M Hinton, Mr G Hinton, County Councillor J Antill, District Councillor A Ferguson, two members of the public and the Clerk
- 01.16.01 **APOLOGIES:** Mr N Bird, Mr J Sones.
- 01.16.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 01.16.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 December were signed as an accurate record.
- 01.16.04 **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT:** Jenny reported on - **Consultation on the future of the Fire Service in Suffolk.** Public meetings are being held in connection with this consultation which closes on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

**Resdesign of Specialist Education Provision in Suffolk.** The Cabinet in December agreed that a consultation should go ahead to look at redesigning the council's provision for children and young people with special educational needs. An information collecting process will start next week with a full consultation being launched in the spring.

**Budget 2016/17.** The Budget numbers have now been reviewed in the light of the December draft settlement from Government. It is anticipated that we will be imposing the Government's Social Care Precept of 2% (which is ring-fenced for Adult Social Care) but that general council tax will be unchanged from last year.

**Residents invited to have their say on council services.** Residents of Suffolk are being invited to have their say on council services by taking part in Suffolk County Council's 2016 residents' survey. More than 11,000 surveys will be posted out to households across the county this week to help the council make services better and more effective. The Residents' Survey will be used to measure what people think of the area in which they live, what they think about Suffolk County Council services, and the way the County Council works.

**High Speed Broadband.** Details of the coverage planned up until September 2016 have now been released on the Better Broadband for Suffolk website at: [www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com](http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com). A large part of Elmsett already has coverage, but some more remote areas do not. In December, the council announced the public launch of a basic

broadband service to fulfil the Government's commitment that everyone should have the option of access to a broadband service of at least 2Mbps by the end of 2015. The scheme, which provides broadband by satellite, has been trialed in Suffolk over the last few months ahead of the public launch. It is intended as an interim solution for businesses and homes that currently get less than 2Mbps, and which are not included in the planned coverage in the next 12 months. It is important for all residents and businesses to understand that where high speed broadband service is available, they must contact a service provider to make the switch. The switch to superfast is **NOT** an automatic process

**4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT:** Alan updated the meeting regarding **Devolution** and that Cambridge had been invited to be involved in the negotiations. He then reminded us that **grants of £20,000** are available to tenants who wish to move from Council to privately owned property. **Council House building** is making good progress he outlined the issue with regard to **Right to Buy**. When properties are sold Babergh retains the revenue but only 30% is used for rebuilding. The remainder has to go towards building another 2 houses and they must top up the difference and build within 3 years or the 70% goes to the Government. Car Parking charges in Babergh – Babergh is 'considering' introducing **car parking charges in Babergh**. **Relocation of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk offices** are still being considered, but irrespective of any decision ward members are assured there would be no reduction to ward members. **Council Tax** – unfortunately there will be an increase for the next financial year. He explained that there was additional pressure as the government has mandated a decrease in council house rents by 1% per annum for the next 4 years. The business plan for local housing has therefore been seriously affected.

- 01.16.05 **EMERGENCY PLAN:** Mr Hinton updated on this matter. A sub committee had met to discuss the creation of an emergency plan and a skeleton plan had been worked on. It was also agreed to seek volunteers to aid with the gathering of information. A request to this effect had been put in the newsletter. A further meeting to be arranged to produce a questionnaire to find what and where resources might be available for use in an emergency.
- 01.16.06 **CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN** – John Sones had forwarded information on the 'Clean for the Queen' campaign to be held on the weekend of 4-6 March. The parish council agreed to support this initiative and ask John to follow this up and agreed that a note should go in the newsletter.
- 01.16.07 **CORRESPONDENCE:** A letter had been received from Suffolk Constabulary regarding an opportunity for match funded Police Community Support officers. It was agreed that this was not something for the Parish Council.

01.16.08 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There was a recess.

01.16.09 **FINANCE:** Cheques were signed in the sum of £78.00 for Tree and Lawn Co for grasscutting on 1 October and for SALC for £54.00 website training for the clerk. Investment – this was discussed and it was agreed to make further enquiries on options that would not tie up the money for a long period.

01.16.10 **PLANNING:** Permissions received from Babergh for Erection of single storey rear extension 6 Ladbrook Close. Erection of single storey rear extension (after demolition of existing conservatory) and side extension Elmhaven, Hadleigh Road.

01.16.11 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 29 February, 2016, 11 April, 23 May, 4 July, and 5 September.

The meeting closed

Signed:-.....  
Chairman

Dated:-.....