

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 11 December, 2017 at the Elmsett Methodist Church Hall.

- 12.17.00      **PRESENT:** Mr A Newman in the chair, Mr Nick Bird, Mrs M Hinton, Mr G Hinton, Mr S Coram, Mr J Sones, Mr A Woodgate, County Councillor R Lindsay, the Clerk and 5 members of the public.
- 12.17.01      **APOLOGIES:** District Councillor A Ferguson
- 12.17.02      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** No declarations
- 12.17.03      **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 November were signed as an accurate record
- 12.17.04      4.1      **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Robert Lindsay reported on the following: **Cutting of free school buses and post 16 travel subsidy** This proposal was temporarily blocked and with a very few tweaks put to consultation.. The consultation period will run from 12 December 2017 to 28 February 2018. **Care, Wellbeing and Health Cabinet Committee** I have been appointed to this cabinet committee. My proposal for a commitment to funding cycle and walking networks will be finalised at the next meeting in January. **Plastic bottle deposit return Scheme** Unanimous support for a motion which asked the council to back Government plans for this and for Suffolk to be a pilot project. Single use plastic. **Latest budget predictions and county precept rise**  
**Current year** - The county council is still on course for an "overspend" of £10.2m in the current financial year. The option of raising council tax has been rejected by the administration for the past seven years. **Next financial year** The cabinet has now proposed they will increase council tax by 5% next year. But despite this, the Council will still be facing a forecast budget gap of £26.85m, and a cuts plan has been drawn up to provide £23.9m worth of savings. The majority of this will come from the Adult Social care budget, with a proposed £11m reduction in spending on care purchasing and a £1m saving achieved by cutting the Sheltered Housing Grant. I have a report from the finance department that shows a rise of 1% in previous years would have almost completely removed the need for these cuts now.
- 4.2      **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Alan Ferguson's report was read - The move of Babergh/Mid Suffolk Council has now been completed and all Council business will now be delivered from Ipswich, Stowmarket and Sudbury. **Boundary Commission** The Boundary Commission has issued its initial findings and recommendations. **Merger of Babergh & MSDCs** Thank you for your feedback on the merger proposals as they are currently known. All 6 Parish Councils in South Cosford have expressed degrees of concern about the current consultation process. The Scrutiny Committee, voted to support the "Call

In”, saying that the Cabinet had not followed due process, and that there was insufficient financial information and insufficient information about the consultation. The decision has been back to the Cabinet who have provided some additional information. However, concerns remain about the consultation process. **Disposal of Corks Lane Buildings** The Babergh Cabinet was due to consider the recommendations for disposal of the Corks Lane site on **7<sup>th</sup> December 17** but this has slipped to 2018 due to a failure by the selected architect to provide the information required.

- 12.17.05 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE:** The Chairman reported on the success of the recent public launch of the plan with over 120 visitors during the two days. There has been sufficient interest to form a steering committee to move the plan forward. The first meeting to formulate a questionnaire is to be held on 14 December. He also said that the grant application had been successful. This will off-set costs involved.
- 12.17.06 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mainly congratulating the parish council for the information and supporting them in the work being carried out on the neighbourhood plan.
- 12.17.07 **VILLAGE HALL –** The chair and treasurer of the village hall attended the meeting and updated councillors on the preliminary work of updating policies etc to enable them to seek grants towards a new build. They have also had a number of positive responses to their recent questionnaire seeking residents’ views. Stan Coram on behalf of the parish council agreed to attend their meetings. The chairman thanked them for their work and hoped to have regular updates to enable the council to support them. Whilst discussing the hall the responsibility of checking the batteries of the defibrillator was raised – the clerk to clarify with the school the responsibility for checking the batteries.
- 12.17.08 **CORRESPONDENCE: BDC –** notifications of bin collections for 2018 – to be forwarded to newsletter. The Clerk confirmed that the parish would host the Police Forum meeting in the village hall on 15 August. Snow clearance/grit heaps. The clerk confirmed that a request had been made to stock the heaps and that the County Council had confirmed that volunteers would be covered by their insurance, provided that the parish council has been made aware of the names of volunteers and that they acted in the appropriate manner.

- 12.17.09 **FINANCE:** Cheques were signed for – SALC - £21.60 – 6 months payroll services. A Newman £22.51 reimbursement of expenses for Neighbourhood Plan. SALC – £26.40 – Data Protection briefing, Clerk. VHMC £77.00 – Hire of hall for launch of NP. A Newman - £22.51 stationery and postage. **Purchase of data projector** – agreed plus screen up to value of £500. **Membership of LCPAS** – Local Council Public Advisory Service – agreed that the parish council should register. **Appointment of External Auditor** - clerk confirmed that PKF Littlejohn LLP had been appointed for 2017-2022. **Implications of New Data Protection Act** – clerk pointed out that there will be additional costs to the council to ensure that the council complies – training and possible appointment of an independent DPO. The precept should reflect this. **PRECEPT** – The clerk had produced a budget and it was agreed to precept for £10,200 a slight increase from £10,000 last year.
- 12.17.10 **PLANNING:** Application DC/17/05074 – Paigle Old Barn – change of use from holiday let to residential – approval notice received from Babergh DC.
- 12.17.11 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** 15 January, 19 Feb, 9 Apr, 14 May, 11 Jun, 23 Jul, 17 Sep, 29 Oct and 10 December 2018.

The meeting closed

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

Chairman