

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 4 March 2019 at the Elmsett Methodist Church Hall.

PRESENT: Mr A Newman, Mr N Bird, Mr S Coram Mrs M Hinton, Mr G Hinton, Mr J Sones, Mr A Woodgate, District Councillor A Ferguson, County Councillor R Lindsay, the Clerk and 10 members of the public were in attendance.

03.19.01 **APOLOGIES:** No Apologies

03.19.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** -No declarations of interest.

03.19.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 January were signed as an accurate record.

03.19.04 4.1 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** **Budget cuts approved by cabinet** Council Tax is due to rise by a total of 3.99% - 2.99% increase in general council tax and 1% for the Social Care Precept. The budget includes a savings requirement of £10.1m, divided across all departments.
Citizens Advice cuts The NHS in the form of Clinical Commissioning Groups in Suffolk has come forward to match fund the county's cut grant of £184,000 for 2019/20.
Special Educational Needs Children – potential £45m investment Cabinet has approved a recommendation from a cross-party Policy Development Panel to invest £45m in building three new special needs schools and 36 specialist units within mainstream schools which together will create 828 new SEN places.
Orwell bridge plan dropped The county has finally dropped long running plans to build a big bridge over the Orwell in central Ipswich, although £8.3 million has already been spent the bulk of this went to consultants WSP. The plan for two smaller bridges to connect Wet Dock Island by the Waterfront will go ahead at a further cost of £10m.
School admissions consultation The recommendation to cabinet is that catchments for admissions purposes will remain for 2019/20 and 2020/21
New opt in policy for school travel For pupils eligible for free school travel from September 2019, parents must now opt in to confirm their child has a seat on the bus from March 1st to the end of May. Under the former school travel policy, the seat was reserved automatically, even if pupils did not show up.
New member of our political group Cllr Paula Fox, who represents Mildenhall has joined the Green, LibDem and independents and will represent them on the Health Care and Wellbeing.

4.2 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Alan explained that councils would be entering a period of purdah from 26 March. This means that from this date until polling day any materials prepared or released by council must not appear to generate public support for a political party or candidate.

Disposal of Corks Lane Buildings The plan to bring the disposal of Corks Lane to the Planning Committee early in 2019 were frustrated by an attempt to have the old Babergh Council Chamber listed grade II. This has now been reviewed by the Secretary of State and **refused**. The plan now is to bring it to the Planning Committee in March 19 as any further delay would push it back to after the Local Elections in May.

Babergh Joint Area Parking Plan - This plan, which does not include any proposals to increase car parking charges in Babergh, sets out eight parking policy objectives and what they are intended to achieve.

Investments Babergh and Mid Suffolk DCs are to double their lending from Central Government from £50M to £100M, which will be invested. When all £100M is invested, they expect to achieve a healthy return in the order of 6%. This will be a very important element of Babergh's future income stream if services are to be maintained.

Local Elections will take place on **Thursday 2nd May** and he encouraged everyone to drop into their local polling station on the day. Every vote really does count.

- 03.19.05 **MATTERS ARISING:** John Sones confirmed that he was organising a Litter Pick for 23 March and that a note had gone in newsletter. The chairman reported that there had been a recurrence of the ditch pollution n Ipswich Road which would need further investigation including contacting Suffolk Highways and the landowner. Two members of the parish council had attended a design workshop discussing residential design in Suffolk. This was the first of a series leading to the publication of a Design Guide.
- 03.19.06 **VILLAGE HALL UPDATE:** Village Hall reps could not attend but sent a report following their recent meeting regarding a new build. They were surprised at the cost and so were getting another opinion.
- 03.19.07 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE:** The Chairman confirmed that all the documentation had been prepared and sent to Babergh DC for their six-week consultation which finishes on 27 March. Following that Babergh will package all of the consultation returns along with the Plan to the appointed Examiner. Housing Needs Survey – the Chairman also confirmed that he and Andrew Woodgate had attended a meeting with Community Action Suffolk who had funds available to carry out a Housing Needs Survey which was a recommendation from the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed by the members of the parish council to go ahead with a HNS and to apply for the grant funding.
- 03.19.08 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - Land north of The Street, Elmsett Presentation by Strutt & Parker. During the recess we heard of the possible development of land adjacent the school for 34 new dwellings. The Chairman pointed out that the village already had a number of planning approvals to meet the need identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. In addition, the site is not allocated in the plan and the parish would likely oppose any future application.

- 03.19.09 **CORRESPONDENCE:** Aldham Neighbourhood Plan – Pre-submission Consultation (Regulation 14). Aldham had forwarded a copy of their Plan. The council had no comments to make.
 Good Neighbourhood Scheme - Sally Connick from Community Action Suffolk notified the parish council of the positive impact that Good Neighbour Schemes are having in Suffolk. It was felt that this happens naturally in the village but there had been an incident recently when a person required assistance. It was agreed to invite Sally to the Annual Parish Meeting on 15 April.
- 03.19.10 **PLANNING: DC/19/00486** - Erection of a two storey rear extension – 10 Ladbrook Close, Elmsett The council had no comment.
DC/18/04966 – former Babergh DC Offices, Corks Lane, Hadleigh – the parish council objected previously and agreed to do the same again and ask Babergh to put the comments on the website as an Objection not a comment.
- 03.19.11 **FINANCE: Accounts due** – Cheques were signed for Places4People Ltd £1,014.00 – consultancy fee for Neighbourhood Plan, Places4People Ltd £462.00 additional consultancy work for NP, £906.00 Winsor, Clarke Brackenbury printing documents for submission of NP. The council received the sum of £200 towards the purchase of grit bins from County Councillor Robert Lindsay’s Locality Budget.
 Purchase of dog bin. It was agreed that a replacement bin adjacent the bus shelter should be purchased.
 The clerk confirmed that the date for internal audit was 23 April to be undertaken by SALC.
- 03.19.12 **DATES OF NEXT MEETING:-** Annual Parish Meeting 15 April, 2019, Annual Parish Council Meeting 13 May, 2019.

The meeting closed

Signed:-

Dated:-.....

Chairman