

Minutes of Elmsett Parish Council meeting held on 10 September, 2024 at the Methodist Church Hall.

- 09.24.00 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Paul Firman, Fiona Watt, Nick Bird, Andrew Woodgate, John Sones, Fran Williams, Robert Lindsay, SCC and Leigh Jamieson BDC and the clerk was present.
- 09.24.01 **APOLOGIES:** Robert Lindsay and Leigh Jamieson arrived late.
- 09.24.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 09.24.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of the Meeting held 23 July and additional planning meeting held on 16 August were signed as accurate records.
- 09.24.04 **4.1 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Car Parking Charges** A review of the affordability of making the first hour of parking free, in Hadleigh and Sudbury was considered by cabinet in August. Additional information was included in the new report, but it recommended that the one-hour free option was not implemented because it is unaffordable. This means the council will proceed with the charges, which at £1 for short stay parking for the first hour, or £1 for two hours in long stay, are below those of neighbouring authorities. There are no plans to introduce charges for parking on Sundays or Bank Holidays, and Blue Badge holders would continue to be allowed to park for free for up to three hours in all council car parks.
- New Waste Collection Plans** The number of waste bins and collections is due to be considered by Cabinet soon. Residents in Babergh will not only see the introduction of new weekly food waste collections from 2026 but could also enjoy a 'recycling revolution' under new plans. Plans will enable residents to recycle more items in their household recycling bin from 2026 to meet new government legislation where glass and cartons such as Tetra Pak will be included. A separate bin, box or bag would be provided for paper and cardboard. This change will increase the number of bins each home has but the councils' waste team would be sympathetic to those with exceptional needs on a case-by-case basis.
- Call for Land Summit** The Council hosted a free event in September for local landowners in the districts to help put them in touch with organisations that can support them in managing their land better for wildlife.
- Norwich to Tilbury Pylons** Following on from the National Grid consultation Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils, who are both affected by the route, have submitted a response. The councils continue to object to the "considerable and potentially devastating impacts" of the proposals to the districts. In a joint response, the councils call for a pause to the scheme so alternatives can be fully considered and consulted upon.
- Kingfisher Leisure centre repairs** The pool in Sudbury was initially closed in August Unfortunately, it soon became apparent that the complexity of the repair and time would mean a longer closure. Now further investigations have revealed additional work to the roof is needed – meaning the pool will be closed for at least a further 12 weeks.

All other facilities at Kingfisher, remain open as usual. While the pool is closed, the council will also take the opportunity to carry out additional surveys and maintenance work

**Sports and recreation in Babergh get £118K boost.** Two separate sports and recreational projects in Babergh are to receive an injection of more than £118k from Babergh District Council, thanks to funds collected from developers. This includes £100K from CIL funding that has been allocated to Layham Road Sports Ground Pavilion in Hadleigh.

**4.2. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT: Ofsted Inspection of Children's Social Care** In August the inspection report for Suffolk County Council's social care services for children was published, following a visit from Ofsted at the end of May. The report found that social care services for children, which include fostering and adoption, safeguarding, child protection, youth justice and corporate parenting (children in care), 'require improvement to be good.' My opposition group are concerned by this as children's services were rated as 'Outstanding' the last time they were inspected in 2019, and the remarks on leadership – that leaders do not have 'sufficient grip' on all the services provided – are especially worrying.

You can read the full Ofsted inspection report here:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80565>

**Free online courses for school transitions** The county is providing free online courses for children starting primary or secondary school and for their parents. You can access these using the link [www.inourplace.co.uk/moving-up](http://www.inourplace.co.uk/moving-up) and register for an account using the access code WOLSEY.

**Electric Car Hire** The county has won a bid for £7.3m Government funding for electric car infrastructure. £1.4m will go towards chargers in 63 community sites such as village halls, scout huts, while £5.9m will be spent on on-street charging. Also the county will be tendering for a company to provide an electric car rental service across eight locations in Suffolk including Sudbury, Needham and Stowmarket. Residents can book them by the minute, hour or day.

**Launch of Solar Together Suffolk** The county is launching a group buying scheme for people wanting to install solar panels or battery storage. If you sign up to the scheme, an independent company will organise bids from installers to collectively install several schemes in your area. The winner is the cheapest bidder. It is free to register at [www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk](http://www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk), and there is no obligation to go ahead with an installation.

**Green Homes Grant – if no takers £5m will have to be returned to Govt.** This grant for full cost of insulation or home energy efficiency improvement is still available until March but the uptake has not been good. This may be because it is means tested or just not been promoted enough. Of the £8.3m available this year, only £3.3m is forecast to be

spent and the remaining £5m will have to be returned to Government.  
The scheme in Suffolk is known as Warm Homes Suffolk.

- 09.24.05 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** The chairman had nothing to report other than items on the agenda.
- 09.24.06 **REVIEW OF EXISTING COUNCIL POLICIES:** – Adoption of new Code of Conduct, Update of Financial Regulations. It was agreed to adopt the new Code of Conduct and updated Financial Regulations. The adoption of Grant Application Policy was deferred for further consideration. Other existing policies were reviewed and adopted – Standing Orders, Internal Control, Wildlife, GDPR, Information Protection Policy, Privacy Policy, Risk Assessment, and Website Accessibility. Councillors to consider the wording of Grant Application Policy to discuss at the next full meeting at the end of October.
- 09.24.07 **ALDHAM ROAD CLOSURE UPDATE:** The chairman confirmed that the works were still programmed to start during the week commencing 16 September.
- 09.24.08 **VILLAGE HALL/COMMUNITY SHOP:** Leigh Jamieson said that he thought the decision would be made later in the week. Fiona reported that the session held on Saturday was well attended which raised £620 bringing the fund raising up to £2,000. Jarvis Builders will commence works in early October. There is already one storage unit on site which is being cleaned and painted.

The bowls club have created a storage area at the lobby end of the hall. Further fund-raising events have been organised which is all very positive.

- 09.24.09 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no members of the public present. Councillors raised the problem of the silted ditch adjacent Berberis. It was agreed to get quotes for the clearing of the ditch. The clerk reported on a proposed road closure of Flowton Road and proposed diversionary route. Members of the parish council pointed out that this route was totally inappropriate and asked whether Robert could convey this to SCC. He asked that the PC write to him so that he can pass on. The ditch in front of the Denbury site was also discussed as well as the requirement for the road to be widened which has still to be carried out. The meeting asked the Chairman to chase.
- 09.24.10 **CORRESPONDENCE:** Police Forum - The Chairman of the forum wanted to know whether the parish council wished to continue to receive the notes of their meetings. Parish Councillors agreed that it was useful to have the notes and be able to attend meetings if necessary, so yes please continue receiving them.

BDC Joint Local Plan – noted that the consultation period was in progress.

09.24.11 **TRAFFIC SIGN SURVEY AND FUTURE PROPOSALS FOR SPEED REDUCTION:** John Sones reported on the options the parish council might want to pursue to help with reduction of speed through the village.

It was agreed that he would look at costs of various 'flashing signs'. Robert Lindsay agreed to forward the necessary documentation and form to request the siting of signs. It was agreed that there would be a working party of Paul Firman, John Sones and the Chairman to report back to a future meeting.

Paul Firman to report damaged signs revealed in the traffic signs report on SCC website.

09.24.12 **PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN SUFFOLK CC AND ELMSETT PC RE DEREGISTRATION OF LAND THE GREEN, ELMSETT:**

Chairman to circulate the draft agreement for discussion at the next meeting.

Rose Builders proposal is that Whatfield Road is narrowed and a narrow footway be installed on the road. Highways have checked it and rejected it as apparently it failed a safety audit. The PC to write to further object to the proposal and chase response to earlier email and to discuss at next full meeting.

09.24.13 **FINANCE:** The following invoices were verified for electronic payment

Methodist Church	hire 23/07/2024&10/924	52.00
Hitchcock Inv 196	cuts 17&30/7 and inv 207 cuts 6/8&20/8	300.00
Zurich	Ins Renewal	300.00
Ed Seeley	Churchyard maint 50% of inv4208010	125.00
Microsoft Renwal	Microsoft subs	79.99
Alan Newman(rmbt)	Copier Paper	22.99
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	378.00

The clerk to create these payments and two councillors would approve. The clerk confirmed that a payment for £22.80 was carried out as a trial to SALC (previous unrepresented cheque which had been cancelled).

The clerk also produced a reconciliation which was verified. The clerk confirmed that the External Auditor had sent a report and that a conclusion of audit notice should be displayed on the website. The report highlighted that the smaller authority did not comply with Regulation 15 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as it failed to make proper provision during the year 2024/25 for the exercise of public rights, since the approval date was after the start of the period for the exercise of public rights. As a result, the smaller authority must answer 'No' to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25 and ensure that it makes proper provision for the exercise of public rights during 2025/26.

Request from Carpet Bowls for donation towards new mats – Members of the parish council proposed to purchase one new mat and donate to the bowls club.

Purchase of additional defibrillator – Fran Williams and Paul Firman have been reviewing the parish Emergency Plan and whilst doing so there had

been an emergency in the village when the defibrillator housed at the village hall was used. This highlighted the potential need for at least one further defibrillator in the village. It was agreed to further investigate and to confirm that there is a defibrillator on the new Hornbeams development off Hadleigh Road and to ask whether there is one on the other new development in Whatfield Road before deciding on the location and number of additional units to be provided. Clerk to clarify with developers and report back.

Community Shop – It was agreed that Paul Cousins would verify invoices received from the builders before being presented to the council for payment.

09.24.14 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** It was agreed to change the date of the October meeting to 29 October. Dates for following meetings -10 December, 21 January, 2025.

The meeting closed.

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