

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 15 January, 2018 at the Elmsett Methodist Church Hall.

- 01.18.00      **PRESENT:** Mr Nick Bird in the chair, Mrs M Hinton, Mr G Hinton, Mr S Coram, Mr J Sones, Mr A Woodgate, District Councillor A, Ferguson.
- 01.18.01      **APOLOGIES:** Mr A Newman, County Councillor R Lindsay and the Clerk
- 01.18.02      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** No declarations
- 01.18.03      **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 December were signed as an accurate record.
- 01.18.04      **MATTERS ARISING: Grass cutting** -A request for tenders for grass cutting has been placed in the newsletter. **Village Hall** – Clarification regarding checking the batteries in the defibrillator. The Ambulance service will be responsible for this. The Chairman and Treasurer of the VHMC apologised for not attending the meeting.
- 01.18.05      5.1      **COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:** Robert Lindsay, not in attendance but sent an updated report on **School bus travel cuts** the consultation closes at the end of February and he is attending a meeting held by Thurston School on this on February 1<sup>st</sup>. **Nursery funding in Suffolk – county to pass on an extra £1m** I’m delighted to report that the county has listened to opposition voices (including mine) on this issue and there is now a proposal before the schools forum this week to retain just 3.8% of the funding. If approved, this will allow the base rate payments to nursery providers for 3-4 year olds to increase from £3.87 an hour to £4. Because the county is retaining less, it is proposing to cut the telephone service it offers nursery providers by encouraging a move to online communication. **Citizens Advice - £20k funding cut and CAB in Hadleigh** The cabinet is aiming to cut £20,000 from Citizens Advice Bureau across the county as part of their plan to meet a £27m budget gap. Every £1 invested in CAB services generated £1.96 in savings to government and public services last year, according to a national study. There is growing demand for the CAB’s services. Mid Suffolk CAB in Stowmarket saw 12% growth in clients requesting help last year. So this cut makes no sense. Both I and my group will be making this plain to the cabinet and full council. Meanwhile I have provided £300 for Sudbury and district CAB to do two “outreach” sessions this year in Hadleigh.
- 5.2      **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:** On 19 December at a full Babergh Council meeting a Motion raised by Opposition members, with some Conservative support, to demand a second referendum before taking any decision/recommendation on the merger of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils was heard. The Leader of the Council (Jennie

Jenkins) resigned just before a motion was debated to remove her as Leader of Babergh DC. Cllr John Ward has been elected the new Leader. **Public Access** - I need to correct a previous incorrect statement concerning the new drop in locations for the electorate post closure of Corks Lane The facility has not been provided in Endeavour House. This is not an acceptable solution to the less IT literate (mainly older) members of the electorate but I will track the levels of concern that become evident and respond accordingly. **Boundary Commission** The Boundary Commission will produce its final recommendations on 6th February when the implications will then be debated by the full Council. **Public Sector Housing** Following the completion of 12 properties in Lavenham in 2017, 15 additional houses are due to be occupied in Glemsford in 2018 with a further 34 flats becoming available in Hadleigh following the refurbishment of Angel Court.. Babergh also continues to buy suitable properties on the open market to increase the supply of Council owned houses. **Private Sector Housing** Work has now started on the McCarthy Stone retirement development in Hadleigh (the old so called Tesco site. **Merger of Babergh & MSDCs** There will now be a referendum (which I would expect/hope to be completed before the middle of the year). If this vote is in favour of merger, the decision must be agreed by a majority of Babergh Councillors before it can be submitted to the Secretary of State as a **recommendation**. Only he can take the final decision and I would not now expect this to happen before 2020. **Disposal of Corks Lane Buildings** . As part of the process, the Council will have to decide if it is prepared to take the risk and develop the site itself with the expectation of profit, or whether it should just be sold off. The key is to ensure that whatever solution is finally approved, it is viable in terms of a suitable return for Babergh DC. That is our responsibility to Babergh residents.

01.18.06 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE:** Alan Newman previously circulated an updated report to the meeting that a Steering Group had been set up which consists of Alan Newman (chairman), Andrew Woodgate, Stan Coram, Allan Mountfield, Amanda Bishop, Andrew Morton, David Ford, Jim Crabtree, Jeremy Francis, Ian Chambers and Ian Poole. They had the first meeting on the 14th December at the Methodist Church.

There were a number of procedural points to resolve but the main thrust of the meeting concentrated on the formulation of a housing needs survey that will be a large part of the evidence gathering that is needed to be able to properly plan our village's future. It is anticipated that a web page on the parish council web site will include all the exhibition material, meeting agendas and minutes along with other news as appropriate.

01.18.07 **CORRESPONDENCE: Police Forum** – John Sones had made the council aware that he now had other commitments and would not be able

to attend the meetings for the foreseeable future. **Strutt & Parker** – letter regarding Land north of The Street, Elmsett. **(GDPR) – General Data Protection Regulation** – Both the Clerk and Chairman have attended sessions regarding the changes to legislation coming into being in May. There is conflicting advice as to whether the council should appoint a Data Protection Officer. A sum has been earmarked in the budget to cover any possible costs that may be involved. **Anglian Water** – a meeting had been arranged by Anglian Water on 23 January regarding the replacement of the water main, but this has now been cancelled.

01.18.08 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Discussion on potholes and to check on the replenishment of the grit heaps

01.18.09 **FINANCE:** Cheques were signed for Local CAPAS £40.00 GDPR course including compliance pack. Methodist Church Hall £10.00 for NP meeting 14/12.

01.18.09 **PLANNING** – Application DC/17/02357 Poplar Hall, Whatfield Road, Elmsett - Siting of mobile home to be occupied by forester/gamekeeper and for site security –Decision Notice had been received from Babergh DC - Refusal of permission.

01.18.10 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** 19 February, 2018.

The meeting closed

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

Chairman