

Minutes of the Elmsett Parish Council meeting held on the 15 June, 2015 at the Methodist Church Hall.

- 06.15.00 **PRESENT:** Mr A Newman in the chair, Mrs Caron Garrity, Mr G Hinton, Mr J Sones, County Councillor Antill, District Councillor Ferguson the Clerk and one member of the public.
- 06.15.01 **APOLOGIES:** Mr Bird, Mr M Quinn, Mrs Hinton and PCSO Amanda Coleman
- 06.15.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None
- 06.15.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 11 May were signed as an accurate record.
- 06.15.04 **EMERGENCY PLAN:** Stephen Henthorn attended the meeting and gave a brief outline of some of the incidents where the presence of an emergency plan had been beneficial. He also gave examples of what he considered to be well written plans.

Members of the parish council were reassured to hear that he preferred the plan to remain simple. A group of councillors will meet before the next meeting to get the process started.

- 06.15.05 **5.1 POLICE REPORT:** The clerk read the report submitted by PCSO Amanda Coleman that there had been two reported crimes since our last meeting on the 11th May.

Malicious communications - 30/05/15 - Inappropriate use of social media. This has been finalised.

Cause harassment/alarm/distress - Whatfield Road, 10/06/15.

Female walking along pushing baby in pushchair, delivery driver has stopped and asked her questions and whether she wanted to buy any baby clothes. This has caused the female alarm and distress. On-going

5.2 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT: Devolution. CC is hoping that the Government will agree to devolve further tax raising powers and more autonomy to County Councils. The Chief Executive, has already had discussions in Whitehall about this. In the meantime the new cabinet is continuing to find ways to balance the budget over the next two years.

New Website. The new County Council website has been launched. The feedback of the trial over the past month has been encouraging. People seemed to find it easy to navigate and to use. The address for the new website is the same as the old one

www.suffolk.gov.uk.

Extension of Waste Deal with Norfolk. The deal that was signed with Norfolk County Council last year to send 40,000 tonnes of waste per year to the energy from waste facility in Great Blakenham has been extended for a further four years and is expected to save Suffolk around £500,000 per annum.

Ofsted Letter and Raising the Bar While pointing to some areas of improvement the most recent letter received by Suffolk Education Department from OFSTED criticised the council for the speed at which educational standards were turning round. At the next cabinet meeting, Cabinet will decide whether to commit a further £800,000 to supporting the Raising the Bar initiative.

Elmsett In response to justified complaints about road signage when roads have to be closed in the Aldham and Elmsett areas, at the request of the Chairman of Aldham Parish council a meeting is to be arranged with the manager of Highways Assurance, Diane Newson. Ms Newson and the relevant member of her team are not available until after 22nd.

She met some residents who are concerned about the bus service to Ipswich from Elmsett, in particular the lack of connection in Hadleigh for the early morning service. She will forward the clerk a copy of the letter received from Transportation. She has also been in communication with Elmsett School about problems concerning the drains and the toilets. The situation is being handled by SCC property division and hopes that at least a partial solution to the long standing issues will be achieved in the current financial year.

5.3 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT: Alan attended his first full Council meeting on 19th May and various committees (Strategy, Planning etc) are now meeting regularly again with their new membership, and he will update us when key issues are decided. Some recent examples/indicators that may be of interest are: council house tenants have an opportunity to have solar panels fitted, some may qualify for right to buy scheme. There will also be reductions in the council's core funding and there will be a need for further housing in the Babergh area. Also Babergh and Mid-Suffolk are likely to be co-located at some time in the future.

06.15.06 **CORRESPONDENCE:** A request for nettles to be cut down on the footpath alongside the meadow. Highways have been asked to do this. Telephone box – BT had contacted the parish council asking whether the grass and nettles around the telephone box should be cut back, or whether the box should be removed. Chairman asked that the box should remain particularly in view of the poor reception we have for mobile phones and that the council will be embarking

on an emergency plan.

John Sones reported on the liaison meeting he attended on behalf of the council.

06.15.07 **FINANCE:** A Cheque in the sum of £50 was signed for hire of Methodist Church Hall for this meeting and including the next four hirings. £30 subs for Community Action Suffolk. £50 Jim Roberts for internal audit. The accounts were approved by the council and signed in preparation for the external audit.

06.15.08 **PLANNING:** There were no planning matters to discuss.

06.15.09 **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:** 27 July, 7 September, 26 October, 7 December, and 18 January

The meeting closed

Signed:-.....
Chairman

Dated: