

Minutes of Elmsett Parish Council meeting held on 18 June 2024 at the Methodist Church Hall.

- 06.24.00 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Paul Firman, Fiona Watt, Andrew Woodgate, John Sones, Fran Williams, the clerk was present.
- 06.24.01 **APOLOGIES:** Nick Bird, District Councillor Leigh Jamieson, and Robert Lindsay, Suffolk County Councillor.
- 06.24.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:**
- 06.24.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 7 May, were signed as an accurate record.
- 06.24.04 **4.1 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Green Party take over Leadership.** Green Party Councillor, Deborah Saw, who represents the North Cosford Ward, has started her tenure as Leader of the Council. Deborah, who has been a deputy leader during year one, takes over with a number of ambitions.-
Continuing to improve Babergh's council housing for tenants remains an urgent priority. Babergh have invested c£1m already to clear a repairs backlog, with new systems planned and improved communication with tenants pledged. The council also wants to encourage more community-led housing and stimulate the formation of Community Land Trusts. More parishes will be supported to complete Neighbourhood Plans or People and Place Plans to help shape future development, with a renewed emphasis on good design in residential and commercial buildings. Deborah also outlined further action to combat climate change, by exploring how communities can create local renewable energy plans. Work will also continue to remove red tape around making listed buildings more energy efficient will continue, while Babergh also hopes to become the first council to allow property owners to put solar panels on outbuildings without planning permission.
47 new electric charge points in council car parks thanks to £300k grant
An additional forty-seven new electric vehicle (EV) charge points are now available in Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils' car parks, to help more people transition to EV cars and reduce emissions. Funded by a £300k grant from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV), their aim is to help more people transition to EV cars over the coming years – in turn helping to cut carbon emissions and reduce air pollution. However, although this is good, residents have commented that these chargers are always empty. While we do need the infrastructure first to encourage people to transfer to electric I, and other members of our group, understand people's frustrations and we have asked the council if some spaces can be freed up for normal cars e.g. placing a hood over the charger, until the demand increases.
Half term activities for kids. A healthy selection of half term activities was again on offer for children across Babergh as the district councils help to support families during the school break. From arts and crafts to soccer schools, dance classes to adventure days, there was something on offer for every child to enjoy. There were even activities for the whole family to get involved with, such as family swim sessions or cooking classes.

4.2. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Robert had nothing further to report from the previous report at the APM.

06.24.05 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Emergency Plan** – Chairman confirmed that Fran Williams and Paul Firman were updating the plan. John Sones was also providing support.
Traffic Survey – John Sones and the Chairman had received a report on the speed limit signage. It was agreed to circulate when all the information has been received. Cost of additional map – to be carried forward to next meeting
Road Closure Aldham – Chairman confirmed that he, Paul West and Ben Cook, had travelled along the diversionary routes and agreed that they will affect repairs along the verges and carriageway. Temporary repairs will not close diversionary routes. Aldham Road work is due to commence on week beginning 15 July, regardless of legal issues with the ditch.
Flowton Road closure – this was implemented because of badger damage. As badgers are protected the area has been plated and the road has been reopened.
Ditch in front of Mannings – Nick Bird investigated and felt that the responsibility was with Mannings. As the property is unoccupied and on the market the Chairman had contacted the Estate Agent. They advised writing a letter to the owner requesting clearance of the ditch. Clerk to write.
Shrublands Development – invitations had been received to a Bricklaying Ceremony on 9 July at 11am.

06.24.06 **ALDHAM ROAD CLOSURE UPDATE:** Reported in Chairmans Report.

06.24.07 **VILLAGE HALL/COMMUNITY SHOP UPDATE:** Fiona reported on a successful village hall annual general meeting when a new Chairman was appointed (Bob Scott who attended the meeting briefly and introduced himself to the members of the PC), as well as officers and general committee members. She said that there was real enthusiasm and drive to keep the hall running.

Community Shop - Fiona Watt outlined what had been done so far with regard to the provision of a Community Shop. A number of sub-groups have been formed and working on different aspects and reporting back to the whole committee. She said that the main focus was on getting something up and running quickly, research had shown that there was a desire/need for a shop. She produced plans to convert the storage area at the back of the hall to accommodate the shop in the first instance. This would also improve the facilities of the hall when the temporary provision moves on. Fiona wanted a commitment from the council to cover initial costs before going forward with the proposals. As this was short notice it was agreed to put the item on the agenda for the next meeting on 23 July.

06.24.08 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no members of the public present.

06.24.09 **FINANCE:** The following invoices were verified and cheques signed:

Ed Seeley	894	50% cost of chyd maint	140.00
Elmsett Meth. Ch.	895	Hire	26.00
Hitchcock	896	Cuts 2-5 & 28-5	150.00

E&A VHMC	897	inv 77 hire 23-1-24	26.00
E&A VHMC	898	inv 83 hire 23-3-24 np	65.00

The bank reconciliation having been circulated previously was verified. The AGAR Return – The Internal Audit had been completed. Sections 1 and 2 of Form 3 were approved and signed. The Internal Audit report to be circulated. Clerk to send all authorised documentation to External Auditor and publish on the Council’s website including bank reconciliation, variances and notice of period for exercise of public rights.

06.24.10 **PLANNING:** Application for planning permission without compliance of condition(s) - DC/24/02576 under S73a for the Removal or variation of a Condition following grant of DC/21/05077 dated 28/01/2022 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Erection of 1no. detached dwelling and garage. To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) as per submitted details - Aldham End, Hadleigh Road, Elmsett, Suffolk – Members of the council noted the enlargement of the overall floor space. The council did not wish to restrict the grant of approval.
DC/24/02165 - Erection of detached two bay cart lodge.: Silverdale, Hadleigh Road, Elmsett – Members of the parish council did not object to the nature of the application in principle but considered that the proposed cart lodge was too close to the highway and its approval in that position would set an unwelcome precedent.

06.24.11 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** 23 July, 10 September, 22 October, 10 December, 21 January, 2025.

The meeting closed.

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