

Minutes of Elmsett Parish Council meeting held on 23 July, 2024 at the Methodist Church Hall.

- 07.24.00 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Paul Firman, Nick Bird, Andrew Woodgate, John Sones, Fran Williams, Robert Lindsay, Suffolk County Councillor and the clerk was present.
- 07.24.01 **APOLOGIES:** Fiona Watt (unwell), District Councillor Leigh Jamieson.
- 07.24.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 07.24.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 July were signed as an accurate record.
- 07.24.04 **4.1 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Aldham Road closure**  
Following debate on Social Media regarding the delayed repair of the Street in Aldham I emailed James Cartlidge, but have had no response other than the automatic reply. I have been contacted by Thomas Malina who writes for the East Anglian Daily Times as he is planning to run a follow up story on the delayed repair.  
There were also issues with heavy lorries attending the site in Whatfield Road. I have raised this with the builder as the driver's attitude left a lot to be desired. I'm still awaiting a reply on this.  
**Cabinet restructure** The Council have restructured and renamed the cabinet portfolios to bring them in line with the Council's action plan  
**Community Fun Days** Community Fun Days are coming to Babergh and Mid Suffolk this summer, giving people the opportunity to come together and have fun during the school holidays.  
The fun days will be slightly different, but there will be lots of free activities available to all members of the public. Activities will vary on each day, but activities may include a climbing wall, facepainting, a multitude of sports, and circus workshops.  
In addition to the activities, there will be the chance for members of the public to get advice on Anti-Social Behaviour, fitness and health opportunities, mental health support, support with benefits, debts, housing, and recycling, to name a few.  
Funding for these days comes from the Holiday Activity and Food Programme, and therefore, lunches and a select few activities can be pre-booked by children eligible for free school meals. Anyone not eligible can turn up on the day and are encouraged to bring a picnic.  
Events are happening in at the locations locally, below, and will be open to the public from 10-2pm:
- Stowmarket Recreation Ground, Recreation Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1JT– Monday, 29 July
  - Stevenson Centre, Stevenson Approach, Great Cornard, Sudbury, CO10 0WD – Friday, 2 August
  - Hadleigh Pool and Leisure, Stonehouse Road, Hadleigh, Ipswich IP7 5BH – Friday, 9 August
- 4.2. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Aldham Road closure** I have been away but have been briefed by Leigh on Friday's happenings and I aim to attend the video call promised by Paul West to Elmsett and

Aldham PC chairs, by end of this week. Will urge the need for more detailed and regular updates.

**County agrees to do more secure and spend developer money for communities** Suffolk County Council currently holds £52 million in developer contributions – This is money that the council makes developers provide as a condition of obtaining planning permission. The money fund things like footways, roads or extra school spaces that help improve the community for all.

But there are often lengthy delays before this money is spent, either because the developer takes too long to hand it over, or the county does not have the capacity to complete the work in good time. My Green colleague Simon Harley at the last council meeting proposed a motion that asked the council to ensure guidance for developer contributions is updated, that the work required is carried out in a timely manner and to a high standard and that legal action against developers is taken where needed.

The motion was approved with no votes against and nine abstentions.

**Call for more Foster Carers** Suffolk County Council is taking part in a new initiative for fostering under the banner Foster East along with ten other councils in the region. There is an urgent need for foster carers in the East of England, with more than 7,000 vulnerable children already in the care of their local authority, and a further 150 children coming into care every month.

Funded by the Dept of Education, potential foster carers will be nurtured through their fostering journey with their local council and via a buddy network.

More information can be found on [www.fostereast.org.uk](http://www.fostereast.org.uk)

**Eco Month at the county council** During June the council has been celebrating all the work being done internally and externally to tackle climate change, enhance biodiversity and protect the environment. Events have included a market at Endeavour House, a workshop for staff on energy bills, wildlife walks, litter picks and a guided visit to the Ipswich tidal barrier. Council staff were also coached on how they can make a difference in their jobs to reduce waste and printing and promote sustainability. In order to reach net zero by 2030, Suffolk County Council has switched to a 100% renewable energy tariff, moved to electric vehicles for all staff pool cars, and is moving street lights over to LEDs. The council has also reduced its gas use by 38%. However the last audit of its carbon emissions showed that it was off target for zero by 2030.

**Cold Callers** Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards have asked residents to be vigilant about tradesmen knocking on their doors to offer services, after several examples recently of cold callers persuading people to part with large sums of money for unnecessary or substandard work. The council is recommending that residents only use workmen on the Trusted Trader website: <https://trustedtrader.team/Suffolk/about-us>

Residents can also protect themselves and their neighbours by nominating their area to become a No Cold Calling Zone – there are now more than 200 of these across Suffolk. In order to nominate your road or neighbourhood, visit <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/suffolk-trading-standards/fair-trading/no-cold-calling-zones>

07.24.05 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** The Chairman confirmed that he had attended the bricklaying ceremony by Rose Builders at the new development on Whatfield Road. He was surprised to learn of the route of the proposed footway which included a proposal for the narrowing of Whatfield Road and the footway placed within the carriageway. The proposal was to narrow Whatfield Road to 3m and have 1.3m footway. It was agreed to write to the Planners and Highways to object to these proposals.

The chairman confirmed that he had written to the owners of Mannings regarding the state of the ditch in front of the property which is silted and needs to be cleared. It was also noted that part of the frontage hedge of Mannings was falling into the ditch. He reported that it appears that the vegetation in the ditch has been cut back. It was agreed to write and thank him for the work which has been carried out and to remind them that the silting needs to be rectified.

The chairman also confirmed that he had spoken to Ian Booth regarding the speed survey report.

07.24.06 **ALDHAM ROAD CLOSURE UPDATE:** The chairman attends weekly update meetings via video link, but still little progress as nestings birds put the start date back to September.

07.24.07 **VILLAGE HALL/COMMUNITY SHOP:** As Fiona Watt was unwell and did not attend the meeting a full update was not available. Fran Williams and Paul Firman confirmed that the volunteer groups were still working on research, planning and legal issues to get the shop underway. They said that there was overwhelming evidence from the responses on the questionnaires to suggest that such a facility is needed within the village. It was hoped that a fuller report and costings will be available for the next meeting.

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

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

Methodist Church	900	Hire 18-6-24	26.00
Hitchcock	901	Cuts 13&26/6 & Triangles	210.00
BDC	903	Dog & litter bin emptying	745.20
SALC	904	Internal audit 2024	386.40
Ian Booth	905	Speed sign survey CIL	1,290.00
Alan Newman	906	Rmbt Stamps	19.00

The clerk also produced a reconciliation which was verified. It was noted that the cheque for SALC for £22.80 had not been presented. Clerk to cancel original and rewrite cheque. The clerk confirmed that the AGAR

and other necessary paperwork has been forwarded to the external auditor as part of the wider audit process as the £25,000 income threshold had been reached for the previous year.

It was agreed to request that Fran Williams and Paul Firman be added to the mandate for TSB as a further attempt to use internet banking. Also confirm that Andrew Morton is removed. If this is not successful, consider moving the current account to another provider.

07.24.10 Traffic Signs Survey – The parish council has received the initial report but to move forward the parish council needed the Traffic Regulation Order for the village. Robert Lindsay was asked whether he could help to ascertain this on our behalf. The County Council will not accept the report in its entirety and requires individual signing faults to be logged onto their highway fault reporting tool. John Sones to produce a Speed Reduction report setting out initial views and measures that the parish council consider will assist in reducing traffic speeds.

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

The meeting closed.

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