

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 28 October, 2019 at the Methodist Church Hall

10.19.00 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Nick Bird, Stan Coram, John Sones, Andrew Woodgate, Fiona Watt, District Councillor L Jamiesn, County Councillor R Lindsey and the clerk was present.

10.19.01 **APOLOGIES:** Andrew Morton.

10.19.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Nick Bird declared an interest under planning - Land on The North Side Of, The Street and signed the interest book.

10.19.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 16 & 23 September were signed as accurate records.

10.19.04 **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Robert gave his report - **Cabinet reshuffle** The cabinet member for finance Richard Smith has resigned, Gordon Jones has moved over to take Cllr Smith's role at finance. Mary Evans has been moved to take Gordon Jones' role in charge of education. Andrew Reid has been appointed cabinet member for Highways and Transport in place of Mary Evans. Cllr Reid was chair of the pension committee.

School bus travel to be reviewed Mary Evans in her new role in charge of children and young people, issued an apology over the way the change to the school travel policy had been handled and said it would be reviewed by the head of the county's fire service Nick Hardingham.

Public buses My one allowed question at full council was to the new cabinet member of highways Andrew Reid to ask if he could meet passenger groups for the three bus routes (including the 461/462 and 120) in my division under threat from subsidy withdrawal. He said he would consider it.

Health visitors Our political group has been approached by very concerned Suffolk health visitors who revealed that their numbers have been cut by 41 from 117 in the wake of a new in-house contract in the county which is £1m cheaper than the previous contract. Another change is that 3 of the 5 mandatory visits to parents of children are no longer done by a qualified health visitor. We proposed a motion asking them to change this policy and ensure all visits were done by the same health visitor. This was also rejected.

Boundary Commission to shake up county ward boundaries (divisions) The review is expected to be completed by July 2020.

Forecast budget overspend for year At the end of the first quarter of the financial year, the county is forecasting an overspend for the full year of £1.2m on the base budget (due to rising costs of adult care) and £6.7m on the schools budget. The latter is mainly due to the soaring costs of providing special needs transport to specialist schools, often outside Suffolk. Although the council has already agreed to spend on building new places within Suffolk, which ought to cut some of the costs in the future, it is too late for this financial year.

4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Leigh gave his report - **Babergh Name Change** - The extraordinary council meeting planned for the 22nd October was cancelled at the request of Cabinet leader John Ward, the motion can be kicked into the long grass and resurrected at a later date.

Land South of Whatfield Road – Appeal- The officer dealing with this application has confirmed to me that she was planning to visit the site at the end of this month.

Paperless council The environmental task force's first decision that has been made is to ensure digital first. Senior staff and councillors are being challenged to go paperless for council and committee papers. Distributing hard copies of these papers' costs more than £50,000 a year. The council will continue to encourage residents to self-serve via the 24/7 resources available online. Our public council and committee meetings provide a great platform to set an example about how we work in a digital way. The task force is a joint committee between Babergh and Mid Suffolk and is due to sit monthly until March.

Parking Motion During last Tuesday's council meeting a motion was put on notice to review the parking in the district. Before increasing the parking and ultimately the cars on the road we should be looking at what options are available to provide residents with a serious alternative to driving. This will include public transport and cycling, particularly for residents of the towns, who may not need to drive every time an amended motion to bring these alternatives to the forefront will now go before Cabinet for consideration.

Free Swimming – Hadleigh, Sudbury & Stowmarket. Both councils extended their free swims offer during the October half term. They are extending their free swims offer for under 17s to help promote healthier and active lifestyles in the districts. Free swimming will now be available during the Christmas holidays from 20 December to 5 January 2020 inclusive at the following centres:

Kingfisher Leisure Centre, Sudbury, Hadleigh Pool and Leisure, Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre, Stowmarket, Stradbroke Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre

New users in Babergh will need to sign up for an Abbeycroft Leisure Free Swimming Membership in order to claim their free swim.

10.19.05 **VILLAGE HALL UPDATE:** Members of the VHMC were unable to attend the meeting but sent the following update - It is with great sadness that the Preschool committee announced last week that they would be closing their doors due to financial reasons and low numbers. We were unaware that things were as bad as that and are disappointed we didn't get a chance to help or advise in order to keep the preschool open. We have arranged a meeting this week but fear it may be too late as parents have already made other arrangements. With this in mind the plans for the pavilion and/or a porta cabin for extra space have been put on hold. We will now be discussing future plans at our next meeting on the 6th November and will of course keep you updated.

Members of the parish council had also been saddened to hear that the preschool had had to close, and would be happy to discuss any proposals that may come forward.

They also discussed the fact that both the WI and Over Sixties were facing difficulties.

- 10.19.06 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE:** The chairman reported that the Referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan had been set for 7 November. He had arranged for notices to be put on the front cover of the newsletter with further information within the newsletter. Flyers had been produced and the Steering Group tasked to deliver one to each household. Copies of the plan to be made available at the shop and with the Clerk. All information regarding the Referendum is on the Babergh website as well as the parish website. The chairman had also purchased and erected two large roadside banners advertising the date of the referendum.
- 10.19.07 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There was a recess for public comments. Discussion mainly on the fact that the local groups are dwindling.
- 10.19.08 **CORRESPONDENCE:** Both the chairman and Cllr Leigh Jamieson have written to Suffolk Housing asking for the overgrowth which is obstructing the visibility splay at the entrance of Church View to be cut back in accordance with the original planning conditions.
- 10.19.09 **SPEED DETECTION SIGNS:** The council had some information from other parishes who have these already but felt that more time was needed to explore the types of devices available and where in the village they might be installed and who should be responsible for the data collection etc.
- 05.19.10 **FINANCE:** Accounts Due – invoices were verified and cheques were signed as shown below.

Payee	Sum	Purpose	Powers for expenditure
SALC	21.60	Payroll services	LGA 1972
ROSPA	128.40	Play Eqmt Inspection	LGA 1972
Winsor Clarke	56.00	350 Referendum Flyers	N Plan
Elmsett Meth Church	15.00	Hall Hire NP meetings	N Plan
Elmsett Meth Church	75.00	Hall Hire meetings Jul-Oct 2019	LGA 1972 s133
T Hitchcock	120.00	Grasscutting 14/9 & 15/10	Open Spaces Act 1906
T Hitchcock	40.00	Grasscutting Triangles 29/10	Open Spaces Act 1906
A Newman	73.88	Referendum Banners	N Plan

A cheque for £17 made out to Royal British Legion for the purchase of a wreath was signed on 7-10-1 under the Powers of LGA 1972 s.138B

The Council has received £7,500 CIL money

- 05.19.11 **PLANNING:** DC/19/04735 - Erection of replacement garage (following demolition of existing) and erection of glass house - Rookery Farm, Manor Road, Elmsett
The members of the parish council did not object to the approval of the application.
- DC/19/04780 - Listed Building Consent - Demolition, rebuild and widen a chimney to the gable end Wall Farm, Ipswich Road, Elmsett – The parish council did not object to the approval of the application.

DC.19/01633 – Land on the north side of The Street, Ipswich – erection of up to 34 Dwellings – consideration of further information. Nick Bird left the room and took no part in the discussion. It was agreed to supplement our previous recommendation of refusal based on the further information received.

Application DC/19/04133 - Siting a mobile home to provide additional living accommodation, Manor Cottage, Manor Road, Elmsett –Babergh DC - Permission granted.

Application DC/19/03784 - Severance of garden and erection of 1 No. single storey dwelling and garage. Pump House, The Street, Elmsett - Babergh DC-Application withdrawn

05.19.12 **DATE FOR NEXT MEETING** 9 December.

The meeting closed

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