

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 29 February, 2016 at the Methodist Church Hall.

- 02.16.00 **PRESENT:** Mr A Newman in the chair, Mr N Bird, Mrs C Garrity, Mr J Sones, Mrs M Hinton, Mr G Hinton, County Councillor J Antill, District Councillor A Ferguson, and the Clerk
- 02.16.01 **APOLOGIES:** Mr M Quinn
- 02.16.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 02.16.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 January were signed as an accurate record.
- 02.16.04 **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT:** The budget for 2016/17 was voted through in Full Council earlier in the month. Although general council tax will not be increased, the county's share of the bill will be increased by 2% to reflect the Government's Social Care Levy which is ring fenced for Adult Social Care. **SCC Childrens' Services receive OFSTED 'Good' rating** Suffolk County Council's Services for looked after children have been rated good by OFSTED following a recent inspection. 78 Councils have been inspected under this framework, and only 17 have received Good ratings, so this is a good achievement. **Devolution** The Government's Devolution plans have been criticised by the Communities and Local Government Committee for lack of transparency, lack of clear objectives and a failure to engage the public. This criticism is probably justified and stems from government's own lack of clarity with regard to what powers they wish to devolve and to what extent. Suffolk's own plans remain in a state of some confusion as the Government has decided that Cambridgeshire must now be included in the mix. **Community Transport** New arrangements for community transport will commence in June 2016. Following the completion of a tender process Suffolk County Council has awarded contracts for the provision of demand led transport services to provide coverage across Suffolk. Officers believe that residents will receive an improved service at lower cost. In Babergh the service will be delivered by Hadleigh Community Transport, subcontracting to Go Start from Sudbury. Both organisations, with whom the Council have worked in the past, have been involved in the redesign process.
- 4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT** **Devolution** remains the Number 1 issue for the Council. Now, the possibility is for Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge and Peterborough all being considered and possibly more. The "elected mayor" is still a contentious issue . We may get a better idea in the Chancellor's next budget later next month when he hopes to announce the devolution partnership tentative arrangements.

Council Tax 2015-16 Babergh Councillors have decided that to meet a

potential budget deficit with cut backs in Central Government funding a rise in Council tax next year is unavoidable. This will mean an additional £5.00 for the year (on a Band D property). However, we now have a better idea about the real cost of the 2% increase in the County element for social care which is likely to add about £30 to Council tax bills for 2016/17.

- 02.16.05 **CORRESPONDENCE: Babergh DC** – Suffolk year of Walking opportunity to apply for walk leader. Parish Council to forward to Geoff Kistner. **St Peter's Church** – the Chairman reported that he had written a letter of support on behalf of the church for their grant application to help fund the extension to provide a toilet and kitchen facilities.
- 02.16.06 **DEFIBRILLATOR CABINET:** – The Chairman reported this has now been received and installed on the kitchen wall of the village hall. Instructions for using will be given in an emergency upon ringing the emergency services.
- 02.16.07 **STREET LIGHTING CHURCH VIEW** – From the very start of the development and through the planning process the parish council had requested that there be no street lighting at the site. Therefore the council was surprised and disappointed to see that light columns had been installed, contrary to the pre-planning requirements. A resident had asked whether the lights could be switched on. The matter was discussed and it was decided to allow the village to have their say at a future parish council meeting. This will be notified on the agenda for May and discussed at that meeting.
- 02.16.08 **CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN:** This has been arranged for the weekend of 5th/6th March. Notices have been placed in the newsletter and around the village. Litter pickers and jackets have been ordered. People to meet at the village hall car park at 10.00am on 5th March. Necessary risk assessments to be carried out and safety advice to be given to pickers.
- 02.16.09 **EMERGENCY PLAN:** Unfortunately there had been no volunteers following the request in the newsletter. Councillors decided to go ahead and a further meeting was arranged for Monday 7th March.
- 02.16.10 **FINANCE:** A cheque was signed for WEL Medical Ltd for £708 for the purchase of the defibrillator cabinet. Transparency Funding Application – Councillors approved the application for helping to comply with the new Transparency Code, including the clerk's recent web training.
- It was agreed to order seven hard copies of the New Councillor Handbook.
- 02.16.11 **PLANNING:** Coates Farm, it was noted that there appeared to be effluent in the ditch adjacent Coates Farm. It was agreed to follow up with the Environment Agency.

02.16.12 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 11 April at 7.00pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30 pm, 23 May, 4 July, and 5 September.

The meeting closed

Signed:-.....

Chairman

Dated:-.....