

Minutes of Elmsett Parish Council meeting held on 3 December at the Methodist Church Hall.

12.24.00 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Paul Firman, Fiona Watt, Nick Bird, Andrew Woodgate, John Sones, Fran Williams, Robert Lindsay, SCC and the clerk was present.

12.24.01 **APOLOGIES:** Leigh Jamieson BDC

12.24.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no declarations of interest.

12.24.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of the Meetings held on 29 October, 2024.

12.24.04 **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Robert's report as follows :

Whatfield Road footway The combined efforts of myself and your chairman have secured some dates for a meeting with the relevant officer over the latest drawings from the developer. We've agreed next Monday

Hadleigh Road ditch After I escalated this, Highways now tell me that the officer handling this has moved to a new role. The s278 is close to being signed but what the earlier officer did not realise is that road works have to be booked three months in advance. So that means that the work is unlikely to start until spring next year. However, they have asked the developer to install verge marker posts along the line of the ditch before the Christmas break, so there will be some protection for drivers.

Free home survey to find out how best to stop heat leaks from my home

Suffolk Public Sector Leaders are offering homeowners a free or discounted "retrofit" assessment if their Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) is rated below C. You can apply online at visiting suffolkenergyassessment.co.uk

You can check your home's EPC on gov.uk/find-energy-certificate.

The approved retrofit assessor will identify the best measures for your home, eg insulation, draft proofing, ventilation repairs, heat pumps or solar panels. They will also give you a cost:benefit analysis of any measure recommended.

It's free if your property is smaller than 98m² There is a maximum fee of £30 for larger homes.

Loft Insulation Offer for Suffolk Residents For the second year running, Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders are providing funding to help Suffolk residents make their homes warmer and save money on their energy bills by providing discounted loft insulation - an uninsulated home can lose up to a quarter of its heat through its roof. The Suffolk Loft Insulation Offer enables homeowners in Suffolk to receive a 50% discount (up to £200) and free delivery on orders of 200mm or 370mm wide eco-friendly thermal insulation rolls from High Loft, the UK's leading eco loft insulation brand. Last year, the project enabled the insulation of over 5,000m² of roofs in Suffolk, and this year the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership wants to double that figure. The offer is open to

anyone in Suffolk and will only close once the allocated funding has been spent. Visit <https://highloft.co.uk/pages/suffolk-council-200-loft-insulation-contribution> and fill in the form to receive your discount code.

£15k offer for home efficiency loan opens. The council's new £3m fund for interest-free loans to residents wishing to undertake home energy efficiency upgrades that was mentioned in last month's parish report is now active, and applications can now be made at <https://www.lendology.org.uk/warm-home-suffolk-loan>. Energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation, solar panels, batteries, glazing, or heat pumps are possible with loans from £2,000 to £15,000 to be repaid over a maximum of seven years at 0% interest.

4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Leigh was unable to attend but sent the following report - **Be Well Bus Visit** The Suffolk Be Well Bus visited Elmsett at the end of October.. Anyone was welcome to visit the Bus where they did not need an appointment. Six Elmsett residents visited the bus and found a knowledgeable team from different health, care, and community organisations. The bus had difficulties getting to site on the day, but attendees were keen for it to return.

Developer Expectations set out. The Council has adopted two supplementary planning documents (SPDs) that set out clear expectations for those looking to develop within the districts. The Housing SPD lays out more detail on the number and type of new properties required by each district on agreed sites, ensuring the right mix to meet housing need, including adequate provision of affordable housing. The SPD includes stipulations for the number of affordable housing properties required within each development and rather than grouping properties together it also ensures adequate integration across the site. The Intensive Livestock and Poultry SPD puts measures in place so intensive farming can sensitively coexist within the districts' rural communities as a valued part of our economy. The SPDs support the implementation of the Joint Local Plan, which enables the councils to spell out the detailed steps that planning applicants need to take in order to help with planning approval within Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Kingfisher Leisure centre Pool re-opening postponement Following closure of the pool in August for repair of the glass roof, further investigations revealed other additional problems that require more complex repair, which will come as a big hit to the council's budget potentially in six figures. However, discovery of further structural issues under the pool will delay opening until early next year. All other facilities at Kingfisher, including the gym, have remained open as usual.

Further CIL funding for communities Following October's window for Community Infrastructure Levy applications twenty-four of Babergh's town and parishes are due to receive a portion of £281K.

This round of neighbourhood CIL is in addition to the £15 million CIL funding which has been allocated in both districts since 2018.

Councils call for action over council housing budget black hole.

Following a report backed by more than one hundred Councils across the country highlighting the national council housing crisis, Babergh and Mid Suffolk's green leaders have signed a joint statement urging the Government to help turn things round. The statement urged the government to invest in urgently needed new council homes, addressing

the unsustainable debt previously allocated to councils and creating a Green and Decent Homes Programme.

Students given opportunity to debate climate issues. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' Schools hosted a Green Skills Summit, on 15 November. It saw year 8 and 9 students from across ten schools in Babergh and Mid Suffolk, take part in a COP-style event. The students represented sixteen nations debating real-world climate change challenges and emulating real-life negotiations. The aim was to engage young people from a wide variety of socio-economic backgrounds about climate change and its effects. The hope is to open up opportunities for local action and sustainable career choices for the next generation, following on from this year's Green Careers Week.

Colchester Orthopaedic Centre opens. The first patients have received their surgery at the new Essex and Suffolk Elective Centre which officially opened its doors last month. The purpose-built centre, housed in the Dame Clare Marx Building at Colchester Hospital, will help to change the lives of up to 10,000 people each year. It is one of the largest centres of its kind in Europe and aims to ease waiting times at Ipswich & West Suffolk hospitals. The state-of-the-art centre has eight theatres, three wards and seventy-two inpatient beds dedicated to elective surgery for bones, joints, and muscles, meaning that postponement of operations will be less likely, reducing waiting lists.

- 12.24.05 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Chairman reported that he had met with Ben Cook, SCC Highways they drove around the diversion routes created when Aldham Road was closed. They identified areas where repairs should be undertaken and redo the laybys that had temporary repairs. The repairs to Aldham Road are now complete but some work on the inside is still being carried out to enable the water to flow. Chairman confirmed that a meeting with a member of the Highways Department and Robert had been arranged for next week to discuss the access to The Malting and a new drawing for the footpath.
- 12.24.06 **GRANT APPLICATION POLICY:** –To be referred to next meeting on 14 January.
- 12.24.07 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no members of the public present.
- 12.24.08 **CORRESPONDENCE:** 1) Babergh DC CIL funding briefing – Notification that BDC are hosting Teams events regarding this. 2) Police Forum next meeting has been arranged for 18 December at Stutton VH.
- 12.24.09 **VILLAGE HALL/COMMUNITY SHOP:** All work has been completed and the village hall are happy with the outcome. The Community Shop is launching a Shares Issue a booklet is to be distributed to all householders, Community Shares never change their value. A sum of £6,500 has already been raised from fundraising activities, donations and pledges. Amy Hill has been appointed Manager with some 30 volunteers it is hoped to open the shop mid-late January.
- 12.24.10 **TRAFFIC SIGN SURVEY AND FUTURE PROPOSALS FOR SPEED REDUCTION:** This item to carried forward to the new year.

12.24.11 **PLANNING** - DC/24/04433 Proposal: Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/17/05204 - Condition 9 (Fire Hydrants) and Condition 16 (Wildlife Sensitive Lighting) The Malting, Whatfield Road, Elmsett. (re-submission) – comments remain the same nothing further to add.

12.24.12 **FINANCE:** The following invoices were verified for electronic payment. Clerk to set up Fiona Watt and Paul Firman to authorise.

Jarvis	Comm Shop	£17,994.01	CIL
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T Hitchcock	Clearing ditch & cut 15.10	£295.00	
T Hitchcock	Inv 232 5/11 cut	£75.00	
A Newman	Rmbt Norton and postage	£108.34	
Elmsett Meth	Hire 3 Dec	£26.00	
Bowls World	Bowls Mat deposit	100.00	S137
Ed Seeley (50%)	St Peters Chyd maint.	155.00	
A Newman	Mileage exps	£26.55	

The two payments for Jarvis for the comm shop had been previously paid by transfer. and were authorised by two signatories

Bank Reconciliation – the clerk produced an up to date bank reconciliation. She confirmed that money had been withdrawn from the Cambridge Building Society to meet the costs for the Community Shop.

Clerk’s salary – proposed by Fiona Watt and seconded by Paul Firman that the clerk should be awarded the updated pay scales back dated to beginning of April.

Budget/Precept – the clerk had produced a budget for the next year. Based on this it was proposed by Fiona Watt and seconded by Fran Williams to request a precept of £10,700 for the next financial year. This would show a slight decrease in household bills.

Tree survey – it was agreed to ask Ipswich Borough Council to carry out the tree survey on the three sites : Elmsett Rectory Meadow, Elmsett Green & The Squeeck, including providing reports & plans at a cost of £563.75p.

12.24.12 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** 14 January, 2025 (Village Hall). The clerk had also provisionally booked the following dates in the new year 25 February, 1 April, 13 May, 17 June, 22 July 16 September, 28 October, 9 December all at The Methodist Church Hall

The meeting closed.

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