

Minutes of Elmsett Parish Council meeting held on the 6 March, 2017 at the Methodist Church Hall.

- 03.17.00 **PRESENT:** Mr A Newman in the chair, Mr N Bird, Mr G Hinton, Mrs M Hinton, Mr J Sones, Mr S Coram, Cty Cllr Mrs J Antill and District Councillor Alan Ferguson the Clerk and some 40 members of the public.
- 03.17.01 **APOLOGIES:** There were no apologies for absence
- 03.17.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Nick Bird declared an interest under correspondence – communication from Telefonica regarding provision of mast at Hall Farm. Nick also declared an interest in communication relating to land north of The Street.
- 03.17.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meetings held on 23 January and 15 February were signed as accurate records.
- 03.17.04 **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Jenny reported that the SCC component of the Council tax bill will rise by 3%, which represents the Government levy specifically to pay for Social Care. This is lower than the 5% increase being imposed by many councils in England, and the 4% national average. **Annual Public Health Report.** Suffolk's Director of Public Health released his annual report on 26 January 2017 setting an ambition to improve mental health services in Suffolk over the next 10 years. **School Funding** At first sight Suffolk appeared to be one of the winners but there will actually be little change from the previous unacceptable situation. The Cabinet Member for Education Gordon Jones has written to complain about the settlement to the Secretary of State, as have head teachers in the County. **Joint local area SEND inspection in Suffolk** - In December Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission conducted a joint inspection of Suffolk to judge the effectiveness of measures to deal with disabled and special educational needs children. Unfortunately the report was not good and realistically unlikely to be ahead of May's election. There has been very slight improvement but the tight financial situation makes bringing necessary new resources to the area difficult.

Jenny told the meeting that she would not be standing for another term. The Chairman thanked Jenny for her support during her term of office as County Councillor for the Cosford Ward.

4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Alan Ferguson reported on **Devolution:** No further news. **Future of Babergh accommodation Corks Lane** - The move to Ipswich (Suffolk CC Endeavour House) is still planned for May/June 2017. The 2 "landing sites" (one in Sudbury and one in Stowmarket - detail of retained levels of staffing have yet to be agreed) where support will be provided to Ward members who cannot or do not wish to travel to Ipswich to meet District Council members and/or Officers has now been clarified to "we will come to you as & when required". Disposal of current accommodation subject of on-going studies – no news. **Boundary Commission** Babergh called in the Boundary Commission to assess the

structure of the District and Babergh DC has now formally advised the Boundary Commission that we can deliver the new governance arrangements (Cabinet) in Ipswich with just 31 District Councillors – currently we have 43. Mid Suffolk have taken a similar position. **Finance** the County, the District and the Police will all increase the rate of Council Tax again in 2017/18. The Babergh increase is small at £5 per annum.

- 03.17.05 **CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR:** The Clerk confirmed that the necessary procedure of advertising had been followed and the council can now co-opt. This item was deferred to be put on the agenda of the next meeting.
- 03.17.06 **MATTERS ARISING: Village Hall installation of switch control -** Chairman confirmed that this has now been carried out and checked that it works. **Anglian Water** – the Chairman confirmed that the public meeting with Anglian Water and Aldham and Elmsett PCs had proved helpful and that updates would be put on the council’s website. There was no definite start date for works to commence other than late spring. **Tree Inspection** – still awaiting report following the recent inspection.. **Defibrillator Training** - This has now been scheduled to take place on 19 April at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall.
- 03.17.07 **CORRESPONDENCE – Letter from BDC – Spring Clean** – John Sones agreed to look into this and ascertain when the equipment would be available before suggesting a date. **Letter from Strutt and Parker – Land to north of The Street** – (Nick Bird declared an interest and took no part in the discussion) it was agreed that members of the council would meet with Strutt and Parker for preliminary discussions regarding the future of the land. **Communication from Telefonica – installation of telephone mast Elmsett Hall Farm** – (Nick Bird declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion) – discussion on whether the mast would provide 3G coverage for the entire village. It was agreed that this would be a more suitable site. The chairman opened the meeting for discussion and there were no objections to the provision of the mast at this site.
- 03.17.08 **EMERGENCY PLAN:** – It was agreed that the emergency plan would be finalised with details of potential rest areas in the village - village hall, Methodist church hall, St Peter’s Church, the school and possibly the airfield as well as necessary points of contact.
- 03.17.09 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** During the recess the Chairman opened the meeting to Mr Matt Blacoe who gave a presentation on behalf of Embrace Architecture re proposed development on land at Hadleigh Road south of Garrards Road. (notes of presentation and comments are appended)
- 03.17.10 **BROADBAND FOR ALL – COMMUNITY FIBRE PARTNERSHIPS** – John Sones outlined the scheme pointing out that if there was sufficient interest there is up to £20,000 from BT to be had in matched funding for areas that are not able to access broadband. He said that he would put a note in the newsletter. Parish Council agreed to act as facilitator if there is enough

interest.

03.17.11 **FINANCE:** Cheques were signed £683.97 for purchase of computer, software and printer/scanner. It is anticipated that this money can be reimbursed by monies from the Transparency Funding Application. £116.94 battery for computer, antivirus software and printer ink cartridges. £36.00 for CPRE Annual subs.£309.36 – Babergh DC - Dog and Litter Bin emptying for 2016. **Savings Account** – This is still progressing, PC to agree at the beginning of the next financial year the amount to put into the account. **Transparency Funding Application** – The clerk had completed the application form forwarded by SALC to claim funding for start-up costs to enable the council to comply with the Transparency Code which included the cost of a computer, scanner and software. The total amount claimed was £978.85. Members of the Council approved the application.

01.16.12 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** 24 April (followed by APM) and 5 June
The meeting closed.

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