

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 7 December, 2015 at the Methodist Church Hall.

- 12.15.00 **PRESENT:** Mr A Newman in the chair, Mr M Quinn, Mrs M Hinton, Mr G Hinton, Mr J Sones, the Clerk and two members of the public.
- 12.15.01 **APOLOGIES:** Mr N Bird, Mrs C Garrity, County Councillor J Antill, District Councillor A Ferguson.
- 12.15.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 12.15.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 September were signed as an accurate record.
- 12.15.04 **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT:** This was circulated to members prior to the meeting - **Devolution** Leaders from Norfolk and Suffolk met Lord Heseltine in London on 4th November with an outline of their devolution ideas for the area.

More information and the documents submitted to central government can be found on the Babergh website.

Education Fairer funding for Schools is now a step nearer since George Osborne confirmed that there would be a review in his Autumn statement. This should mean a higher per capita payment for Suffolk children, who currently receive one of the lowest amounts in the UK. Lisa Chambers, who recently resigned from the Cabinet and County Council, has worked tirelessly to support this campaign. She has also made progress in improving educational standards across the county and will be much missed.

Budget 2016/17 The process for approving the Suffolk County Council budget for 2015/16 has now started and the first indications were published ahead of the budget scrutiny meeting on Thursday of last week. One question for the administration will be whether or not to increase council tax by 2% as a 'precept' for social care. Given the current budget shortfall in this area I would expect this to happen. There should be no further increase in council tax however.

Rail travel in East Anglia. The standard of rail services in Suffolk is to be debated at this Thursday's council meeting. In particular the motion, which has been tabled by the administration, criticises the withdrawal of services between Felixstowe and Ipswich, Sudbury and Marks Tey and Ipswich and Peterborough and asks the train operator to give assurances that the problems will not recur.

4.2. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT: This was circulated to members prior to the meeting - **Devolution:** As expected, Devolution of

power from London to Norfolk and Suffolk remains the number one issue for the Council.

Grants to Council House Tenants Although it may be academic for most of our residents you should be aware that grants of £20,000 are available NOW to tenants who wish to move from Council owned property on to the private housing property ladder. 20 grants in total are available, 10 for Babergh and 10 for Mid Suffolk. As yet only one has been secured by a Babergh tenant. The opportunity is there to be taken.

Council Houses Babergh has made good progress recently in its determination to provide additional Council Houses. 12 x 1 bedroom flats have been built in Lavenham and 15 houses (2 & 3 bedrooled) have been built in Glemsford. Clearly there is much more to be done.

Decision Concerning Locations of Babergh & Mid Suffolk The decision to rationalise the current two locations for Babergh & Mid Suffolk is likely to be taken in the New Year. Irrespective of any relocation decision, ward members are assured that the "Hub and Spoke" model that has been described previously will be adopted to ensure no reduction of support.

Planning Applications Planning continues to be a very contentious issue. Please remain open minded about future developments and to be assured that I will support you to ensure that if houses are to be built, they will be in the right location, of the right type and proportional to the size of the village taking into account other recent developments.

- 12.15.05 **EMERGENCY PLAN:** It was agreed to form a sub-committee to initiate the plan. Geoff Hinton to produce a skeleton draft before the meeting to be held on 4th January at the home of the Chairman.
- 12.15.06 **CHURCH VIEW UPDATE:** The Chairman reported on two site meetings which were held with Suffolk Housing, their landscaping contractors and Babergh's Enforcement Officer. A number of issues were raised with regard to the inadequate boundary landscaping. It was agreed that more mature planting would be carried out to strengthen the existing newly planted hedges. It was also agreed that weed spraying of the grassed areas would be undertaken in spring. The pre-existing frontage hedge that became overgrown and restricted visibility has been cut down. It will be cut further and the roots chemically treated to kill them. The highway authority has stated that street lighting is not needed for the adoption of the road therefore in line with the parish councils views from the earliest pre planning discussions of this scheme this should be removed.
- 12.15.08 **CORRESPONDENCE:** Notifications of review of the Police. Dates for Christmas tree collections and bin collection over the Christmas period - both to be displayed in the shop.

12.15.09 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Concerns were expressed regarding an overhanging hedge, large stones being placed on the highway and cars parked on the zigzag markings by the school. Clerk to refer these to the appropriate authority.

12.15.10 **FINANCE:** Cheque was signed in the sum of £78.00 for grasscutting on 1 October.

Precept: In view of the recent demands of the village hall it was unanimously agreed to increase the precept by £200 and to request £9,700 the last increase being 7 years ago.

12.15.11 **PLANNING:** B/15/01601 – Erection of single storey rear and side extensions (following demolition of existing conservatory) Elmhaven, Hadleigh Road, Elmsett – parish council had no objections to the proposal.

B/15/01588 – Erection of single-storey rear extension 6 Ladbrook Close, Elmsett. – the parish council had no objections to the proposal.

Approvals by BDC -Application B/15/01366 – 18 Sawyers, Elmsett – Erection of single-storey side and rear wrap around extension
Application B/15/01397 - 1 Manor Road, Elmsett – erection of detached dwelling with linked two-storey garage/gymnasium and new vehicular access (following demolition of existing dwelling).

12.15.12 **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:** 18 January, 2016, 29 February, 2016.

The meeting closed

Signed:-.....
Chairman

Dated:-.....