

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 5 August, 2019 at the Methodist Church Hall

- 08.19.00 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair - Stan Coram, John Sones, Fiona Watt, County Councillor R Lindsay the Clerk, and 8 members of the public.
- 08.19.01 **APOLOGIES:** Nick Bird, Andrew Morton, Andrew Woodgate, District Councillor L Jamieson
- 08.19.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Stan Coram declared an interest under planning – Erection of 37 dwellings Whatfield Road DC/19/03445.and signed the interest book.
- 08.19.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 July were signed as an accurate record. It was noted however that a post meeting note stating that the bin day collection has been changed from Thursday to Tuesday applies only to part of the village and that the new day for the other part of the village is Wednesday.
- 08.19.04 **MATTERS ARISING:** Cuts to Bus Services. The parish council received correspondence from Councillor Mary Evans, Suffolk County Council, confirming that funding had been secured to fund the bus service for Elmsett until the end of the financial year. The chairman reported that he had spoken to Joy Moran, Hadleigh Community Transport Group advising that a meeting be arranged with all parishes affected by the cuts so that if necessary provision could be made when setting budgets for the precept to include a contribution for funding the bus service.
- 08.19.05 **5.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** Robert Lindsay reported as follows -
Bus cuts - The county council has agreed to provide funding for another six months for the 120 and 461 and 462 until end of March 2020. Unfortunately, they are still talking about withdrawing the subsidy after that. The 971 Hadleigh to Colchester is losing its subsidy but the operator will continue to run this route commercially, which is likely to mean a significant fare rise for students.
Plans to close children's centres confirmed as consultation is launched - On Tuesday 16 July, the Cabinet agreed to press forward with plans to close children's centres across Suffolk. The proposals will be consulted on by the county council in the autumn.
New model for specialist speech and language education - The Cabinet also agreed a new model for the provision of specialist speech and language education services. For children with the most complex needs, a new "Communication and Interaction" education pathway has been established for children aged 4 to 16 years, consisting of specialist units within mainstream schools and new special schools. This will replace the current speech and language units which only cater for 5 to 7 year olds.
Northern Bypass consultation launched - Suffolk County Council, along with the district and borough councils, launched a consultation into the Ipswich Northern Route at the beginning of July. The consultation identifies three potential routes for the

bypass, which will link the A12 and A14 corridors. There is a big question mark over whether a new road fits with the council's declaration of a climate emergency and commitment to be carbon-neutral by 2030.

The consultation will run until Friday 13 September. You can find the consultation, along with further information, here: <https://ipswichnorthernroute.org.uk/>

Carbon strategy agreed - Following the council's declaration of a climate emergency in March, the Cabinet has now agreed a strategic framework for meeting its commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030. A cross-party policy development panel will begin in September, tasked with investigating how the council can meet its objectives and what investment is needed to ensure the council is carbon neutral by 2030. It is expected that the panel will report back to Cabinet in early 2020.

Pension fund begins to move away from fossil fuels - Suffolk Pension Fund has agreed to move £150m into a UBS Climate Aware World Equity Fund. Although a very small proportion of the £2.9 billion fund, this is the first step the Council has taken to move investments away from fossil fuels. This will be followed up in November after the once-every-three-year valuation of the fund occurs, with a view to seeing whether a larger amount can then be transferred into the climate-aware fund

5.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Leigh Jamieson reported - **Local Planning Applications** - DC/19/03445 - Land on The South Side Of, Whatfield Road - I have raised my concerns with the planning officer that this, along with the application that is still under consideration in The Street, would bring the potential number of houses in Elmsett to 139 properties! I have asked for a local needs' assessment. **Bus Cuts** - The 461, 462 and 120 buses have been given a reprieve until March 2020, whilst alternative funding options are developed. While this is not a long-term solution it does give us time to try to save the bus routes permanently. A big thank you goes out to the local residents of the village for their sterling efforts in making this happen. **Climate Emergency declaration** - Councillors at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have voted on motions to support Suffolk's county-wide aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. This Council pledged to: - 1. Acknowledge a climate emergency. 2. Set up a Task Force, commencing by September 2019, to examine ways in which Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils will respond to the climate change challenge on a spend to save basis, with the ambition to make Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils carbon neutral by 2030. 3. To work with partners across the county and region, including the LEP and the Public Sector Leaders, towards the aspiration of making the county of Suffolk carbon neutral by 2030. 4. To work with Government to a) deliver its 25-year Environment Plan and b) increase the powers and resources available to local authorities in order to make the 2030 target easier to achieve. **CIFCO Business Plan** - Also approved last month was the CIFCO's draft business plan for 2019/20. The property investment company is looking to increase the £1.4m annual income it already generates for services in Babergh and Mid Suffolk – the equivalent of increasing council tax by more than 12%. The current portfolio of 12 properties is spread throughout the east of England and balanced across commercial sectors to minimise exposure to any one sector or location. The changing market is now expected to be reflected by a shift away from retail property and towards office and industrial sectors instead.

Joint Local Plan Drop in Events - Babergh and Mid Suffolk have confirmed a series of public drop-in events as part of the public consultation on the councils' draft Joint Local Plan. **Elmsett Neighbourhood plan** - On the 12th September the Neighbourhood plan comes up before cabinet. Cabinet will examine and hopefully approve that the plan goes out for referendum.

- 08.19.06 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There was a recess for public comments. The comments related mainly to the application on Whatfield Road and the lack of infrastructure to support it, especially with the number of new properties proposed in the applications already approved. Residents felt that there was a need for some additional development including affordable housing but that this would be accomplished by the approvals already given. The chairman thanked everyone for their comments.
- 08.19.07 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE:** The chairman reported that the Examiner had approved the plan for the referendum and that the Plan was going to Cabinet at Babergh District Council on 12 September for approval and to the next stage which will be the Referendum.
- 08.19.08 **VILLAGE HALL UPDATE:** The clerk read an email which had been sent to the parish council and circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The email said that talks had been held with the preschool regarding the possibility of renovating the pavilion to enable them to provide more hours and would the parish council be prepared to discuss whether money would be available to support any works to the pavilion instead of the Village Hall.

Members felt that they would need greater detail before discussing. The clerk to invite the Village Hall representatives to the next meeting to provide more detail.

- 05.19.09 **CORRESPONDENCE: Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan –** The Chairman had been sent a copy of the plan and although it is available on line felt that it might be easier to work through a hard copy. It was agreed that the hard copy be circulated to members of the council to make comments and bring them all together at the next meeting.
- 05.19.10 **FINANCE:** Accounts Due – invoices were verified and cheques were signed as shown below.

| Payee | Sum | Purpose | Powers for expenditure |
|-----------------|--------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| T Hitchcock | 120.00 | Grasscutting 31-5, 13 & 24-6 | Open Spaces Act 1906 |
| BMSDC | 104.78 | Election recharges | LGA 1972 |
| Suffolk Acc Res | 55.00 | Donation | S137 |
| T Hitchcock | 120.00 | Grasscutting 8 & 23 July | Open Spaces Act 1906 |

Bank reconciliation – under the terms of the council’s financial regulations it is necessary to provide reconciliations throughout the year. See attached documentation which was verified at the meeting and approved showing the present financial position.

05.19.11 **PLANNING:** Removal of Telephone Box - After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the council would not object to the removal by BT of the telephone box. It was felt that the mobile signal has improved considerably with the introduction of the mast, which was not the case when the proposal to remove the box was made before. Because of the cost, in excess of £2,000 it was decided not to pursue the purchase and installation of a red box as a replacement.

DC/19/03445 - Erection of 37no. dwellings (which includes 14no. affordable housing and 4no. shared ownership) Whatfield Road, Elmsett. – The members of the council discussed the above application and took into consideration the comments made during the public recession. It was agreed that the view of the Council had not changed since the previous application, the Neighbourhod Plan was now material planning consideration so the District Council should be asked to recommend refusal. The comments of the council will be available on the Babergh District Council’s website under Planning.

05.19.12 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** 16 September, 28 October & 9 December.

The meeting closed

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