

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 2 March 2020 at the Methodist Church Hall

PRESENT: Alan Newman in the chair, Nick Bird, Stan Coram, John Sones, Andrew Woodgate, Fiona Watt, Andrew Morton, District Councillor L Jamieson, two reps from VHMC, 3 members of the public and the clerk was present.

APOLOGIES: Andrew Morton illness which the council consented to accept and County Councillor R Lindsay.

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 January, 2020 were signed as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING: Housing Needs Survey – the clerk had heard back from Community Action and a meeting is to be arranged to move the matter forward. **Spring Litter Pick** – John Sones confirmed that he and Fiona Watt would be organising this on the weekend of 28 March.

Tree Survey – The Chairman reported that he had requested Ipswich Borough Council to carry out their follow up survey as per their initial survey and report and had met with them on site. This included the trees on the Meadow and The Squeech.

5.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Robert sent a report which arrived too late for the meeting - **Review of school transport policy implementation highlights 19 failings**. The report highlighted a number of concerns, including: the policy was implemented at the same time as a new IT system and staff restructure; there were insufficient staff numbers to cope with the increased workload; the policy was poorly communicated to parents and schools; the application and appeals processes were too complex; and the wellbeing of parents and children suffered as a result of the poor implementation. The Scrutiny Committee has agreed to review the policy itself before the end of 2020. **Ipswich Northern Route scrapped** SCC cabinet this week agreed to scrap the project to build a £550m road north of Ipswich. It agreed that the public support was not there, particularly for all the new houses that would be required to support it and particularly given the council has declared a climate emergency. **LED street lighting project** The cabinet has also agreed to spend £9.8m converting existing street lighting units to LED with the capability for dimming by up to 50% where there is lower traffic. About 27% of the county's 60,000 street lights were already converted to LED in an earlier project. The project is expected to begin this autumn and take about two years. The idea is to save money from power costs and save carbon emissions. **Buses I have been working with Sudbury GoStart to provide a 112 replacement from Bildeston to Sudbury. GoStart have now applied for a section 22 licence to do this. Unfortunately this will not replace the Hadleigh - Kersey – Bildeston part of the route. Roadworks delays** Highways are implementing a new way to manage utilities doing road works. From April utilities will have to register to book the road and pay a registration fee to do so. This will allow

SCC Highways to hire more enforcement staff in the Network Assurance dept. This in turn should reduce long over runs to road closures.

5.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Budget Report - General Fund The Council's 2019/20 gross expenditure is £33.5M with an income of £23.3M. Rural Services Delivery Grant. Over the course of the next four years the Council's cumulative deficit is estimated to be £1.1M.. Its key objectives are to become self-financing and to have more than enough funds to invest within the council itself and across the district. **Housing Revenue Account** The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a ring-fenced account which ensures that council housing does not subsidise, or is itself subsidised, by other local services. The HRA reserve is currently £12.9M and the current business plan estimates that this will fall to £12.6M by 2049/50. **General Fund Capital Expenditure** The main General Fund projects included in the Capital Programme for Babergh over the period 2020/21 to 2023/24 are Kingfisher Leisure Centre (£1.1m), Hadleigh Pool and Leisure Centre Refurbishment (£1.5m), Babergh Regeneration Investment Fund (£3m), Housing grants (£3.3m), Community Grants (£0.6m) and replacement vehicles (£2.3m). **Commercial Investments - Former Council Offices in Hadleigh** Babergh approved the conversion of the former Corks Lane Council office in Hadleigh into 31 new homes and also the construction of an additional 26 new homes on the site, all for market sale. In March 2019 the Council created a new company, Babergh Growth Ltd, which entered into a joint venture with Norse Group Holdings Ltd, to complete the development and they will provide 50% of the finance. I asked John Ward when this work is expected to start, and he advised that it would be in late spring but was unable to provide an estimated completion date when I pushed him. Babergh have purchased the Borehamgate shopping precinct in Sudbury, with development still in the early stages. They are also planning to redevelop the former swimming pool in Belle Vue, Sudbury, into a restaurant and Hotel. **Commercial Investments: Shares and Loans** The Councils invest through share ownership and giving loans to their wholly owned companies, special purpose vehicles or third parties (local organisations) as part of a strategy for generating a rate of return or improving the local economy.

CIFCO Ltd The Councils invest indirectly in property, through two wholly owned holding companies, by a combination of shares (equity) and loans (debt), matching the funding requirements of the underlying investment and the returns required by the Councils. All debt financed investment complies with EU State Aid rules.

PERMISSIVE RIGHT OF WAY ADJACENT ST PETER'S CHURCH – The owners of Church Farm attended the meeting and confirmed that whilst they wanted to maintain the security of their property they also did not want to stop access to the church from Offton Road during the day, but their gates would be secured in the evening. They agreed to investigate erecting suitable signage to this effect. The chairman thanked them for attending the meeting and clarifying the position.

RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS: Incorporated in previous item

VILLAGE HALL UPDATE: Representatives of the Village Hall committee attended the meeting to seek the views of the parish council with regard to the possible redevelopment of the pavilion. There was a general willingness to help but before committing parish funds more information was requested

on the overall size and suitability of the project to meet community needs. Various members of the council agreed to assist.

CORRESPONDENCE: – Subsidy for Buses – Members of the council were disappointed that other parishes were not contributing and therefore decided that they could not do so either. They were however concerned about those in the village who required the service and decided to look into what provision might be available for them.

GDPR – Policy Review – The policy having been circulated prior to the meeting was approved and agreed to be reviewed again in March 2021.

FINANCE: Accounts Due – invoices were verified and cheques were signed as shown below.

Payee	Sum	Purpose	Powers for expenditure
SALC	19.20	Audit Training	LGA 1972
CPRE	36.00	Membership Renewal	LGA 1972
ICO	40.00	Data Protection Fee	LGA 1972
Places4People	99.00	Consultant Fee (planning)	LGA 1972.s111

The council considered requests that had been received for donations from the CIL money. After discussion the members agreed that the money should be set aside to fund a major infrastructure project as and when further monies have been received. There is a five year period in which the money has to be spent and against certain criteria as set out by Babergh DC. Apologies to those who put in a request.

The council agreed to give a small donation of £100.00 from parish funds to the church to help fund the Confidence Café.

The clerk had received confirmation that the cost per bin of emptying the litter and dog bins has been increased. From £35 to £36.05 and from £41.00 to £42.23 plus VAT respectively per annum.

PLANNING: Application Decisions by Babergh - Refusals -
DC/19/05944 Erection of two storey front and rear extensions and changes to fenestration and Erection of cartlodge Pump House, The Street.
DC/19/05942 - Severance of garden and erection of 1No dwelling and garage (following demolition of garage) Pump House, The Street.

DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS 27 Apr (APM), 27 May, 20 July, 7 Sept, 26 Oct, 7 Dec, 18 Jan 2021.

The meeting closed

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