

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 20 January, 2020 at the Methodist Church Hall

- 01.20.00 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Nick Bird, Stan Coram, John Sones, Andrew Woodgate, Andrew Morton, District Councillor L Jamieson, and the clerk was present.
- 01.20.01 **APOLOGIES:** Fiona Watt, (work commitments), County Councillor R Lindsay.
- 01.20.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 01.20.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 December 2019 were signed as an accurate record.
- 01.20.04 **MATTERS ARISING: SPEED DETECTION SIGNS** – The chairman had made enquiries of the Police but they no longer provide equipment on loan. Further enquiries were made with Pinewood but they were unable to loan equipment because of the need to get authorisation of highways to mount the equipment. Chairman to go back to Police. **LOCAL NEEDS HOUSING SURVEY:** The clerk had written to Community Action Suffolk confirming that the parish council agreed to carry out a survey but had had no response. Clerk to chase.
- 01.20.05 **5.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:** Robert sent his apologies as he is still unwell but forwarded a copy of his report - **Budget 2020-21** Council precept to rise by 4% (2% general and 2% social care) **Citizens Advice – another stay of grace** Rather than remove the Citizen’s Advice grant (currently £0.184m) the Council has committed to provide £0.12m each year for the next three years. **Future bus project** At a Scrutiny meeting in December, if a bid is successful, for an electric bus pilot scheme the council plans to launch it within 12-18 months in the Bury St Edmunds area. **First new SEND units announced** In January 2019, Suffolk County Council agreed to provide an additional £45.1m to fund additional school and specialist units for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The first 10 specialist units, providing 168 spaces, are due to open in September 2020. **Buses under threat** Robert has been corresponding with Andrew Reid about the three threatened buses in Cosford, including the 461/2 and the 120, suggesting that the only solution would be to restore the subsidy. A meeting with his deputy, Robert and bus officers is being arranged.
- 5.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT: 2020/21 Budget Summary**
Babergh Councillors are to review the 2020/21 budget in the coming weeks. Details can be found on the Council website (<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/news/babergh-councillors-consider-budget-for-202021/>), but the main headlines include –**A proposed increase of 3% to council tax** – equivalent to just 10p a week or £5 over the course of a year **A change to empty property discount**, reducing the period that unoccupied and unfurnished properties pay discounted council tax from three months to 28 days. **An increase in long-stay car parking charges from £2 to £3.** However, short-stay parking for up to three hours will remain free at many of our town centre car parks. **Council house rents to**

increase by 2.7% meaning a £2.19 per week increase for tenants although, even with this increase, rents are still lower than in 2015/6. **Sheltered housing tenants also face an increase of £2 a week** on their bills, but their utility payments remain static for another year. **No change in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme** that sees poorest residents pay just 5% of their bill **Councillors are also considering the introduction of penalties to tackle council tax fraud**, alongside the adoption of a new protocol produced by Citizens Advice. The budget will go before Overview and Scrutiny and back to Cabinet before coming to Council on the 26th February. **Enforcement Service Update January/February 2020** **The Council is currently undertaking a review of its enforcement processes and procedures** . The council apologises for any inconvenience caused whilst this work is undertaken and would like to thank everyone for their patience. We would also encourage the use of the online “Report It” form for any new complaints. If the relevant questions are completed, then the support team can create a case without any delay.

Councils’ £420k three-year guarantee to support Citizens Advice
Councillors at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils gave the go ahead to support Citizens Advice (CA) with more than £420k.

It is important to recognise the value of Citizens Advice which, is estimated to have saved £8.1m across Suffolk, and with growing numbers turning to them for help - both councils have agreed a more sustainable funding approach with two three-year funding agreements.

Confidence Café Leigh attended the Confidence Café, held at the church, at the start of the month and hopes to get along at least once a month. This is a wonderful initiative set up to support people in the village, the Methodist church does something similar and he would like to fully support anything that helps people.

- 01.20.06 **VILLAGE HALL UPDATE:** The next meeting of the VHMC is later in January when an update will be available.
- 01.20.07 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE:** The chairman confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan is now policy and should be referred to when making responses to the District Council on planning matters. Copies of the Plan will be printed so that they are available for reference.
- 01.20.08 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Residents had been pleased that the road closure in Ipswich Road had resulted in a new constructed footway and the repair of potholes.
- 01.20.09 **CORRESPONDENCE:** *Permissive Right of Way adj Church* – to be put on agenda for next meeting.
Spring Litter Pick – John Sones agreed to organise again this year.
Tour of Buckles Farm – An invitation to a tractor and trailer ride of Buckles Farm on 11 June – clerk to publicise in newsletter and website.
- 01.20.10 **REVIEW OF POLICIES** – Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and GDPR Councillors had been sent copies of the policies prior to the meeting these were discussed and agreed. To be reviewed January 2021.

01.20.11 **FINANCE:** Accounts Due – invoices were verified and a cheque was signed as shown below.

Payee	Sum	Purpose	Powers for expenditure
Elmsett & Aldham Village Hall	£750.00	50% cost of cutting The Meadow	Open Spaces Act 1906

01.20.12 **PLANNING:** DC/19/05942 - Severance of garden and erection of 1No dwelling and garage (following demolition of garage): Pump House, The Street, Elmsett. The parish council agreed to send the following comments to BDC - *The proposed dwelling, by reason of its size and the cumulative impact in relation to the existing dwelling, would result in the over - development of the plot and a severe loss of garden land. The amenity space would be small in relation; the proposal would have a detrimental impact on the quality of living and enjoyment of the dwelling-house.*

The approval of a two-storey tandem or backland development would be out of place in the centre of the village. Moreover, the impact of the dwelling would have an adverse impact on the setting of the Heritage Asset Listed Building "Yew Tree Cottage" as stated by your Heritage and Design Officer and in addition does not comply with Policy EMST11 of the newly adopted Elmsett Neighbourhood Plan.

Although the design and access statement suggests manoeuvring space for vehicles is provided it is evident that it would not be possible for motor vehicles to turn onsite and thereby enter and leave the site in a forward gear. The proposal, if approved would lead to road safety dangers given that the location of the access, immediately adjacent to the village stores and post office has considerable pedestrian use (adults and young children) and also attracts short term roadside parking.

DC/19/05944 - Erection of two storey front and rear extensions and changes to fenestration; Erection of cartlodge Pump House. – The parish council agreed to forward the following comments to BDC - *The approval and erection of the two storey extensions and cart lodge would have an adverse impact on the setting of the Heritage Asset Listed Building "Yew Tree Cottage" as stated by your Heritage and Design Officer and in addition does not comply with Policy EMST11 of the newly adopted Elmsett Neighbourhood Plan.*

The subdivision of the existing plot would result in and a severe loss of garden land. The amenity space would be small in relation; the proposal would have a detrimental impact on the quality of living and enjoyment of the dwelling-house.

DC/19/05379 - Erection of agricultural building for agricultural machinery - Poplar Hall, Whatfield Road, Elmsett. In view of the fact that the application was approved by the district council on the morning of the parish council meeting no recommendation was made.

Application Decisions by Babergh - Refusal DC/19/05648 - 16 Ipswich Road, Elmsett, - erection of rear conservatory.

01.20.13 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS** 2 Mar, 20 Apr, 1 June, 20 July, 7 Sept, 26
Oct, 7 Dec, 18 Jan 2021.

The meeting closed

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