

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 4 July, 2017 at the Elmsett and Aldham Village Hall.

- 07.17.00 **PRESENT:** Mr A Newman in the chair, Mr N Bird, Mrs M Hinton, Mr G Hinton, Mr S Coram, Mr J Sones, District Councillor Alan Ferguson and County Councillor R Lindsay, the Clerk and some 40 members of the public.
- 07.17.01 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Nick Bird declared an interest under planning - B/17/01009/OUT - Outline (Means of access and layout and landscaping to be considered) - Residential development of 41 dwellings to include market and affordable housing, new vehicular access, wildlife areas, amenity space and community woodland. Land East Of, Hadleigh Road, Elmsett.
DC/17/02494 -Elmsett Hall, Offton Road, Elmsett - Agricultural determination - Extension to grain store to accommodate drying fan.
DC/17/02489 – Elmsett Hall, Offton Road, Elmsett – erection of agricultural shed. He took no part in discussions regarding these items
- 07.17.02 **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Andrew Woodgate
- 07.17.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 June were signed as an accurate record
- 07.17.04 **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Since the last meeting Robert had attended his first audit and pension committee meetings. The pension committee is preparing to put the bulk of its £2.6bn in assets into a "pooled pot" with other local authorities across the East and South East as demanded by central Government. This will reduce, the ability of Suffolk County Council to invest sums in the local economy. Though it is early days he would also like to see the pension fund examine whether it is wise to remain so heavily invested in fossil fuel companies. At his first audit committee he heard that the council had inadvertently paid £400,000 to private care homes for beds for people who have died. Fortunately this was spotted by the head of internal audit and was told better internal reporting measures had been introduced. The last time they checked the overpayments had reduced to just £40k. The county has recovered all the money it is owed. The county's own care homes were all outsourced about four years ago to Care UK. Probably when this contract happened, county staff were not geared up to control payment. **More say for backbenchers -** Latest plans are for there to be four cabinet committees on the county council each with 12 members, to include two from his group and two from Labour, 8 Conservatives. **Verge cutting** A new verge cutting schedule is publicly available on the council website.
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/Roads-and-transport/Grass-Cutting-2017/Grass-cutting-Babergh.pdf> A and B roads receive two cuts per year while minor roads get one of the first 1.2 metres of the verge. Verge cutting for minor roads was scheduled for early June but the timetable has slipped

and it is now down as between mid June and end of July. Robert thinks the reason for the slippage is because staff on the Kier road maintenance contract are currently being reshuffled in an attempt to get long running problems sorted.

4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Introduction This is an interesting period in the Babergh Conservative administration as the process and governance change decisions that were taken in the last 2 years are now being implemented. **Governance Arrangements** After the Babergh AGM in May 17 we moved to a Cabinet governance arrangement. Seven Cabinet Members have been appointed with stronger powers of decision (responsibility) and authority. **NB Any member of the public can now attend Cabinet Meetings in Endeavour House, Ipswich wef September 17 – details can be found on line. Babergh/Mid-Suffolk Move to Endeavour House Ipswich** - The move will take place in the middle of the year and be completed by September 17. The 2 main support offices (Sudbury & Stowmarket) will be manned 5 days a week with a small staff in place from 9am to 5pm. In addition, there will be about 9 other locations available where residents can ask to meet Council Officers rather than travel to Ipswich. These will not be manned but booked as and when required. **Disposal of Corks Lane HQ** At my request, the Leader of Babergh District Council has asked that she and I be given a copy of the brief to our selected architect for the recommended disposal solution for the current HQ building. **Boundary Commission - It is likely that there will be changes to the current South Cosford Ward** as it has grown by 11% since the last Commission work was completed – 10% max is the assumed trigger for change. As well as Councillors, every member of the Babergh registered voting public is entitled to express a view on boundary restructuring. This can be done by accessing the Babergh website (search for “Babergh Boundary Commission”). **Consultation period finishes on 14th August** and will be effective in May 2019, the date of the next Babergh DC elections **Housing – Private Sector** is not building the number of houses that are required for the growing population in Babergh. However, he is in favour of “right type”, “right place” and “right number”. There is the added complication of Babergh no longer having a 5 year supply of building land and this tilts the balance in favour of planning applications for developments in both the towns and villages. They have just approved the application for 7 new homes in Elmsett and in addition, have the planning application for 41 new homes. **Refusal of such applications has just become considerably more challenging.**

07.17.05 **CORRESPONDENCE** – the clerk reported that copy correspondence regarding the planning application off Hadleigh Road had been received. The chairman reported that following notification from a resident, the footbridge which had collapsed on footpath No. 9 from The Squeech to Paigle Barn, would be replaced by highways.

07.17.06 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** The chairman opened the recess by giving a brief background to the application for 41 dwellings off Hadleigh Road which arose from the district council's call for sites. Many other villages are also facing similar pressures but he could not think of one that had such poor infrastructure as ours. He believed the approval of the application would be to the detriment of the village in terms of lack of infrastructure with the narrow substandard roads being just one reason. He thanked everyone for attending and wanted to give everyone an opportunity to have their say.

A number of residents gave their views on the application -The roads and infrastructure are inadequate for the size of the site which is too large. Loss of agricultural land. Drainage is also a issue as adjacent gardens get flooded. As well as roads needing improvement, there are other services – Anglian Water, gas, telephone, and electricity causing disruption with roads being dug up. Lorries meeting each other would cause a problem. Another concern was that large developments were not being fulfilled at the moment as developers do not want to build all at once. Right to buy is also a problem when council houses are being built to meet the needs for affordable housing. There is likely to be double the number of cars on the roads as a car is essential as there is no public transport. Ripping down hedgerows and trees would be detrimental to wildlife. There are already pinchpoints in Hadleigh Road and there are minor accidents. The parking of vehicles along Hadleigh Road also causes a problem. If the development went ahead then the ditch would need to be piped. The schooling situation was also raised not only Elmsett but also the availability at Hadleigh High School. There were also other comments about the unsuitability of the scheme. Residents were also concerned about the accessibility of the Babergh website to make comments. Questions were asked as to whether the Parish Council would be making their own development plan. The developer who was present said that the original application was for a frontage development but the District Council suggested that the application be for the whole of the site. Another resident thought that the development would clean up the area as the ditch contained a lot of rubbish and would make the shop, pub and school more sustainable.

The Chairman said that the parish council would take these comments on board when making their response to Babergh DC.

07.17.07 **PLANNING: DC/17/02357** – siting of mobile home to be occupied by forester/gamekeeper and for site security – **Poplar** Hall, Whatfield Road - the parish council had no objection with the proviso that the occupation be restricted to that of gamekeeper.
DC/17/01009/OUT – 41 DWELLINGS, HADLEIGH ROAD – Nick Bird left the room and took no part in the discussion. As well as comments already noted, the council felt that if the application was approved then there should be no street lighting. Also parish council concerned about the number of

potential sites and hoped that the district council might take a holistic view when considering the application.

DC/17/02494 – Elmsett Hall – Agricultural determination – Extension to grain store to accommodate drying fan. No objection – the parish council noted the comments regarding noise but felt they did not have the expertise to comment.

DC/02489 – Elmsett Hall - erection of agricultural shed – No objections.

07.17.08 **MATTERS ARISING:** Anglian Water – renewal of main water pipe – the chairman reported on follow up meetings with Aldham Parish Council, Anglian Water and Highways with particular regard to diversionary notices. Still no start date.

Tree works – The Squeech – following the survey and successful quote the necessary works had been completed.

07.17.09 **FINANCE:** - Accounts due – Cheques were signed in favour of Suffolk treescape - £936 – treeworks – The Squeech. Elmsett & Aldham VH - £22.00 - hire of hall 4-7-17. Nationwide Building Society - £45,000 -initial deposit in Business Saver Account.

07.17.10 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** To be agreed.

The meeting closed

Signed:-.....

Chairman

Dated:-.....