

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6 November, 2017 at the Elmsett Methodist Church Hall.

- 11.17.00 **PRESENT:** Mr A Newman in the chair, Mrs M Hinton, Mr G Hinton, Mr S Coram, Mr J Sones, Mr A Woodgate, District Councillor A Ferguson , the Clerk and 5 members of the public.
- 11.17.01 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** No declarations
- 11.17.02 **APOLOGIES:** Mr Nick Bird and County Councillor R Lindsay.
- 11.17.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 October were signed as an accurate record
- 11.17.04 4.1 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:** Robert sent his report **Rethink on free school buses and post 16 travel subsidy** The officers have arranged two “workshops” with randomly selected parents, teachers, governors etc to discuss further. **Care, health and Wellbeing cabinet committee** I attended my first Care, Health and Wellbeing cabinet committee last month and asked for a plan to commit funds to cycling and walking routes in the county to be put on the agenda. **“right to challenge” – health visitors and school nursing** The cabinet tomorrow will be asked to approve a county-wide tender for a new contractor to provide its Healthy Child Programme (basically health visitors and school nurses). The council will itself bid for this contract and does not have to go for the lowest bidder but can set the terms of the tender to include things such as quality of staff. The total contract size will drop from £10 to £9million so it is likely that health visitor numbers will be cut. **Latest budget predictions** The county council is still on course for an “overspend” of £10.2m in the current financial year largely in the costs of taxi provision for children with Special Education Needs and provision of adult social care, despite the social care precept and a one-off three-year grant from Govt. The steady cuts in the Revenue Support Grant from Government do not offset the social care precept. Officers have made it clear for some time that a rise in council tax (frozen for the last seven years) will be needed but that even this will not completely offset the overspend.
- 4.2 **DISTRRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT –** Alan Ferguson reported that in addition to approve to build 41 houses in Elmsett there is a lot going on in Babergh, the absence of the 5 year housing supply is causing a major problem. He voted against the proposal but it felt like an impossible struggle which was not helped by Suffolk CC’s highway department decision not to ‘walk the ground’ to identify passing places which have been declared essential for road safety in the area. **Public Access** The move to Ipswich by BDC/MSDC staff was due to be completed at the end of September but changes to staff T&C’s (mainly parking in Ipswich) required further negotiation. All employees were

given a one-off payment of £500 to accept the new T&C's. Move should now be completed by the end of November. **Boundary Commission** – South Cosford ward will be known as Whatfield Ward and will comprise Whatfield, Elmsett, Aldham, Nedging & Naughton, Semer, Chelsworth, Monks Eleigh and Wattisham. The proposal can be accessed on the BC website and comments can be made up until 11 December. **Housing – Private Sector** – Babergh planning committee has approved 2000 housing applications. Target for houses **built** is 335. **New Joint Local Plan (draft)** Alan congratulated the parish on its decision to develop their own Neighbourhood Plan and said that it would be a lot of hard work and would need a number of dedicated helpers to get the work completed. He mentioned the dedicated member of staff at Babergh/Mid Suffolk who has been recruited to assist with NP's. He also mentioned the importance of commenting on the JLP draft proposals. **Merger of BDC & MSDC** The proposal has been called in as there is insufficient financial information and insufficient information about the consultation. This will be discussed at a Cabinet Meeting on 9 November. **Disposal of Corks Lane Buildings** - This will be considered at a Cabinet Meeting on 7 December. **Meeting with Tom Barker, Assistant Director Planning for Growth BDC** – Alan also referred to the meeting he had recently had with the chairmen of Kersey, Aldham and Elmsett PC's to discuss problems each parish had independently experienced with the planning process.

- 11.17.05 **BABERGH/MID SUFFOLK JOINT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION:** The chairman reported that a small group had met to look at the draft plan. He read the response and the councillors agreed that this should be sent.
- 11.17.06 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There was a recess for public comments
- 11.17.07 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:** The chairman reported that since the decision to formally go ahead with the plan there had been meetings with consultants who could assist with the development of a plan. There had been a quote from Planning Direct, Places4People Planning Consultancy and Boyer Planning. He said that there was a grant available which would help cover the costs. It was agreed that Places4People was the better option and that the chairman should write to offer them the contract. The chairman said that a start had been made on the process and that the designated area had been approved by Babergh District Council. It was agreed that this should become a priority and that the council would remain focussed to get the plan completed in good time. A public launch to be arranged before the Christmas break.
- 11.17.08 **CORRESPONDENCE:** LAIS consultation – Councillor Disqualification – Precept Consultation – Right Homes – the council had no comments to make on these consultations. Data Protection – the clerk has registered to attend a forthcoming seminar on the matter. **Proposed merger**

BDC/MSDC merger – the chairman referred to the response made by Aldham Parish Council and members felt that their response should be along the same lines –

- a) We do not want our link with our district council (or councillor) to be further diluted
- b) It is highly unlikely that any detailed understanding of local issues will be possible within a merged council with such a huge geographical spread, making democratic representation even more difficult
- a) Any change to the status quo must be supported in a formal vote by a large majority of the total electorate in Babergh (ie a significant proportion of all residents must support change, not just those who might bother to cast a vote)
- b) The perceived material benefit of any change must be clearly detailed to allow debate and enable an objective view to be obtained.

BDC – Parish Liaison meeting – 7 November Polstead VH – Chairman said that he hoped to attend. **Suffolk Constabulary** – annual forum for Hadleigh SNT area, 15 November, Capel St Mary – John Sones hoped to attend.

11.17.09 **FINANCE:** Cheques were signed for Community Action Suffolk - £60.00 for website hosting. Elmsett & Aldham VHMC - £750 donation towards grass cutting of the meadow for the year. Tender for grasscutting – it was agreed that the clerk should ask for tenders for the coming year. Purchase of licence for Parish on Line Mapping and licence for an on-line survey package in connection with the production of the NP. It was agreed that these should be purchased. Appointment of NP consultant – this was discussed in 11.17.07 above and agreed to appoint Places4People and to go ahead with the grant application. Grit bins – it was agreed that no further bins would be necessary at the moment. The clerk to request the top up of existing heaps and to check with SCC whether the usual insurance conditions apply with regard to volunteers who would distribute the grit.

11.17.10 **PLANNING:** Application DC/17/05074 – Paigle Old Barn – change of use from holiday let to residential – the parish council had no reason to object to the proposal.

11.17.11 **DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:** 11 December

The meeting closed

Signed:- Dated:-.....

Chairman