

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 2 October, 2017 at the Elmsett Methodist Church Hall.

- 10.17.00 **PRESENT:** Mr A Newman in the chair, Mr Nick Bird, Mrs M Hinton, Mr G Hinton, Mr S Coram, Mr J Sones, Mr A Woodgate, and County Councillor R Lindsay, the Clerk and 5 members of the public.
- 10.17.01 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** – No declarations
- 10.17.02 **APOLOGIES:** District Councillor Alan Ferguson
- 10.17.03 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 July were signed as an accurate record
- 10.17.04 **4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Highways reshuffle** A highways reshuffle means standard defects should now be reported on the Highways reporting tool <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk> You will then get a reference number then you can chase over the telephone on 0345 606 6171 and quote the reference number. If this doesn't get you anywhere contact me to chase up. **Secret cabinet committees** Suffolk County council have proposed new cabinet committees which would have seats for councillors from all three political groups. However, the final proposal was that these committees would sit in secret. I will be sitting on one of the four cabinet committees and am quite prepared to report anything significant to you and my constituents. **Cabinet members vote to boost their allowances** The council in July also proposed to increase allowances for cabinet members, but for no other councillors. **Hadleigh Quarry** This application is to Suffolk County Council, not Babergh, since the county is responsible for planning relating to quarrying. The application has been referred to Suffolk development committee (next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> December) because Hadleigh Town Council has objected. **Cutting of free school buses and post 16 travel subsidy – a rethink?** The cabinet last month decided to move to consultation on a plan that from Sept 2019 would: 1. End free travel for 11-16 year olds, where a student is not attending their nearest school (even if that school is their catchment school). 2. End subsidised travel for 16-18 year olds. There will be 789 pupils in Cosford affected. I and four other councillors in my group called this decision in to scrutiny committee and last week scrutiny committee vote 7 to 4 to send it back to cabinet for reconsideration. I believe the plan would put more cars on the road and upset the education of children whose parents are not able to drive them to school.

**4.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Can I firstly apologise for not being able to join you this evening. The summer months are traditionally a quiet period for Council business and in most respects that has been the case in 2017. However, the move from Babergh to Endeavour House, Ipswich has generated significant activity that's the main source of update in this report apart from your 41 houses concern. **Public Access** The move of Babergh/Mid Suffolk Council staff is planned to be completed by the end of September. It's important to get the message around that a single phone number has been introduced to make it easier to contact an individual of department in the new building. It is: **0300 123 4000**. *In theory at least this should make contact with Council Officers easier but it has been subject to teething troubles. Please keep me advised.*

**Boundary Commission** The Boundary Commission has 3 inputs for a restructuring of Babergh to come down from 43 to 31 District Councillors (in 2019). **Housing – Private Sector** The Babergh Planning Committee has approved applications for almost 500 houses in the last three months. Our target for **houses built rather than just approved is 335 per annum**. Some of these approvals have been as a direct result of Babergh no longer having a 5 supply of land bank of potential building sites and it's a concern to me that it might be a blunt instrument and we are discussing how often the "absence of a 5 year supply" can be reviewed. You should be aware that as a Core Village, Elmsett will be under pressure to accept developments and we need to marshal appropriate arguments for refusal of the 41 houses application if that's how the PC wishes to proceed. The narrow (single track in places) would be a good place to start and I have arranged for the Planning Committee to inspect the site and its approaches on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 17. If possible the Chairman of the PC should attend the inspection when he will be invited to comment by the Chairman of the Babergh Planning Committee. Also check the number of houses that have been approved/built in the village in the last 5 or 10 years as a % of the number of dwellings to show that you are bearing your fair share. The urban developments of the Ipswich fringe, Sudbury and Hadleigh can't accommodate all the requirement. **New Joint Local Plan (Draft)** The new draft Joint (Babergh & Mid Suffolk) Local Plan has identified a number (6) of possible sites for housing development in Elmsett and this alone will naturally be a cause for concern. Please take the opportunity to comment on the draft as this will strengthen your case later when draft proposals become real proposals. I remain firmly of the view that it should be: "the right number, the right place and the right style". There is much to play for. ***NB it's important to appreciate that their inclusion in the new Joint Local Plan carries limited weight when they go to a Planning Committee. If they get that far they will be subject to the full standard Planning Committee scrutiny.*** **Drawings For Planning Applications** As you will be aware, Babergh no longer provides large scale drawings to Parish Councils. However, you can request them. **Babergh DC Bye Election – Sudbury** Following the recent resignation of a Babergh Council Conservative Member

in Sudbury a bye election was held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 17. The Labour candidate won the seat by one vote after several recounts. "Every vote counts" **Rumour Control Merger Babergh & MS** You may have seen the article written by Paul Geater in the East Anglian about the resurrection of discussions concerning a possible merger of Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils. It would be dishonest to tell you that the option is not being debated following the move to Endeavour House. However, I can absolutely assure you that no decision has been taken and from a personal perspective I am very aware that 6 years ago Babergh voters elected **NOT** to merge in a referendum by 60% to 40%. Even if another referendum is not required this cannot be ignored in any future discussion of the option.

- 10.17.05 **CORRESPONDENCE:** – Notification that the renewal of the water main has been delayed until at least January 2018.  
Play Equipment Inspection – The clerk reported that the play equipment had been inspected and the report which followed had been forwarded to the village hall management committee and school. The Chairman also reported that he had met with the VHMC to confirm their responsibility to maintain the equipment.
- 10.17.06 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** – Concerns were raised about Babergh's responses regarding the proposal for 41 houses Hadleigh Road. The chairman read his further objection regarding drainage. It was noted that there would be a site visit on 18 October. Concern was also expressed about the narrow approach roads from Ipswich, Hadleigh and the Stowmarket directions and hoped that these would be looked at during the site visit.  
Questions were raised with the County Councillor regarding verge cutting and the danger of covering road signs.
- 10.17.07 **SHARED SPEEDWATCH GUN:** Members discussed the merits of sharing a speedwatch gun with others. John Sones said that he had attempted to do this in his role as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. He also said that this was discussed at the recent police forum which he had attended and noted that there is limited follow up when speeding has been committed. Members therefore felt that there would not be much merit in trying to even get a team of volunteers to carry out the task.
- 10.17.08 **BABERGH DRAFT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION:** The consultation period was noted and it was agreed that a group comprising Stan Coram, Andrew Woodgate and Andy Morton together with the Chairman would meet to make a response. It was then agreed to formally start the process of a Parish Neighbourhood Plan.
- 10.17.09 **FINANCE:** - Cheques had previously been signed for Tree & Lawn Co for cuts on 13/6 and 13/7 £168.00 and Elmsett Methodist Church Hall for hire x

5 - £50.00. The clerk reported that the accounts had been audited and the notice of close of audit had been placed on the notice board. Accounts now due – Cheques were signed at the meeting in favour of Tree & Lawn Co £84.00 cut 2/09, HMRC - Employer's Tax £215.20, Playsafety Ltd £126.00 play equipment inspection and report, Ms S Coram £50.00 Internal Audit, Tree & Lawn Co cut 11/08 £84.00 and Business services CAS Ltd Insurance Renewal £224.70

10.17.10 **PLANNING:** - Hadleigh Quarry – Members of the parish council felt that there was no reason to object to the application especially as there is already a quarry at this site.

10.17.11 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** 6 November and 11 December

The meeting closed

Signed:-.....

Chairman

Dated:-.....