

ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 7 AUGUST 2018 AT 7.00 PM

Present; Ken Watkins (Chairman), Richard Barraclough, Trevor Rix, Madeline Gray, Graham Maskell, Bridget Sumner, and the Parish Clerk Nicola Smith, and District Cllr Mr John Nunn. No members of the public present.

1. Welcome: Chairman Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies: Cllr Kemp gave his apologies as he had a prior engagement.
3. Present: As above.
4. Declarations of Interest: None.
5. Minutes of 22 May 2018 and 26 June 2018: Slight spelling error in Minutes of 22 May 2018 which were amended and initialled by the Clerk. Thereafter Cllr Rix proposed and Cllr Gray seconded that they be approved as a true and accurate record. Motion carried. Cllr Gray proposed and Cllr Barraclough seconded that the Minutes of 26 June 2018 be approved as a true and accurate record. Motion carried.
6. Matters Arising: Clerk confirmed that the Annual Governance and Accountability Statement had been submitted to the external auditors in good time for the deadline date. Still awaiting a response. In accordance with the Council's instructions at the meeting on 22 May 2018 an external hard drive had been purchased in order that Cllr Rix may keep an additional back up of PC documents.
7. District and County Cllr's Reports:
County Cllr Richard Kemp's report can be found at "Appendix A" of these Minutes.
District Cllr John Nunn report can be found at "Appendix B" of these Minutes.
8. Public Forum: No members of the public were present.
9. Correspondence (General correspondence had been circulated):
 - i. Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Housing Strategy Consultation Period will be from 21st September – 1st November 2018, and further details will be sent to parishes at the end of August 2018. *Matter to be considered at the Meeting on 2nd October 2018 when further information should be available.*
 - ii. Babergh five year housing land supply. *Cllr Nunn has details in his report at Appendix B, that Babergh has declared that it has over 5 years development land supply.*
 - iii. Babergh and Mid Suffolk public toilets. Cllrs confirmed that whilst public toilets are not needed in this parish, they are an important asset in core villages such as Long Melford where tourists visit.
 - iv. Hedge Cutting Schedules – C & U roads are due to be cut on week commencing 27 August 2018 and the A & B roads on the week commencing 10 September 2018.
 - v. Changes to Suffolk local policing – in summary, Suffolk Police are restructuring the way they work. They are proposing to move 104 Police officers into the Safer Neighbourhood Teams across the County. They are looking to reduce the number of Police Community Support officers (PCSOs) and feel that this would "enhance the resilience of the local policing capability and ensure the right resources is in the right place at the right time". The restructuring includes changes to business support and administration staff, putting Community Engagement Officers in place, civilianisation of the Public Protection Unit, putting in place an effective workforce mix, introduction of

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link officers, improving proactive policing, restructured Safer Neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood and partnership teams. If you would like further information then please contact the Parish Clerk at alphetonpcclerk@gmail.com.

Chairman reminded Cllrs that they had that day received an email from Lavenham Parish Council asking whether Alpheton Parish Council would be interested in attending a meeting with other councils to discuss the possible funding of a PCSO, following the decision of Suffolk Police to cut members. Following discussion and in particular that Long Melford Parish Council had in the past part funded a PCSO a few years ago with Sudbury Upper and an approximately quarter share of the cost then was £7000, it was felt that as Alpheton Parish Councils Precept budget for the year is £4386 that it was not financially feasible for the Parish Council to consider part funding a PCSO. *Clerk to contact Lavenham PC and advise of this decision.*

10. Clerk/RFOs Report:

Clerk reported that she had now set up the Parish Council on the HMRC payroll tool and will carry payroll out as part of her RFO role. The Council will no longer incur a fee to an external accountant to run payroll, which means a small saving on expenditure.

The following were presented to Cllrs to approve:-

N Smith (reimbursement of cost of hard drive)	14.99	chq587	LGA 1972 S112
Alpheton Village Hall hire x 2	24.00	588	LGA 1972 s133
N Smith (salary)	503.00	589	LGA 1972 s112
HMRC (tax and NI)	135.52	590	Incorp&Taxes Act

Cllrs all approved expenditure.

11. Parish Cllrs Reports

- i. Chairman raised with Cllrs the email received that morning from the planning department regarding a re-consultation on planning application DC/18/00454 at Lynwold, Old Bury Road, Alpheton. The reason for the re-consultation was a revised plan following a flood review document and drawing no. 1647/17/01 which shows revised access serving plots 2, 3 and 4. The Parish Council were being asked if they wished to make further comments and the deadline for submission was 20th August 2018. Following discussion it was noted that the revised planning application changes the access points from three to two, and Cllrs felt that this did not change their objection to this application as set out previously. In addition, Babergh have now indicated that they can meet their five year land development supply, and that should be commented on in a response to the planning department, together with the issue of sustainability. *Clerk will draft additional wording to the original response and agree the same with the Chairman prior to submission to the planning department.*
- ii. Chairman further reported that he had received a request from a resident for the foliage on the blind corner at the entrance to Old Bury Road to be cut

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back. Chairman had consulted with Cllr Kemp, and the County Council are planning a site visit. Chairman has asked to be advised of when this will be taking place in order that he can meet with the officers. However, if the Chairman is away at the time of the visit then he will try to arrange for another Cllr to be present.

- iii. Chairman reported that he had received several complaints about a 4x4 vehicle for sale, which Alpheton Garage had parked on the green. Chairman had spoken with the owner/manager at the garage and following discussion they eventually agreed to move the vehicle.

12. Planning:

Application DC/18/02989 – Application for Householder Planning Application and Application DC/18/02990 – Application for Listed Building Consent, all in relation to replacement of existing windows with white painted flush casement windows at Woodhall, The Tye, Alpheton.

Cllrs considered the application and had no objections.

13. Date and time of next meeting: 2 October 2018 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Appendix A – County Cllrs Report

Council agrees to draw up costed five-year cycling plan

At the Council meeting on 19 July, councillors from the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group put forward two motions asking for a commitment to investing in Suffolk's cycling infrastructure. The first motion asked the council to set up a cross-party group tasked with drawing up a costed five-year cycling plan, whilst the second motion asked the council to commit to ring-fencing at least 5% of its annual Integrated Transport Block for cycling infrastructure.

Whilst there was unanimous support for motion 1, the administration would not support a commitment of funding for cycling infrastructure, and so unfortunately motion 2 was rejected.

Although the two motions were voted on separately, they are intrinsically linked: without a minor commitment of council funding, any future bids to the Department for Transport are likely to be unsuccessful. This has been the case for the past seven years, during which Suffolk has missed out on five opportunities to receive funding for cycling from the DfT. Currently, SCC spends approximately 10% of its Integrated Transport Block on cycling infrastructure anyway, so the motion was not asking for additional money – just a firm commitment that a minimal level of funding would be available each year.

We are awaiting further information regarding the cross-party group that will draw up a cycling plan, and will keep you updated as this progresses.

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Final decision reached on School Transport Policy changes

Following the Cabinet's decision to change Suffolk's school transport policy, my group (made up of Liberal Democrats, Greens and Independents) submitted a joint "call-in" of the decision with the Labour group.

The call-in argued that Cabinet did not have enough information to make an appropriate decision, particularly with regards to the financial modelling, the experience of Essex County Council, and the potential impact on Suffolk's Greenest County ambitions.

On Monday 9 July, the Scrutiny Committee questioned officers and the Cabinet member in response to the call-in. However, they determined that the concerns we raised were not valid and so rejected the call-in. This means that the Cabinet's decision was endorsed and the planned changes to the school transport policy will be implemented from September 2019.

Additional £6m borrowed to fund improvements for recycling centres

The Cabinet has agreed to borrow an additional £6m to fund improvement works for four of Suffolk's recycling centres. The priority works have been identified as follows:

- Deliver urgent improvements to the Foxhall (estimated cost £3 million) and Haverhill (estimated cost £1 million) recycling centres; and
- Secure sites for replacement recycling centres for Ipswich (estimated cost £1 million) and Stowmarket (estimated cost £1 million).

We have highlighted to the cabinet member responsible for waste services the importance of working with local councillors and residents when attempting to improve recycling centres.

Fire and Ambulance services share Sudbury base

A joint station for Sudbury's fire and ambulance services officially opened on 12 July 2018 and is fully operational.

The station on Gregory Street has been occupied by the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, but now the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) will share facilities in a new partnership.

EEAST staff will now benefit from improved facilities and better access to the road network for emergency vehicles. It also means that blue light services can build on existing partnerships and it represents value for money for taxpayers.

The station in Sudbury is the fifth shared community fire and ambulance station in Suffolk, joining those in Brandon, Bury St Edmunds and two in Lowestoft.

£1m funding to boost youth employment in Suffolk

A host of regeneration and infrastructure projects are also identified for potential share of £10 million.

Public sector leaders in Suffolk have given their backing to a major financial boost to help more young people in Suffolk get into education, employment or training.

An extra £200,000 has been agreed by Suffolk's council leaders and the Police and Crime Commissioner, with a further £200,000 agreed in principle for a second year. This is on top of £600,000 committed by Suffolk County Council - £1 million in total.

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Currently in Suffolk 7% of 16 to 18 year olds are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and 12% of the county's 66,000 16 to 24 years olds are unemployed. Suffolk's youth unemployment position is in line with the national picture, but Suffolk continues to be challenged by significant volumes of young people who are wasting their talent and potential and are not able to enjoy the benefits that work can bring.

The investment will support local projects to reduce the number of young people who are NEET or unemployed, including programmes to prepare young people to benefit from local Apprenticeship opportunities. Suffolk County Council will work with district and borough councils, local education providers and the voluntary and community sector to develop the programmes.

A host of significant regeneration and infrastructure projects have been identified following Suffolk being invited to pilot a new Government approach to funding local areas.

Suffolk has successfully applied to be part of the scheme, one of only 10 areas in the whole country, which is allowing it to keep an extra £10.4 million worth of money collected from local businesses in Suffolk in 2018/19. Business rates money is normally passed to Central Government. The one-year pilot, known as the 'Business Rate Retention' programme, allows Suffolk to retain 100% of the growth in local business rates, to invest in projects that boost the local economy and support communities in Suffolk.

The next steps are for each potential project to be developed in more detail with projects, get final agreement, and then to start later this year. As part of a review of the way Suffolk Public Sector Leaders meet and work, leaders today agreed that there will be five formal meetings of the group each year, held in public, likely to be in June, September, November, January and March.

The meetings will be held in different areas around Suffolk and representatives from the two Local Enterprise Partnerships that cover Suffolk will be invited. Reports and minutes will be published one week before the meetings.

This is part of the group's ambition to operate in an open and transparent way. Leaders also agreed that Councillor Jennie Jenkins will act as the independent chair of the group for the 2018/19 year.

Sporting memories set to be discovered across Suffolk's care homes

A ground-breaking project was launched on Tuesday 24 July to provide regular sports-based reminiscence activities for care home residents and visitors.

Sporting Memories Network CIC, in partnership with the Suffolk County Council led Most Active County Partnership, has developed a unique opportunity to enable care homes across Suffolk to deliver award winning sporting reminiscence activities.

Staff and volunteers from a range of care homes will receive training, resources and advice to equip them to deliver sporting reminiscence activities over the next 12 months and beyond. The impact of the activities on residents, their families and staff will be evaluated to gauge success.

Initially staff from 10 homes will be trained to take part in the project with it being extended to further homes in the future. The homes will have access to local and national archive images, reports and memorabilia inspiring older people to talk about their own favourite stars or teams and those special moments in sport that stay with them, whether as a spectator or as a participant.

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Appendix B – District Cllr Report

The Big News is that Babergh District Council has declared it has over 5 years development land supply, in fact it claims to have 6.7 years supply. It means that the speculative applications that have been a real threat to the rural charm of the District can be rebutted by the Planning Department.

There have been changes again at Babergh, with four of the Independent Conservatives going back to the Official Conservative Party, one of them Cllr Simon Barrett has now joined the cabinet to take over the Economy Portfolio.

The final recommendation from the Boundary Commission has just come through, and for our area it would appear that they wish to include Acton village in with Long Melford and Alpheton Ward.

Cllr Nunn also reported that Long Melford Parish Council who look after the red telephone box at Bridge Street area are considering what to utilise the telephone box for. Any suggestions from Alpheton Parish Council would be welcome. Cllrs agreed they would consider this further and get back to LMPC.

Cllr Nunn also reported that silhouette figures had been purchased in Long Melford for the Armistice 100 Remembrance this year. He has 2 silhouettes too many and wondered whether Alpheton Church would like them as part of their Remembrance this year. It was agreed that

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