

ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 4 DECEMBER 2018 AT 7PM

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

1. Welcome: Chairman Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies: None.
3. Present: All present, as above.
4. Declarations of interest: None
5. Minutes of 2 October 2018: Cllr Rix proposed and Cllr Maskell seconded that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting. All Cllrs agreed.
6. Matters Arising: Chairman updated Council regarding the foliage/hedge at the entrance to Old Bury Road. Despite the Chairman's meeting with an SCC Officer no work to cut back the hedge had been carried out. Cllr Kemp confirmed that he would chase the matter along.
Clerk updated that the form for 2 grit bins had been submitted to SCC. Cllrs all agreed that if SCC approval for the tow locations was given then the Clerk was to go ahead and purchase the grit bins. Cllr Kemp would seek to refund from his highways budget.
7. District and County Cllrs Reports:
County Cllrs report can be found at Appendix "A" of these Minutes.
District Cllrs report can be found at Appendix "B" of these Minutes.
8. Public Forum: no members of the public present.
9. Correspondence:
 - i. Email dated 15 November 2018 from SCC re: Summary of Savings Proposals" – contents were noted by Cllrs.
 - ii. Email dated 26 November 2018 from Tinkler's Meadow Campaign Group – contents were noted by Cllrs.
10. Clerk/RFOs Report:

Schedule of invoices awaiting authorization for payment

I Etherton (grass cutting)	90.00	chq597	Open Spaces Act
Village Hall (hire)	12.00	chq598	LGA 1972
SALC (Cllr training)	135.60	chq599	LGA 1972

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N Smith (Clerk's salary)	270.44	chq600	LGA 1972
HMRC (tax and NI)	67.60	chq601	LGA 1972
G Maskell (grass cutting)	975.00	chq602	LGA 1972
P Trevelyn (Tree of Lights Allowance)	15.98	chq603	LGA 1972 – Chairs

Cllr Kemp proposed authorization of the payments and Cllr Barraclough seconded. All Cllrs agreed. Motion carried.

11. Consider and approve draft Precept for 2019-20:

Cllrs considered a draft Precept as follows:-

	2018-19	2019-20
<u>Income</u>		
Precept	3236.00	3309.00
Recycling credits	200.00	200.00
Garage licence	950.00	950.00
	4386.00	4459.00
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Clerk's salary	1995.00	1995.00
Clerk's salary paroll charge	25.00	0.00
Clerk's expenses	80.00	80.00
Audit fees	200.00	0.00 (Cert. of Exemption)
Hire of Hall	96.00	120.00 (incl add meetings)
Insurance/subs/SALC/CAS	390.00	390.00
Grass cutting	1100.00	1100.00
Repairs fund	0.00	0.00
Donations	50.00	50.00
Village Magazine	150.00	150.00
Dog and litter bins	200.00	220.00
Chairs expenses	50.00	50.00
Training	50.00	200.00
Parish Election costs 2019	0.00	104.00
	4386.00	4459.00

All Cllrs approved the draft precept. Clerk had received the Babergh tax bases and had calculated that when the tax base for Alpehton was applied to the Precept demand of £3309 it equated to the following:-

Signed.....

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2018-19 Band D property in Alpeton paid £30.44
 2019-20 Band D property in Alpehton would pay £30.27

Chairman signed the Precept Upon Charging Authority document to be sent to Babergh DC. Cllr Rix and Cllr Gray also signed the document which was countersigned by the Parish Clerk. Clerk will submit to BDC ahead of the 31st January 2019 deadline.

12. Parish Cllrs Reports:

- i. Cllr Gray and Cllr Sumner had both recently attended the new Councillor course at Suffolk Association of Local Councils. Both Cllrs had found it very useful and thanked the PC for allowing them to attend. The course was held over two separate days. The first part of the course gave an overview of what makes a good Parish Council, and the second part of the course was more tailored to the regulatory nature of Agendas, Meetings, and an overview of planning. Both Cllrs found the course interesting, and they had been encouraged to ask questions throughout. Both felt that they understood their role as a Parish Councillor better and would recommend the course to any new Cllr.
- ii. Cllr Rix asked whether the Parish Council would consider making enquiries into whether it would be allowed to erect signs, similar to those along the Long Melford bypass that warn motorists that throwing litter out of the cars puts litter pickers lives at risk when clearing up after them. Following discussion, it was noted that it was the Sudbury Town Community Wardens that had put those notices out. The Clerk would make enquiries with them so that Cllrs could discuss further at the next meeting.

13. Planning: no new planning matters at the time of serving the Agenda.

14. Date and time of next meeting: 5 February 2019 at 7pm and thereafter 2 April 2019 at 7pm (subject to any additional meetings).

Meeting closed: 7.50pm

Appendix "A"

Budget consultation and reduction in overspend

Suffolk County Council is currently consulting on the 2019/20 budget and is asking the public to share their ideas for potential savings. The consultation runs until 5pm on Friday 16 November, and can be found at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/a-tough-call-to-make-budget-20192020/>. We will get our first look at the 2019/20 budget proposals on Thursday 22 November, when they are presented to the Scrutiny Committee.

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At the end of Quarter 1 the council was predicting an overspend on the 2018/19 net budget of £8.6m. This prediction has now reduced, at the end of Quarter 2, to a £7.5m overspend. Although an improvement, it is unlikely that the overspend will be reduced completely by the end of the financial year, and the council will still need to make use of reserves to cover the funding gap.

No funding to help end period poverty

The Labour Group recently proposed a motion to Council, asking for a commitment of £15,000 in the budget to help tackle “period poverty”. Many girls suffer and frequently miss school because they are unable to afford sanitary products. The motion therefore asked the Council to fund free sanitary products in all local authority maintained schools in Suffolk, and to encourage academies to implement similar measures.

Unfortunately, the Conservative administration once again amended the motion, removing all funding commitments. It was claimed that this was because the level of funding in the original motion was too small and unfairly favoured girls at maintained schools. However, a later amendment from my political group, which proposed increasing the funding commitment in the motion to include all schools in Suffolk, was rejected.

New Home Care operating model

At Cabinet on 9 October a new Home Care operating model was agreed. It was acknowledged that the previous model had not been a success and had caused unnecessary stress to both care providers and residents receiving home care. We were assured that “lessons had been learned” from this previous experience, and that greater care had been taken to develop the operating model in partnership with stakeholders.

A call-in of the decision was received and so the model received further scrutiny from the Council’s Scrutiny Committee. However, the majority of the Scrutiny Committee voted to proceed with the new model rather than asked Cabinet to reconsider their decision.

Council signs up to 100% nuclear energy deal

At a recent Council meeting, members of my political group put forward a motion calling on the Council to recognise the benefits of renewable energy, commission a report into smart grids, and commit to ensuring at least 50% of the Council’s energy comes from renewable sources by 2025. Unfortunately, the Conservative administration amended the motion to remove any clear actions or targets.

It was also revealed that the Council have recently signed off on a 100% nuclear energy deal for the next three years, to commence in March 2019. This represents a major step backwards for Suffolk County Council, whose current energy contract includes 18.7% renewables.

Highways Improvement and Innovation Board - new approach to pothole repairs, co-ordinating road closures and working with Parish Councils

A Highways Improvement and Innovations Board was established in June and has met three times. The Board recently announced that Suffolk Highways will be piloting a new approach to prioritising pothole repairs over the winter, specifically for services coming out of the Ipswich Phoenix House depot. If successful, the new approach will be rolled out to other depots.

The new approach will mean more potholes in a single area will be repaired together, and potholes of 200mm width will also be included.

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The pilot aims to tackle more potholes at once, rather than later returning to the same area to repair nearby potholes. It will also aim to reduce the number of temporary repairs, which also have to be returned to at a later date. This should reduce the travelling time of maintenance crews, and result in more potholes being filled.

The Board has also been looking into improving the coordination of road closures, reducing the number of roadworks which overrun, and exploring ways for Suffolk Highways to work closer with town and parish councils. A progress report from the Board is expected at Scrutiny later in the year.

Store owner receives suspended sentence and £3000 fine for selling, supplying and storing illegal tobacco

Shopkeeper, Karzan Hamid Khalid, has received a suspended sentence of 8 months for his dealings with illicit tobacco at his store in Suffolk. His company also received fines totalling £3,116 and he was ordered to pay costs of £5000.

Mr. Khalid pleaded guilty to a number of offences, as a result of supplying cigarettes and tobacco products which were unsafe, did not include the required health advice, and did not comply to packaging regulations or were counterfeit. Despite a previous visit from Suffolk Trading Standards officers to advise him and remind him of his responsibilities as a shopkeeper, further intelligence was received about Mr. Khalid's illegal activities at his Sudbury shop. This led to another visit from officers, when a quantity of illicit tobacco was found and seized.

Essex Trading Standards officers were also acting on intelligence regarding another of Mr. Khalid's shops, Reilly's Newsagents in Colchester. Illicit tobacco was seized from these premises, along with the discovery of a concealed compartment used to hide the products.

Suffolk residents urged to spread the word - not the flu, this winter

Suffolk County Council is reminding people to get a flu vaccination to ward off the worst effects of a potentially debilitating illness. The flu vaccination is one of the most effective ways to reduce harm from flu. It reduces the risk of serious illness, hospitalisation and even death among those who are most at risk.

Parents of 2-3-year-olds are being encouraged to take their child to have a simple nasal spray vaccination at their GP surgery, while carers are also advised not to put off their free flu jab. Each year the NHS offer a Flu vaccination free of charge to certain groups to help protect adults and children at risk of flu and its complications.

If you do not fall into one of the eligible categories for free vaccination, you can still get a flu vaccination for a small fee at most pharmacies in Suffolk. The county's healthy lifestyle providers, OneLife Suffolk, will be working closely with many of Suffolk's GP practices, pharmacies and children's centres to raise awareness of the importance of getting the vaccination.

As part of the campaign, OneLife Suffolk are seeking views about why people may or may not have chosen to have the vaccine in the past, please visit www.onelifesuffolk.co.uk/flu2018 for more information.

The most common symptoms of flu are fever, chills, headache, aches and pains in the joints and muscles, and extreme tiredness. Healthy individuals usually recover within two to seven days, but the effects can be more severe for those in vulnerable groups.

Flu is caused by influenza viruses that infect the windpipe and lungs. Because it is caused by viruses and not bacteria, antibiotics won't treat it. The best way of avoiding flu is by having the vaccination, but it helps to practise good hygiene such as covering the nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using disposable tissues and binning them as soon as they are used and regularly washing hands.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix "B"

In addition to that already reported by Cllr Kemp, Cllr Nunn reported that the recent Armistice 100 event and the lighting of the beacon in nearby Long Melford village had been well attended and had been a successful event.

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Signed.....

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