

ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT

ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 3 DECEMBER 2019 AT 7PM

1. Welcome: Chair Cllr Sumner welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies: Cllr John Moore sent his apologies as he was unwell. District Cllr Elisabeth Malvisi sent her apologies due to prior commitments.
3. Present: Chair Cllr Sumner, Cllr Madeline Gray, Cllr John Nunn, Cllr Katie Jacobs, Cllr Trevor Rix, County Cllr Richard Kemp and District Cllr John Nunn, together with the Parish Clerk. No members of the public present.
4. Declarations of Interest: None.
5. Minutes: Cllr Gray proposed and Cllr Jacobs seconded that the draft Minutes of the meeting on the 3 October 2019 were true and accurate. Chair duly signed and dated the Minutes.
6. Matters Arising:

Matter Arising	Update/Outcome
Neighbourhood CIL payment	Monies received by the PC
Friends of Lavenham Airfield donation for War Memorial	PC cheque in the sum of £250 by way of a donation sent to FOLA together with a letter of support for the project. BDC Infrastructure Team confirm that any donation can be made from the CIL monies, if the PC wish to do so. Cllr agreed that they will determine whether the £250 comes out of the CIL monies or the PC reserves once the Speed Indicator Device has been purchased out of the CIL monies.
"30 MPH AHEAD" sign – Old Bury Road	Landowner – has given his consent to the sign being erected on the triangle of land. Confirmation from BDC Infrastructure Team that CIL monies can be used to purchase and install the sign. Cllr Rix and Cllr Jacobs had looked into quotations for the sign. All Cllrs agreed with the recommendation from Cllr Rix to purchase the Start Traffic quotation in the sum of £117.96 (incl VAT). Cllrs also agreed to instruct Peter Rix to install the sign. Clerk will arrange for purchase and delivery to Peter Rix. Cllrs agreed to pay for the sign and installation out of the CIL monies.
Speed count down signs on the A134 (Bury Road)	SCC Highways have looked into the matter. They will not consent to the requested count down signs. SCC Highways will consent to a "pedestrian crossing sign on the approach to the bridle path but overall SCC consider that there is sufficient signage about speed. CIL monies can be used if the PC wish to proceed.

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	550
	Following discussions Cllrs agreed not to go ahead, rarely are there pedestrians along that stretch of the roadway.
<p>Speed Indicator Device:</p> <p><u>Proposed sites:</u></p> <p>(a) 3 x areas within the 30mph zones on the A134</p> <p>(b) Shop Hill/Old Bury Road</p> <p>(c) Church Lane</p> <p>(d) Aveley Lane</p> <p><u>Funding of SID:</u> Cost: approx. £3,000</p>	<p>(a) Details sent to SCC for each site</p> <p>(b) (c) and (d) letters will shortly be with local residents for their consent</p> <p>Aim to finalise and submit all paperwork to SCC by Christmas.</p> <p>Cost is going to be in the approx. region of £3,000.</p> <p>£2,000 to be funded from County Cllr Richard Kemp's highways budget.</p> <p>Balance of approximately £1,000 – Cllrs agreed that they would like to fund this out of Neighbourhood CIL monies. BDC Infrastructure Team have confirmed that they could spend CIL monies on this project.</p> <p>Update at next meeting.</p>
BT Payphone	BDC have consented to the PC adopting the BT Payphone outside of Amicus on Old Bury Road. BT have forwarded standard terms of contract for purchase for £1. Proper Officer has signed on behalf of the PC and will submit the contract and the £1 cheque once it has been approved and signed at this meeting. BT have confirmed that they will then send the free of charge paint pack. PC to decide next steps once in receipt of the paint pack. Clerk will also then update asset register and advise insurers.

7. District and County Cllr Reports:

Report from County Cllr Richard Kemp:

Cabinet reshuffle at Suffolk County Council

On 15 October, there was a major reshuffle of the Suffolk County Council Cabinet.

The key changes are:

- Cllr Gordon Jones is the new Cabinet Member for Finance

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- Cllr Mary Evans remains as deputy leader and is Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Skills
- Cllr Andrew Reid is the new Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs
- Responsibility for the council’s policy on Sizewell C moves to Cllr Richard Rout
- Responsibility for the council’s property portfolio and assets moves to Cllr Nick Gowrley

Boundary review – extension of consultation

The Boundary Commission has extended the deadline for their consultation on new division boundaries for Suffolk County Council until 2 January 2020. The Boundary Commission are proposing to reduce Councillor numbers in Suffolk from 75 to 70.

More information available at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/18495>

35% cut to Health Visitors

It was recently reported that Suffolk County Council planned to cut 25% of Health Visitors. We have now learned that the council has in fact reduced Health Visitors by 35%, without informing either the public or councillors. The staffing cuts were made as part of an internal restructure of the 0-19 Healthy Child Service in order to save £1m.

In England, it is mandatory for families to receive five visits to check on the health of children/parents during pregnancy and early childhood, and guidance states these checks should be undertaken by health visitors. As a result of these staffing reductions, in Suffolk only three of these visits will be undertaken by trained health visitors, with staff nurses expected to take on the other two checks.

My group proposed a motion asking the administration to reconsider these cuts but was unsuccessful.

Review of school transport policy confirmed

Cllr Mary Evans has apologised to families affected by the new school transport policy and confirmed there will be a review of the policy. However, this review will likely only focus on the implementation of the new policy, rather than inherent problems with the policy itself.

Since the introduction of the new policy, there has been a large increase in the number of transport appeals: 141 appeals were submitted from 1 July – 18 October, compared to an average of 21 for the same time period in previous years. Over 70%

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of these appeals have been decided in favour of parents initially refused transport by the council.

Report from District Cllr Elisabeth Malvisi:

General Election – December 12

As you will be aware, a general election has been called for Thursday 12 December 2019.

Councillors given more time to consider name change

Babergh District Councillors are being more time to consider a proposal to change the name of the council in order to allow time for further discussions.

The Council was due to meet in late October to discuss a proposal to change the name of Babergh District Council to South Suffolk Council, making the council geographically consistent with its neighbouring authorities in the county.

This means any name change is now unlikely before April 2021.

Cross Street in Sudbury is set to get a breath of fresh air

Suffolk County Council working in partnership with Babergh District Council is proposing to remove six short stay parking bays on Cross Street in Sudbury with the aim of improving air quality in the area for both residents and pedestrians.

Suffolk County Council will be implementing an experimental traffic order to remove the six parking bays from January 2020 until June 2021.

Since 2011 Cross Street has been a designated air quality management area due to a high concentration of nitrogen dioxide, which exceeds the national health standard, and the order should see an improvement.

More free swimming for youngsters

Following successful summer take up, BDC extended their free swims offer during half term and will also be running the initiative over the Christmas holidays to which aims to help promote healthier and active lifestyles in the district.

Fly-tipper billed more than £1,500 for dumping waste in Semer

Mr Ionel Stanescu, of Sirdar Road, Ipswich, dumped items including a hot water tank jacket in September 2018 in Drakestone Green, Semer. The council investigated the fly tip after witnesses reported a male dumping items out the back of a van into a ditch, along with the vehicle registration number. Taking account of his guilty plea, the court fined Mr Stanescu £720, along with costs of £708.67 and a victim surcharge of £72.

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Abbeycroft Leisure awarded two more county-wide exercise referral quality standards

Abbeycroft Leisure, who run Babergh's leisure centres in Sudbury and Hadleigh, has been awarded two county-wide exercise referral quality standards, for their work with patients with long term conditions at our centres.

The quality standard developed by Suffolk County Council Public Health and county wide partners, for exercise referral scheme (ERS), is the first of its kind in the UK. Exercise referral schemes enable GPs and health professionals to refer patients with long term health conditions to a fitness programme based within the community, to increase their physical activity levels as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Volunteers mark World Mental Health Day

On World Mental Health Day (10 October) Sudbury Volunteers and Statutory Partnerships (VASP) raised awareness by promoting the services available in Suffolk.

Council urges businesses to take fun seriously

The council is encouraging businesses across the district with bouncy castles or inflatable play equipment to seek safety advice in light of an accident at the Maldon Grey pub in Sudbury in May, where a child suffered a fractured leg having fallen from a bouncy castle.

Babergh pledges to protect wildlife

During Full Council on 24 September councilors passed a motion with a range of pledges to enhance and protect biodiversity in Babergh. These included wildflower verges, free trees for families, and a map showing Babergh's wildlife networks. The environment and climate change taskforce will look to fulfil the pledges and explore the ways biodiversity corridors can be enhanced in Babergh to protect wildlife.

Security at Belle Vue Park

Following discussions with Sudbury Town Council and Sudbury Community Wardens, Babergh District Council has agreed that the best way to tackle recent anti-social behavior at Belle Vue is by working together. From November 1, responsibility for locking the park gates will transfer to Sudbury Community Wardens, with all parties fully committed to keeping the park a safe space for the local community.

Free recycling talks for residents

Suffolk's Recycling Centres offer free 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle – not a waste of time!' sessions to interested parties to learn more about ways to reduce waste and improve recycling.

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Hot topics on social media

- Warning of conservation officer scam calls
- Free swims

Other items to add:

- Civil Parking Enforcement – all things being equal, is due to start 31st January. Once the scheme beds in we should start to see an improvement in the way people park
 - Babergh intend o carry out a review of parking across the district but paying specific attention to Sudbury and Hadleigh
 - A member of the public took Babergh to task with regard to planning appeals and their cost, the subject matter was well reported in the local press
 - The new village hall car park in Long Melford.
8. Public Forum: no members of the public present.
9. Correspondence: (all correspondence has been circulated to Cllrs ahead of the meeting)
- (i) Email from Lawshall PC regarding once or twice a year meeting with Suffolk Constabulary. All Cllrs present agreed that it would be worthwhile being part of these meetings. Clerk will liaise with Lawshall PC.
10. Clerk/RFO Report:

- i. Schedule of items awaiting approval

Schedule of invoices awaiting authorisation for payment

N Smith	Clerk's salary	338.04	624	LGA1972
Alpheton VH	1 x hire for meeting	12.00	625	LGA1972
I Etherington	grass cutting	100.00	626	LGA1972
G Maskell	grass cutting	1025.00	627	LGA1972
PCC	Parish Magazine	132.00	628	LGA1972
P Trevelyan	Tree of Lights Event	22.94	629	LGA1972
BT Payphones	Adoption	1.00	630	LGA1972
Start Traffic	30MPH AHEAD sign	117.96	631	LGA1972

All Cllrs present approved expenditure.

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11. To consider and approve draft Precept for 2020/21

INCOME

Precept	3755.00
Recycling credits	200.00
Garage licence	950.00
	4905.00

EXPENDITURE

Clerk's salary	1995.00
Clerk's expenses	80.00
Audit fees	0.00
Hire of Hall	120.00
Insurance/subs SALC/CAS	400.00
Grass cutting	1400.00
Donations	50.00
Village Magazine	150.00
Dog and litter bins	230.00
Chairs expenses	50.00
Training	200.00
Parish Election costs	30.00
Contingency	200.00
	4905.00

NB: cost of speed indicator device to be met by (a) County Cllr Richard Kemps's donation of £2,000 from Highways Budget, Neighbourhood CIL monies and if any deficit thereafter from reserves of monies held by the PC.

12. Parish Councillor's Reports:

- (i) Chair reported that she had been contacted by the Fit Villages Project. Cllrs had been provided with details ahead of the meeting. Following discussion it was agreed that as most activities would need to take place in the VH it was

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better if Fit Villages Project spoke with someone from the VH Committee.
Chair will provide details of VH contact to Fit Villages Project.

- (ii) Cllr Rix reported that there is a stretch of road from the layby at the top of High Cross that he considers would benefit from white line being painted on the road. Clerk to contact Cllr Kemp to see if this can be done.

13. Planning: no new planning matters.

14. Date and time of next meeting: **4th February 2020 at 7pm in the Village Hall**

Meeting closed: 8.35pm

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