

## ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 5 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7PM

Present: Cllrs: Ken Watkins (Chairman), Richard Barraclough, Trevor Rix, Madeline Gray, Bridget Sumner and Richard Kemp. District and County Cllr Kemp and District Cllr John Nunn, Parish Clerk Nicola Smith; and two members of the public present.

1. Welcome: Chairman Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies: Cllr Maskell sent his apologies, due to working commitments.
3. Present: Present as above.
4. Declarations of interest: Cllr Rix declared an interest in item 13 – “Planning Decision – Airfield Barns” on the basis that Airfield Barns was near to his property and he was a nearby farmer with disused buildings similar. He also had a working relationship with the owner of the land next to Airfield Barn, and who had objected to the planning application.
5. Minutes of 4 December 2018 and 8 January 2019:  
Minutes of 4 December 2018 – Cllr Rix proposed and Cllr Barraclough seconded that they were a true and accurate record. All Cllrs present agreed.  
Minutes of 8 January 2019 – Cllr Sumner proposed and Cllr Barraclough seconded that they were a true and accurate record. All Cllrs present agreed.
6. Matters arising:  
Lynwold foliage – To date it has not been cut back, but as the greenery has disappeared, the it would be better to wait until things start growing again to see the extent of the problem, before reverting the matter back to the Highways Department. Whatever happens, the turning into Old Bury Road is never going to be anything other than a blind bend but trimming back might improve things slightly.  
  
Two new grit bins – Clerk is progressing the order.
7. District and County Cllrs Reports:  
District Cllr John Nunn reported that he had attended the recent “Vision for Sudbury” meeting in Sudbury Town Hall. Many of the discussions were regarding the bus station area and Hamilton Road.

Signed.....

Dated.....

District and County Cllr Richard Kemp's report:

### **How will proposed changes to the local Citizens Advice (CAB) affect you?**

Consultation to understand the equality impacts there may be as a result of proposed changes to the local Citizens Advice (CAB) grant funding.

Suffolk County Council is carrying out a consultation to understand the equality impacts there may be as a result of proposed changes to the local Citizens Advice (CAB) grant funding which the authority currently provides. At the Council's Scrutiny meeting on 22 November 2018, the committee considered details of proposed savings totalling £11.2m so the council can balance its budget. Amongst these savings was the proposal to remove the funding grant that the county council gives Suffolk's CAB.

Committee members recommended changing the proposal to a phased reduction – a recommendation that was later agreed by Cabinet. It is now proposed that the grant will reduce by half to £184,000 in 2019/20 before ending in 2020/21.

A consultation regarding this decision ran from 12 noon on Monday 17 December until 5pm on Wednesday 23 January. Comments made through the consultation will be used to help inform the final decision on the council budget, which is due to be made by full council on 14 February 2019.

### **Sport and Physical Activity worth £270m a year to the Suffolk Economy**

A new report has revealed the importance of the Sport and Physical Activity sector to the Suffolk economy.

Undertaken by specialist economic development and regeneration consultancy Hatch Regeneris, the report shows that the sector contributes £270m a year to the Suffolk economy. This accounts for over 10,000 jobs or 3% of all employment in Suffolk and is almost double the proportion seen at national levels.

The report shows that employment in the sector has grown at a faster rate than all other sectors in Suffolk, up 60% in the last 5 years. By contrast, employment in financial and professional services has grown by 10% over the same period.

The report highlights the importance of continuing the drive towards increasing participation as a way of both improving productivity and reducing the spend on health and social care. It estimates that a reduction of just 10% in Suffolk employee sickness rates would give the Suffolk economy a boost of £42m annually.

The report also recognises both the importance of the sector in providing a stepping stone into employment as well as a gateway into higher skilled jobs. The report also highlights the need for organisations in Suffolk work together to respond to the future skills needs of a growing sector.

In relation to events, the report acknowledges that Suffolk has a busy annual sporting calendar with potential to grow further. Events like the Great East Swim generate an estimated £¾ million to the county annually. The county's event programme could be further enhanced to include events like an Ironman or a large-scale beach sports event. This could cement Suffolk's reputation as a leader in the sector and attract people from different parts of the country and stimulate local economic spend.

### **Consumers failing to protect themselves from online fraud this Sales Season**

Hunt for a bargain putting shoppers at risk of falling victim to online scams, warns National Trading Standards.

Signed.....

Dated.....

New research has uncovered only 5% of consumers think undertaking vital cyber safety checks is the most important factor when shopping online in the Boxing Day and January sales, putting themselves at risk of falling victim to a scam.

This shocking statistic, from research commissioned by National Trading Standards\* has raised concerns that shoppers will put finding a bargain before anything when shopping online. A quarter (26%) of those surveyed said finding the cheapest offer was most important when sales shopping online, even more than getting the items they specifically wanted (17%).

Consumers who shop online regularly often miss basic safety checks such as looking for reviews of the seller (24%), the returns policy (22%) and checking for the padlock symbol in the task bar (28%). Missing out these simple checks could explain why almost 1 in 5 (19%) respondents know someone who has fallen victim to a scam when shopping online.

The temptation to rush into finding the cheapest deal or best bargain amongst the madness of the Boxing Day and January sales could put many consumers at risk of receiving poor quality, substandard and overpriced goods, or maybe nothing at all.

National Trading Standards is urging consumers to take extra care when shopping online this sales season and has issued a 'Sale Safety' checklist to help people avoid the criminals who may be luring in customers with the too-good-to-be true prices on popular items.

#### **National Trading Standards sale safety checklist**

Look closely at the website before you hit the 'buy' button:

- Try searching for reviews of the product or the seller – do these seem genuine?
- Are there lots of spelling or grammar mistakes on the site? This can be a clue that a business is not professionally run.
- See if you can find out where the company's head office is based – and whether that fits with how the website presents itself.
- Do they have a landline number you can call if there are any problems? Bear in mind that if the company is based abroad, it can be more difficult to get a complaint dealt with or return a faulty product.
- Read the small print – notice if anything seems odd, repetitive or in incorrect English.
- Is there an 's' at the end of the 'http' part of the web address, or is there a padlock symbol in the task bar? This means the website is using an encrypted system that keeps your details more secure.
- Be wary of promotions and discount offers that appear on your social media feeds – these can look authentic as they often try to imitate genuine brands, but in many cases the link will take you to a 'copycat' website selling fake or counterfeit products at discount prices.

**Don't be dazzled by a bargain:** Are the prices incredibly low? If they look too good to be true, they probably are – particularly if some of your other checks have put doubts in your mind.

**Be aware that criminals exploit high demand:** When items like branded children's toys start to sell out at well-known retailers, the void is quickly filled by crooks churning out poor quality imitations that can put children in danger. Don't 'panic buy' from the first website you find – do your usual common-sense checks.

**Report it:** National Trading Standards needs your help to clamp down on unsafe products from abroad. If you believe that any online or face-to-face seller is selling potentially dangerous goods, or something you've bought has made you suspicious, report it to Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **03454 04 05 06**.

#### **Energy Project awards its 100th grant to help businesses be more environmentally friendly**

100 Norfolk and Suffolk businesses have now received a grant from The Business Energy Efficiency (BEE) Anglia project.

Signed.....

Dated.....

100 Norfolk and Suffolk businesses have now received a grant from The Business Energy Efficiency (BEE) Anglia project, which provides free support to eligible organisations to help them become more energy efficient.

Screenworks Limited, one of the UK's leading promotional textile suppliers based in Haverhill, recently received the 100th grant having successfully applied for £16,240 to help fund two new gas dryers. This new equipment will provide huge energy saving results, reduce their carbon footprint by 21 tonnes and cut costs by £5,700 every year.

The BEE Anglia project has now delivered £540,000 in similar grants, with £1.8million spent in total on green projects. Local organisations are still able to apply for these grants.

Grant funding is just one of the ways that the BEE Anglia project supports businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and save money. It also offers free energy reviews and the chance to work towards a Carbon Charter for your organisation.

Businesses interested in the BEE Anglia Project can find out more and register online [www.beeanglia.org](http://www.beeanglia.org) or call 01473 350370.

### **Public Health Suffolk launches Sugar Reduction Fund**

Public Health Suffolk and Suffolk Community Foundation will offer grant funding to support local projects which encourage a reduction in sugar intake.

Public Health Suffolk has partnered with Suffolk Community Foundation to offer grant funding to support local projects which encourage a reduction in sugar intake and a healthier lifestyle for children and young people.

The funding encourages organisations working with or on behalf of children to develop projects to reduce sugar consumption. The grant, totalling £20,000 is open to PTAs or Friends of Schools/PRUs and community groups such as Brownies, Scouts and youth projects to bid for funding of up to £1,000.

Public Health Suffolk is looking to support child or young person led projects which address the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board 10-point sugar reduction plan. The fund encourages young people to be creative, and for projects to use alternative methods to promote their work.

The fund contributes to the county's system-wide plans to reduce children and young people's sugar intake. Public Health Suffolk is already working with OneLife Suffolk and Ormiston Sudbury Academy on a health promotion campaign designed to promote ways to reduce sugar consumption in food and drinks. The campaign encourages children to make 'sugar swaps' recording where they have swapped a sugary food or drink for a healthier option in a sugar swap diary.

OneLife Suffolk is supporting the project, offering free workshops for those taking part, to help identify different ways of reducing sugar intake and to help kick start projects to improve the health and wellbeing of their pupils and staff.

### **10,000 Suffolk Homes say 'No' to cold callers on their doorsteps**

Suffolk Trading Standards recently gave out its 10,000th No Cold Calling sticker, just four years after launching the campaign.

The stickers are placed on a homeowner's front door to declare that the resident does not want uninvited traders to call at their property.

The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008, state that traders who approach a resident after having seen the sticker, are committing an offence.

Signed.....

Dated.....

With National Sticker Day on 13 January, it's a timely opportunity to get a No Cold Calling sticker for yourself or someone you know.

The 10,000th sticker was given to residents of Bruisyard at one of the village's monthly 'Soup and Pudding Lunches', which Suffolk Trading Standards attended in partnership with The Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project.

For further details of No Cold Calling zones and how to get your own No Cold Calling sticker, visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk).

If you have concerns about any individual calling at your door, you can contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on **03454 04 05 06**.

#### 8. Public Forum:

Parishioner enquired whether a local Police Officer ever attend Parish Council Meetings, or indeed whether they were ever present in the village now because on a daily basis there were speeding offences being committed. Chairman, Cllr Kemp and Cllr Nunn explained that due to cutbacks the Police will now try to attend an Annual Parish Meeting in each parish once per year, but sometimes if they have urgent policing commitments elsewhere this does not always happen. The Parish Council no longer receive monthly reports from the Police, again due to cutbacks. Reports can be seen online on the Suffolk Police website but the information is usually not up to date, for example the current crime figures being reported are from several months ago. The mobile speed awareness sign appeared in the village infrequently, as did the Police mobile speed detecting vehicle. The Parish Council confirmed that they would very much like to see a return of a Police Officer presence in the village and at meetings, giving reports and often helpful advice regarding securing property, but the current situation with Police financial cutbacks means that this seems unlikely to happen in the near future. Parishioner thanked the Parish Council for all the hard work, time and commitment they put into the village. He had not appreciated how much work was carried out by the Parish Council.

#### 9. Correspondence:

- i. Email response dated 11 January 2019 from Community Warden Supervisor at Sudbury Town Council re: litter road signs. Following discussion Cllrs asked the Clerk if she would (a) contact Sudbury Town Council to enquire as to whether they would erect the signs along the Alpheton part of the A134 as they had for part of the A134 that was within the Long Melford boundary, and (b) to make enquiries of a scheme used in nearby villages, that employ volunteer ex young offenders under a managed and supervised scheme, to see if they can offer assistance with litter picking along the Alpheton part of the A134.
- ii. Email dated 17 January 2019 from Long Melford Parish Council regarding regulation 14 consultation on Long Melford draft Neighbourhood Plan (3); Cllrs confirmed that they had no objections.

Signed.....

Dated.....

- iii. Email dated 31 January regarding School Travel Policy changes. Details can be found on the village website at [alpheton.onesuffolk.net](http://alpheton.onesuffolk.net)

#### 10. Clerks/RFO Report:

Since 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 the Parish Council had received income of £50 by way of a SCC grant out of County Cllr Kemp's locality budget. This money was specifically for the use of paying the webhosting fees within the current financial year (1 April 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019). The webhosting fees had already been paid within this financial period.

#### Income

SCC (webhosting grant)	50.00	BACS
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#### **Payment approved at meeting on 04/12/2018 (and not on previous schedule)**

G Maskell (grass cutting)	975.00	602	Open Spaces Act
Paddy Trevelyan (Tree of Lights refreshments under the LGA 1972.	15.98	603	Chairs Allowance

(Cheque 603 has subsequently been returned as the incorrect first name was put on the cheque, and therefore new cheque issued under cheque number 604)

PLUS

#### **Schedule of invoices awaiting authorisation for payment**

Mrs P Trevelyan (see above)	15.98	604	LGA 1972
Village Hall hire (08/01 and 05/02)	24.00	605	LGA 1972
N Smith (Clerk's salary)	270.44	606	LGA 1972
HMRC (tax and NI)	67.60	607	Inc&Taxes Act
PCC Parish Magazine donation	132.00	608	LGA 1972
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	1485.02		

All Cllrs present approved the payments. Cheques duly signed.

Clerk explained that the Precept form signed at the previous meeting had sustained water damage. Babergh officer had been very helpful and asked that a new Precept form be signed at this meeting and Clerk will submit the following day. Duly signed and dated.

The Precept will give the Parish a Council Tax Band D amount of £30.28. This is a decrease of -0.53% on 2018/19.

Signed.....

Dated.....

#### 11. 2019 Parish Elections:

Clerk had attended a training course organised by SALC regarding parish elections and had circulated a note to all Cllrs. Awaiting further information from Babergh regarding the date of Public Notices, and the Babergh Nomination Pack. Clerk will circulate as soon as this information is received.

Public Notice will be put up on the village notice boards. Elections will be held on 2 May 2019 and Nomination documents for each candidate will need to be submitted, in person, by no later than 4pm on 3 April 2019.

In order to comply with regulations Cllrs agreed that the APM and APCM should be on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

#### 12. Parish Cllrs Report (if any)

- (i) Chairman reported on the following:-
  - (a) He had received a request for a litter bin to be placed inside the bus shelter on the Green (the other bus shelters already have them). Clerk will get details of cost and place on the Agenda for the next meeting;
  - (b) Potholes in Church Lane and Tye Green have become quite substantial both in size and number. Clerk will photograph, report on the Highways Reporting Tool and keep a summary document and check progress;
  - (c) Planning permission at Lynwold has been refused.
- (ii) Cllrs discussed the entrance onto the Old Bury Road from the A134 being difficult to see in in the dark, as there is no residual lighting there. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to County Cllr Kemp enquiring if it was possible to have some reflector leader posts at and near the entrance to Old Bury Road which would show where it is located for traffic wishing to turn off there.

#### 13. Planning:

- (i) Application DC/19/00188 – Application for consent to carry out works to tree(s) protected by a Tree Preservation Order: Proposal to fell Ash (G5) – 061 at Green Apple, Old Bury.  
*Cllrs considered and no comments/objections.*

##### Planning Decision:

Application DC/18/05346 – erection of 2 No.2 bedroom holiday lets, parking area, improvements to existing access, installation of sewerage treatment plant and landscaping. Restoration of airfield building and creation of museum room within. **Airfield Barns, Bury Road, Alpheton, Suffolk.**

*Cllr Trevor Rix did not take part in any discussion or decision making on this Agenda item as he had declared an item at Agenda item 4.*

*Planning permission has been granted. The Planning Officers Report and Recommendation document had been obtained from Babergh and it contains*

*an error in relation to the concrete hardstanding – it refers to the incorrect one. Cllrs considered and agreed the following action:-*

- (a) Clerk to write to the Chief Executive of BDC, and copy in Mr Philip Isbell the Senior Planning Officer and ask that as the report had been prepared by an Officer and the decision of that Officer had been made on erroneous information within the report that the matter should be put before Committee for them to determine the planning application and on the correct information. The current decision is flawed.*
- (b) The letter to the Chief Executive to be sent Recorded Delivery.*
- (c) The adjoining land owner should have had a notice served on them, it is a legal requirement and we are unsure that BDC have done this.*
- (d) The issue of Cockfield PC not properly convening a meeting in order to submit a response has been ignored.*

14. Date and time of next meeting: 2 April 2019 at 7pm and thereafter on 21 May 2019 the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting (subject to any additional meetings).

Meeting closed: 8pm