

ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 4 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7PM

1. Welcome: Chair Cllr Sumner welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies: No apologies.
3. Present: Chair Cllr Sumner, Cllr Madeline Gray, Cllr John Nunn, Cllr Katie Jacobs, Cllr Trevor Rix, Cllr John Moore. County Cllr Richard Kemp and District Cllrs John Nunn and Elisabeth Malvisi, together with the Parish Clerk and two members of the public.
4. Declarations of Interest: None.
5. Minutes: Cllr Jacobs proposed and Cllr Rix seconded that the Minutes of 3 December 2019 were a true and accurate record of the meeting. All Cllrs present agreed.
6. Matters Arising:

Matter Arising	Update/Outcome
Neighbourhood CIL payment - £1848.12	Monies received by the PC
"30 MPH AHEAD" sign – Old Bury Road	Landowner gives his consent for the sign to be his land. Sign has now been installed. Landowner has offered to reimburse PC for the cost of purchase and installation of the sign so that he owns and maintains it on his land. Following discussion the PC agreed that this is a generous offer from the landowner which they would like to accept. Clerk to make arrangements
Speed Indicator Device: Proposed sites: (a) 3 x areas within the 30mph zones on the A134 (b) Shop Hill/Old Bury Road (c) Church Lane (d) Aveley Lane Funding of SID: Cost: approx. £3,000 (County Cllr Kemp's Highway budget)	(a) Details sent to SCC for each site (b) (c) and (d) letters will shortly be with local residents for their consent Clerk is finalising submission paperwork to SCC. Cllr Trevor Rix has provided Cllrs with some research with regards to the type of SID. They will consider the information further and discuss at next meeting. Update at next meeting.
BT Payphone	Transfer of ownership to Alpheton Parish Council has now taken place. Clerk has received the free of charge paint kit. Cllr Rix has asked whether the PC could consider installing a defibrillator (see item 12 of the Agenda)

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	<p>Next steps:</p> <p>(a) Enquire with Peter Rix if he will paint up the phone box and the cost;</p> <p>(b) Update the PC Asset Register and update PC insurers;</p> <p>(c) See Agenda item 12 re: installing a defibrillator.</p>
Highways – white lines on road at High Cross	<p>When driving at night from Long Melford to Bridge Street, from the layby at High Cross approaching the long right hand bend, as far as the existing white line just before Wash Farm, it is very difficult to see the difference between the road and the verge, especially in the face of oncoming headlights. Requested whether SCC Highways would put white lines down to make that part of the journey much safer.</p> <p>SCC Highways response is: Do not have a budget to install new road markings, such as the requested edge of carriageway markings between the carriageway and verge along this section of the A134. Such request would have to be locally funded from either County Cllr Local Highway budget or from the Parish Council.</p> <p><i>Parish Council considered this response and would like Clerk to write to SCC Highways asking them to consider further. There was an incident within the last year when a tractor broke down and was left on the roadside, and a lady drove into the tractor as it was difficult to see where the road markings were.</i></p>

7. District and County Cllr Reports:

Report from County Cllr Richard Kemp:

2020-21 Budget Proposals

Due to the General Election, the announcement of the 2020-21 budget proposals was delayed until end of December. These proposals will be scrutinized on Tuesday 7 January, before being discussed by the Cabinet on 24 January and by the full Council on 13 February.

Overview

- Forecast Budget Requirement = £545.4m
- Expected Funding = £550.8m
- The remaining funding will be divided into contributions to reserves (£1.8m), investment into Highways (£0.5m) and the “Suffolk 2020 Fund” (£3m)

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Council Tax

Council Tax is due to increase by 4% in 2020-21. 2% of this will be for general council tax, whilst another 2% will be the final increase for the Social Care Precept.

Suffolk 2020 Fund

£3m of the Council's funding will be available through the "Suffolk 2020 Fund". The purpose of this fund is to enable investment in projects focused on carbon reduction/offset, road safety, natural environment, built environment, innovation and use of technology.

The budget proposals suggest that all projects will need to have a Cabinet "sponsor" and be capable of delivery within 12 months. They must have a clear return on investment (economic, social and/or environmental) and involve non-recurring expenditure.

More details on how this funding will be allocated, and who can bid for funding, is not yet known.

Citizens Advice

In last year's budget, Suffolk County Council announced that it would be removing the £368,000 grant for Citizens Advice. This cut was expected to be phased in, with half of the grant cut in 2019-20 and the rest cut in the 2020-21 budget.

However, the budget proposals for 2020-21 include £120,000 funding for Citizens Advice. This grant will remain in place for three years only and will be subject to annual review of the service in terms of efficiency, income generation and impact. After three years of additional funding, the council expects the Citizen Advice to become financially independent.

Savings

There are no major cuts to services proposed in the 2020-21 budget. However, the budget does rely on the council achieving £7.2m of savings from its transformation programmes, and a further £12.3m from "mitigations and savings".

Primary school applications 2020/21

Suffolk parents have until Wednesday 15 January 2020 to make their applications to secure their child's place at a Primary, Infant, Junior or Middle school for September 2020. Applications should be made for children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 who are due to start primary school from September 2020.

An application for a full time school place must be made even if a child is already attending a nursery class in an infant or primary school, a pre-school or a children's centre next to a school site.

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Applications should have been made online as this means parents and carers will receive a confirmation of their application. They can then log on to the online service on national offer day to see their school place offer and they will also receive an email to confirm this offer on the same day. If a parent or carer is unable to apply online then they should complete a paper CAF1 application form. Both applications can be accessed at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions or by calling 0345 600 0981.

Parents and carers are also reminded to make themselves familiar with changes to Suffolk's School Travel policy which came into effect September 2019. The new policy will assess eligibility for funded school travel to the nearest suitable school with a place available. This would be whether or not an application was made for a place at that school. More information about the changes is available at www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel.

If parents and carers do not apply by the closing date, their application may not be dealt with until after places have been offered to those who applied on time.

Future bus projects

Suffolk County Council is planning to launch a pilot project in early 2020, using school buses to provide bus services for rural communities during off-peak hours. The scheme will run as a pre-book service via a series of villages from Stowmarket to Cockfield, before connecting with Sudbury services. The reverse journey will happen in the afternoon. If the pilot is successful, this system may be implemented in other parts of the county.

At a Scrutiny meeting in December, the deputy cabinet member for transport announced that the council was planning to bid for around £20 million from the Department for Transport for an electric bus pilot scheme. If the bid is successful, the council has said that it plans to launch the pilot scheme within 12-18 months in the Bury St Edmunds area.

First new SEND units announced

In January 2019, Suffolk County Council agreed to provide an additional £45.1m to fund additional school and specialist units for children with SEND.

The first 10 specialist units, providing 168 spaces, are due to open in September 2020. The new units will be based at:

- Pipers Vale Primary Academy, Ipswich (Key Stage 1)
- Burton End Primary Academy (KS1)
- Murrayfield Primary Academy, Ipswich (communication and interaction needs – KS2)

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- Houldsworth Valley Primary Academy (communication and interaction needs – KS2)
- Causton Junior School (communication and interaction needs – KS2)
- Copleston High School, Ipswich (communication and interaction needs – KS3/4)
- Ixworth School (communication and interaction needs – KS3/4)
- Newmarket Academy (communication and interaction needs – KS3/4)
- Clements Primary Academy, Haverhill (cognition and learning needs – KS2)
- Castle Manor Academy, Haverhill (cognition and learning needs – KS3/4)

Popular most Active County initiatives inspire Suffolk residents to get active and change their lives

The Great East Swim and Run programmes have been inspiring Suffolk residents to get active for the last 8 years. The programmes offer an opportunity for individuals who are not currently physically active, to take part in a progressive programme of training and support, with the goal of taking part in the Great East Swim or Great East Run.

More than 470 individuals looking to make a positive change to their health and well being have taken part in the programmes to date, with more than 85% completing the full 12 to 16 week programmes, respectively. Participants have cited that as well as weight loss and more energy, they felt a boost in confidence, improved self-esteem, and a real sense of pride and achievement through completing the programme. On average, more than 70% of participants who were inactive when they registered for the programme, continue to be regularly active 3 months after completing the course.

The programmes are suitable for all ages, with participants from 18 to 80+ taking part in previous years. Nearly 6,000 participants took part in the main Great East Swim and the Great East Run events last year, many of whom were Suffolk residents. Entries are now open for the 2020 events.

This year's Great East Swim outreach programme will take place at Crown Pools in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre between March and June, culminating on Saturday 30 June at the Great East Swim at Alton Water reservoir near Ipswich.

The 2020 programme is delivered by Suffolk County Council in partnership with Ipswich Borough Council, Abbeycroft Leisure Trust, Active Suffolk and Allied Health professionals.

Individuals who sign up for the programme will receive an extensive package of support which aims to provide them with the confidence, stamina and self-belief to complete their personal challenge and become active for life.

96 places are available for the programme and entries open on 6 January. To apply for a place visit www.activesuffolk.org/greateastswim and complete the registration form.

If you are interested in taking part in the training for the Great East Swim 2020 but would like further information please contact Carol Lukins, Programme Coordinator on 07955 735514 or at carol.lukins@suffolk.gov.uk

Entries for the Great East Run programme will open in March 2020.

Report from District Cllr John Nunn

A series of fresh changes have been made to bin collection days in Mid Suffolk and Babergh just six months on from the previous overhaul.

The collection days of around 1,700 households in the two districts changed from Monday.

According to Babergh, it wrote to each of those homes to inform them of the changes, and a spokeswoman said that the council's crews reported that 'the vast majority of people' put their bins out to the updated timetable.

But some residents in Alpheton – whose black bins are normally emptied on Fridays – claim they were not informed, only discovering the change when they saw the refuse trucks on Monday or from neighbours.

The council website still said bin collection days in Alpheton were on Fridays, although this was updated on Monday afternoon. The council only had two complaints as of 3pm on Monday.

Areas where some roads have changed are as follows:

Alpheton, Cockfield, Lawshall, Sproughton, Pinewood, Hitcham, Somersham, Flowton and Bramford.

A spokeswoman said it collected around 17,000 bins per day and served around 80,000 homes, meaning the changes were only to a small portion.

She said: "Last Summer, we changed the bin collection days of more than 65,000 homes across Babergh and Mid Suffolk to improve the service, accommodating new housing growth and increasing the efficiency of our rounds. As part of a six monthly review following these changes, we realized there was further room for improvement for another 1,700 households. We have written to each of these households, advising them of the change, and our crews report that the vast majority of people have put their bins out for collection today as a result. Changes to bin collection days were introduced in July last year as a result of the growth in numbers of homes, with the revamp aiming to make the routes more efficient."

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Plans to re-open an historic Suffolk pub closed for more than two years have moved a step closer to fruition with an application for permission to begin renovation works.

The scheme for new windows and doors plus interior alterations to the first floor at The Swan in Little Waldingfield has been submitted to Babergh District Council.

New play park and fitness suite given go ahead for community field

A new play park, sports pitch and outdoor exercise equipment has been given the go ahead on a community field in a Suffolk village.

The new development is due to be built on the playing field in Newton, replacing the current play park and adding a new tarmacked multi-use sports area with goal posts and basketball hoops.

There will also be an outdoor fitness suite with a range of equipment which will be available for anyone in the local community to use.

The estimated cost of the project is around £150,000 and after the plans were given the green light by Babergh District Council planning officers, Newton Parish Council is now looking into raising the funds.

Report from District Cllr Elisabeth Malvisi

1. Learn about Climate Change. Lunch and Learn sessions being held Mid February on Climate Change
2. Sexual Abuse & Sexual Violence – Awareness Week at Suffolk New College on Thursday 6th February from 9-3pm. This is a drop in
3. Babergh has come out as 8th best place to live in the country. The criteria measured was happiness, well-being, income levels and examination results
4. 1st draft of the budget for 2020/21 was agreed last month. There is an increase in the Council Tax of £5 for a Band D. Currently the Budget is being reviewed by Overview & Scrutiny after which it will go to full Council for Debate. If approved it will come into effect on 1st April 2020
5. What next for Sudbury – indeed what next for Sudbury the town needs to be revitalized and brought into the 21st Century while retaining its links to its historic past. The Exhibition is St Peter’s Church show cases current developments and proposals for future developments bearing in mind Climate Change and how to balance it with the need to increase inward investment through a more mixed economy which includes tourism. Currently the refurbishment of Kingfisher is well underway. Gainsborough House is currently closed while they build the new extension. There were drawings showing the proposals for Sudbury Town Centre and Belle Vue, house and park. The Exhibition closes 16th February

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6. There is a new Grant available for homeowners in need. The Grant will cover things like a ramp, a rail, key safe, improvements to washing and bathing facilities eg walk in shower, or even a chair lift. Information can be found on the BDC website. The maximum grant is £7,500
 7. There has had to be some changes to 1,700 resident's bin collections over both Babergh and Mid Suffolk. These last changes have been triggered by the changes made in July, after running the new routes for 6 months inefficiencies were identified and the routes amended. As more houses are built so will changes be inevitable. There was one complaint from Alpheton who claims they did not receive the letter notifying them of the changes and for that we apologise but daily we make 17,000 collections, we changed only 1,600 and to date we have had only one complaint. Further details are on the BDC website
 8. The Joint Area Parking Management Scheme is to be considered this month. It is hoped that when CPE comes into effect that it will dovetail into that process
 9. The Council agreed to fund the CAB in Sudbury and Local Area for the next 3 years
 10. The Tree for Life Scheme has been a great success and most of the 171 requests registered were handed out on Saturday at Hitcham Village Hall. Thankfull it was dry and sunny!
8. Public Forum: two members of the public present:
- i. The pathway (opposite where the new build homes are on the Bury Road) are being eroded. It has become too narrow in places to safely use given the volume, speed and size of some of the vehicles using the Bury Road. Chair agreed to take pictures and send to the Clerk. Clerk will report on the Highways Reporting Tool and then provided Cllr Kemp with the photos and reporting number so that he can follow it up.
 - ii. With regards to speeding vehicles through the village – the owners of Fir Tree Cottage confirmed that they would be happy to have a post outside of their home for the Speed Indicator Device to be located on during its rotation around the village. Parish Council discussed and agreed to this additional post but ultimately it was for highways to make a decision once the PC submitted the paperwork.
 - iii. Parishioner enquired whether the PC could consider a picket fence/gate on the side of the verges (for example similar to the gates on the verge at Long Melford entering from Sudbury). The parish does not have a village feel about it, and perhaps the gates would remind drivers that it is a village and hopefully encourage them to slow down as they drive through the village. Cllrs agreed that they would consider it at the next meeting but in the meantime consider places that would be appropriate to put the gates/picket fence on the verges.

Signed.....

Dated.....

9. Correspondence: (all correspondence has been circulated to Cllrs ahead of the meeting):
- i. Email dated 20 January regarding changes to bus routes and timetables; Information has gone on to the website and put up at the bus stops in the village;
 - ii. Emails of various dates regarding parking on the verge of the A134 in Alpheton. County Cllr Kemp has informed the PC of various concerns raised and is in correspondence with the villager and the Police and SCC Officer;
 - iii. Email dated 28 January regarding panes of glass being left at the bottle bank. Clerk will get in contact with Babergh Officer to get the glass cleared.

10. Clerk/RFO Report:

- i. Consider and approve schedule of items awaiting authorization.

Further sum agreed at Meeting on 3 December 2019 = £117.96 to Start Traffic for "30 AHEAD" sign (cheque 631)

Schedule of invoices awaiting authorization for payment

Alpheton Village Hall	hall hire	12.00	chq632	LGA 1972
Nicola Smith	clerk's salary	324.04	chq633	LGA 1972
HMRC	tax and NI	14.00	chq634	Inc&Taxes Act
Peter G Rix	Bin and sign install	71.00	chq635	LGA 1972
CAS	webhosting	60.00	chq636	LGA 1972
*Ian Etherton	replacing chq626	100.00	chq637	LGA 1972

* cheque 626 written out to Ian Etherington and not Ian Etherton. Cheque 626 returned and replaced with cheque 637

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

The Parish Council considered the draft Precept which was presented at the meeting on 3 December 2019. No amendments required and therefore all Cllrs agreed that a Precept request for £3755 should be made. Clerk prepared necessary paperwork and it was duly signed and dated at the meeting.

Signed.....

Dated.....

12. Defibrillator

Discussion took place. Cllr Rix had undertaken some research.

It was agreed that an electrician should look at whether or not power is still live in the phone box as this is suggested as a location for a defibrillator. Cllr Jacobs will look in to this.

Suggestion that the Village Hall may be a better location, as emergency vehicles can park there better. Defibrillator mounted on outside wall but would need approval from the Village Hall.

Alpheton Garage was also considered as a possible location, again with the consent of the owners.

Clerk suggested that the Ambulance Service look at the various locations and advise. This had been done at another parish and there was no cost to the parish.

Matter to be discussed under matters arising at the next meeting.

13. Parish Councillor's Reports:

(i) Chair Cllr Sumner reported that she will be resigning from the Parish Council due to other commitments. She will continue until the 7th April 2020 but that will be her last meeting.

Cllr Gray confirmed that she would become Chair, as she had agreed to do that in the next year following on from Cllr Sumner. All Cllrs agreed to this.

(ii) Cllrs asked if Clerk could make enquiries of Peter Rix regarding cost of painting up the phone box and report back.

14. Planning: no new planning matters.

15. Date and time of next meeting: **7th April 2020 at 7pm in the Village Hall**

Meeting closed: 8.30pm

Signed.....

Dated.....