

ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 2 OCTOBER 2018 AT 7.00 PM

Present; Ken Watkins (Chairman), Richard Kemp, Richard Barraclough, Trevor Rix, Madeline Gray, Graham Maskell, Bridget Sumner, the Parish Clerk Nicola Smith, and District Cllr Mr John Nunn and Cllr Kemp present as Parish, District and County Councillor. Two 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 7 August 2018. Cllr Barraclough proposed and Cllr Rix seconded that the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting. All Cllrs agreed. Motion carried.
6. Matters Arising: Cllr Gray had obtained some feedback from some residents regarding what they would prefer to see within the red phone box. There was a very limited number of responses but the majority were in favour of a defibrillator housed in the phone box. Cllr Nunn will take this information back to LMPC, and revert to Alpheton parish Council in due course.
Other matters arising are dealt with within this meeting.
7. District and County Cllr's Reports:
County Cllr 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: Two new residents to the village. Had initially had difficulty with broadband connection, but that had now been resolved by changing provider. Cllr Rix advised that updates to broadband in the village can be found on the village website at alpheton.onesuffolk.net. There has been some very recent good news for residents in Bridge Street as Openreach have recently installed a new green cabinet, number 7, adjacent to the bus shelter. The significance is FTTC (fibre to the cabinet), then the existing copper to premises. As the location of this cabinet is much closer that the previously used one located in Lavenham, the broadband speeds will have increased substantially. You can check the download speed by using speedtest.net
9. Correspondence (general correspondence has been circulated):
 - i. Various emails regarding hedge cutting to Old Bury Road. *Chairman Cllr Watkins explained that the first request for the PC to arrange to trim foliage was on 25 July, and it was reported to County Cllr Kemp the next day. Cllr Kemp contacted the Highways department. They inspected in late August and sent a letter to the owners of Lynwold on 28 August asking for the work to be done. It should be noted that it took the Highways Dept four weeks to get around to their inspection and a letter being sent. A follow up request was received by the Chairman on 18 September and again that request was forwarded on to County Cllr Kemp, who in turn passed it on to the Highways Dept. The Highways Dept telephoned the Chairman the following day and asked for a site meeting, which took place on the 18 September. That meeting was to be followed up with a second letter to the owners of Lynwold. Chairman was advised by the Highways Dept that*

Signed.....

Dated.....

the vegetation should be trimmed back by half a metre from the kerb, and up to a height of 5 metres.

- ii. Email from SCC regarding grit bins/grit heaps. *SCC are no longer putting grit heaps down on verges because of leaching into the soil/washing away in wet weather, the Parish Council will need to purchase some additional grit bins to replace the grit heaps for some verges around the village. Clerk will liaise with Cllrs by email with regards to locations then submit form for approval by SCC. Once approved Clerk will then get prices for grit bins (SCC do not provide the bins), and agree with Cllrs the size/price etc for each site that is approved for a grit bin. County Cllr Kemp will enquire as to whether he would be able to assist in the purchase of additional grit bins out of his highways budget.*
- iii. Email from SALC regarding the "Voice of Councillor" workshop. *Clerk will update with any information provided by SALC resulting from the workshop.*

10. Clerk/RFOs Report:

Clerk reported that the second of two instalments of the annual precept had been received in the sum of £1618.00.

The following were presented to Cllrs to approve:-

N Smith (salary)	248.65	chq591	LGA 1972 S112
HMRC (tax and NI)	60.20	chq592	Incorp&Taxes Act
Alpheton Village Hall hire	12.00	593	LGA 1972 s133
CAS (PC annual insurance)	217.57	594	LGA 1972
SALC (Cllr training)	123.60	595	LGA 1972
CAS (annual webhosting fee)	60.00	596	LGA 1972

Cllr Kemp proposed and Cllr Sumner seconded the approval of expenditure. All Cllrs agreed. Motion carried.

PKF Littlejohn (external auditors) had contacted the Clerk, and agreed that a Certificate of Exemption could now be given for the audit. Clerk has drafted and posted Certificate. A Certificate of Exemption could also be submitted next year when dealing with the audit process.

11. Parish Cllrs Reports

- i. Chairmen reported that in relation to the Lynwold planning application, the Parish Council had received revised planning prior to the PC Meeting on 7th August 2018, with regards to changes to two vehicle access points instead of three, and building the houses on slightly higher ground in response to a flood review. The PC had submitted its comments and objections on these

Signed.....

Dated.....

revisions, and was still awaiting a determination from the planning department.

- ii. Chairman reported that he will meet with the Clerk prior to the next meeting on the 4th December in order to agree a draft precept to be put before the Parish Council for consideration.
- iii. Cllrs discussed the highways sign outside of Wash Farm that is obscured by overgrown vegetation. Cllr Kemp will look into the matter with SCC highways to establish who is responsible for cutting back the vegetation, and if it is Highways then ask them to deal with it.

12. Planning:

No new planning matters.

13. Date and time of next meeting:

4th December 2018 at 7pm

5th February 2019 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

Appendix A – County Cllr Kemp’s Report

"Staying Close" scheme launched to support Care leavers

Suffolk County Council have been awarded funding by the Department of Education for a three-year pilot scheme to support young people leaving care in Suffolk. The "Staying Close" scheme was launched on Thursday 9 August.

The aim of the scheme is to help young people from the age of 15 start planning for independent living with the assistance and support of residential care workers. This planning often only occurs close to the time a young person is due to move-out, causing unnecessary anxiety and distress. Early intervention and detailed planning from a younger age should help to alleviate this.

Young people will also continue to receive emotional and practical support from their children's home and residential workers after they have moved out and started living independently.

The pilot scheme is being delivered in partnership with The Ryes Children's Home in Sudbury, to test how this move-on care can be provided for young people who want to remain living close to their home.

Reduction in recycling rates harm "Greenest County" ambitions

Recycling rates in Suffolk have dropped over the past 4 years, from 51% in 2013 to just 47% in 2017. Meanwhile, over 50% of waste in Suffolk is incinerated – much higher than the national average of 38%.

Although incineration may be a better option than landfill, it is still less environmentally-friendly than other methods of waste disposal. Furthermore, there are concerns that the level of harmful particles released by incinerators could pose a serious threat to public health.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership, as part of the Greenest County Partnership, set a target of recycling at least 60% of municipal waste by 2020. These latest figures suggest we are moving further away

Signed.....

Dated.....

from this target. If Suffolk County Council truly wants Suffolk to be the “greenest county”, we need to start focusing on environmentally-friendly methods of waste disposal and ways to increase recycling levels in the county.

Superfast Broadband coverage continues to grow

Superfast broadband coverage continues to increase (currently over 93%) as it was confirmed that 98% coverage will be achieved in 2020.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, Jo Churchill, MP for Bury St Edmunds and Clive Selley, CEO of Openreach, were joined by representatives from West Suffolk Council, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, Church of England, Country Land and Business Association (CLA), National Farmers Union (NFU) and the Better Broadband for Suffolk Team to confirm plans to reach 98% coverage in 2020.

Nine out of every 10 homes and businesses in Suffolk now have superfast broadband available. The Better Broadband for Suffolk programme has provided an additional 967 structures providing superfast broadband to over 110,000 premises that were not in commercial plans. This takes to total superfast broadband coverage to over 93%.

To check if your property can now access superfast broadband, visit the website at www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com and check your area for coverage.

The roll-out is ongoing and Suffolk County Council is committed to delivering full coverage as quickly as possible.

It is important to remind people that a switch to fibre broadband is not automatic. Each household or business will need to contact an internet service provider to upgrade their connection.

Review into the Upper Orwell Crossings

On 1 August, Cllr Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, launched a review into the cost of building the Upper Orwell Crossings in Ipswich.

The project is still in the planning stages, but an internal review of costs has forecast that the total cost of completing the Crossings could be significantly higher than the original calculation of £97m. The Department for Transport committed to fund approximately three-quarters of the original cost, but if the total cost increases it is unlikely that they will provide any more funding. The additional funding would therefore need to come from local sources.

Work on the project has been temporarily suspended whilst the review is undertaken, with an outcome expected by the end of 2018.

Councils call for Power Companies to co-ordinate

A joint statement from Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council, calling for better coordination of power project planning in east Suffolk.

Suffolk local authorities have used the response to Scottish Power Renewables current consultation to call for energy firms to co-ordinate their work plans better – to reduce the disruption of their project on local communities.

In a joint response, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council have highlighted the power company’s plan to site a substation in Friston, despite fierce local opposition, as an example of the piecemeal approach to the planning of these projects – and how local needs are being ignored. East Suffolk is becoming increasingly important nationally for providing electricity for the nation – with a series of major projects in the pipeline.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Estimates suggest that this area will be responsible for a quarter of the country's electricity supply by the 2030s. But the infrastructure projects to generate and produce this electricity obviously have a major effect on the environment and the local communities.

Now, in responding to the current consultation being run by Scottish Power Renewables, the local authorities have highlighted the cumulative effect of all these projects – and appealed for the power companies to work together to minimise the disruption.

The local authorities have also raised the issue directly in a very positive meeting with Rt Hon Claire Perry MP, Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth and the local MP Therese Coffey.

In addition to the existing Sizewell B nuclear power stations and sub-stations for the Galloper and Greater Gabbard offshore wind farms, the area is now expecting the Sizewell C nuclear power station plus two sub-stations for Scottish Power Renewables East Anglia Offshore 2 and 1 (North) schemes; two inter-continental connector converter stations for National Grid Ventures and a single major National Grid Transmission substation connecting these to the pylon lines.

The issue has been particularly highlighted during this round of consultation by Scottish Power Renewables, which is ignoring calls by the local authorities to review its decision to place its substation in Friston – meaning 5 miles of countryside will needlessly have to be dug up for cables to reach the substation and there may be multiple huge buildings.

Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal have worked together to prepare this joint response to the Scottish Power Renewables consultation. These developments are seen very much as game changers, as part of a wider package of economic development investments in the area that the Councils want to embrace and support whilst acknowledging that to do this comprehensively, for the future benefit of the area needs the support of Government to help get it right.

The Councils state they support and embrace the principle of low carbon energy generation and the trading of energy across a European wide transmission network and want to help them be delivered if the local dividend is for the benefit of the whole area.

Therefore the Councils are committed to working together to ensure that where such schemes are brought forward they will have a positive impact on Suffolk, and East Suffolk in particular; supporting significant local growth by delivering:

- substantial economic benefits
- significant and sustained training and skills opportunities
- substantial community benefits

Appendix B – District Cllrs Richard Kemp and John Nunn's Report

BDC are progressing the scheme for Hamilton Road Bus Station and they claim to have matters sorted. Cllr Kemp has been through this process on this site at BDC on FOUR occasions before so will believe it when delivery happens. There is also movement in relation to the Belle Vue site and hotel projects. If that project goes ahead a great debate will ensue over how that goal has/might be achieved.

BDC had voted for pay rises for overworked Councillors, who then find meetings cancelled through lack of business. Cllr Nunn added to the report that the two District Cllrs for the Long Melford and Alpheton Ward (Cllrs John Nunn and Richard Kemp) voted against the allowance rise for Councillors.

Signed.....

Dated.....