

Monks Eleigh Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 26 November 2018 in the United Reformed Church Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Don Reynolds (Chairman), Patti Derry, Chris Eames, Angela Forrest, Will Sykes and Victoria Keitley-Webb
County Cllr Robert Lindsay and District Cllr Clive Arthey

Attending: Lucinda Rogers (Clerk) and 4 members of the public

90/18 Apologies for Absence

None

91/18 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Derry on item 10 as she is on the Millennium Green Committee

Cllr Eames on item 11 as he is the Safety Officer for the Summer Fete

92/18 Minutes of the meetings held on 24 September and 15 October 2018

24 September minute 73/18 should read to the end of the 30mph limit instead of streetlights. The minutes of the meetings were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as correct record.

93/18 Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay

Latest £11m cuts proposed from next year's budget Reduce training in Trading Standards, cut the entire £400k core budget for Citizens Advice, stop printing roadside bus timetables and cut rural bus subsidy, stop roadside sign cleaning, cut winter support fleet for highways, review arrangements for grass cutting, review street lighting. Council tax to go up by maximum allowed 4% (incl 1% for social care). A predicted overspend of £8.6m for the current financial year has dropped to £7.5m thanks to some savings but the council will probably still have to dip into reserves at the end of the year to cover the funding gap.

Newish pothole policy In August Highways considered the prioritisation process it uses to repair potholes. Its current approach is to fix the most unsafe potholes first. "The unfortunate consequence of this is that we have to return to a particular area at a later date to repair the less severe potholes. "This is not an efficient use of resources, and is frustrating to the public." They are therefore going to pilot a different prioritisation approach over this coming winter, for services for West Suffolk (including our area). They say they will still take a risk based approach, but will seek to repair more defects in a single visit. If successful, it will roll out to the rest of the county.

Road closures signage and diversions They are also looking see if they can improve the co-ordination of road closures to stop over-runs and improve signage. A new head of highways is due to be hired v shortly. I have specifically asked that notices of closures such as the recent one in Bildeston which was ten miles from the actual roadworks in Stowmarket, mention the location of the roadworks, so that people are not diverted needlessly. I am told this has been fed back to the traffic management company which the utility uses.

Abandoned and unremoved signs They are urging you to please report signs that are abandoned on networkassurance@suffolk.gov.uk and if at all possible with photos because utilities can be fined for these.

Period poverty A Labour motion to ask the council to spend £15k to provide free tampons and towels in all maintained schools was rejected by the administration, however they did agree to the other half of the motion which was to write to the Chancellor to take VAT off sanitary products.

Renewables Similarly a motion proposed by my political group (LibDem, Green and Independent) asking for the council to draw up a report into running a “smart grid” in Suffolk, which would allow energy from renewables to be stored in batteries, and to ensure at least 50% of all the council’s energy use will come from renewables by 2025 was also watered down, with the target taken out.

94/18 Report from District Cllr Clive Arthey

Tax Base 2019-20 Tax base figures have recently been set. For Monks Eleigh there is a very small reduction of -0.1%.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) In the first bid round only £65,000 of District (123) funds was spent, with the remaining £316,000 carried forward to the October bid round (over £600,000 available). Unspent funds will be carried forward to the next bid round in May 2019.

Local Plan and Housing Supply Next LP consultation will now be early next year. The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in July informs both the Local Plan and decision making on applications.

Waste and Recycling There has been a slight reduction in blue bin recyclables collected. Please don't think that recycling is not as important now that we generate electricity from the black bin waste. Whilst EfW isn't as expensive as landfill, it is much more expensive than blue bin recycling.

95/18 Public Forum

Concerns were raised about the intention of the development opposite Second Pitts as the roadway and hard-standing have been made but the stabling and tack room have not been built since the planning permission was given in 2015. These concerns to be reported to Babergh Planning.

Would it be possible to have a permanent SID camera as it is doing well slowing traffic as it approaches. The SID is shared with Whatfield and research has found it works more effectively where there is an element of surprise. Also, a complaint about the bank partly covering the pavement near Millennium Green.

96/18 Correspondence

A request for funding has been received from Sudbury CAB. Agreed to consider this with other requests at the January meeting.

97/18 Parking at Swingleton Green

The Clerk has investigated whether the parish council could use part of the green for car parking. As it is village green it is not possible to carry out any changes to it. Clerk to write to the residents concerned. Clerk also to investigate registering the playing field with the land registry.

98/18 Grass Cutting Contract

It was agreed to share the mower with the Millennium Green Trust. The Parish Council to pay £780.00, half the purchase price of the mower. The contract was read and agreed. It was agreed not to renew the grass cutting contract with Pro-scape – clerk to inform. Agreed to employ a local person to cut the grass. Cllr Reynolds to put an advert on the notice boards and website. Pay to be £10 - £15 per hour.

99/18 Millennium Green

A parishioner generously donated £100 towards a new bench – many thanks. It was agreed to purchase a new plastic bench for the green £299 + vat using funds from the Millennium Green account and to close the account and the remainder from the current account.

100/18 Summer Fete

It was agreed to give permission for the Summer Fete to take place subject to the agreement of the Safety Officer in advance of the day.

101/18 Finance

All cheques signed and due for signing as itemized in the appendix were authorised by the councillors. The councillors also noted the income received since the last meeting and reviewed the bank reconciliation against the bank statements. The councillors considered the draft budget for 2019/20 in preparation for the January meeting. Agreed to order new grit bins for: top of Church Hill, Churchfields – halfway along on right hand side, Lower Byfield and the junction of Back Lane/Lindsey Road on the green. Cllr Forrest agreed to help ensure the bins are correctly placed when delivered.

Cllr Keitley-Webb left the meeting at 9pm

102/18 Play Area Inspection Report

Cllr Reynolds to remove 5 a side goal and to move the litterbin further away from the bench.

103/18 CIL Bid

Cllr Forrest to make a bid to replace the 5 a side goals and to install a trim trail of seven items. The bid has to be in by May and will require 3 quotes.

104/18 Model Standing Orders

It was agreed to accept the amendments to the new model Standing Orders from SALC

105/18 Green at Causeway Adjoining Back Lane

County Cllr Lindsay to chase up Highways on behalf of the Parish Council.

106/18 Planning

It was agreed to make no objection to planning applications DC/18/04852 work to a tree and DC/18/04962 work to a tree and fell one tree.

107/18 Councillors Reports

Cllr Eames to collect SID from Whatfield on Thursday for four weeks and will install at the Lavenham end of the village, moving to the other end for the last two weeks. The new village hall is opening on 16 December at 3pm with a tea party until 5pm. Clerk to book the committee room for meetings in 2019. Cllr Derry will organise the litter pick on 23 March 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Appendix Financial Report

Expenditure since 24.9.18

Hadleigh URC Hall hire	16.00	LGA 1972, s133
Community Heartbeat defibrillator pads	87.60	Public Health Act 1936, s234
Strutt & Parker allotment rent	37.50	Smallholding & allotment act
L Rogers clerk's salary	838.75	LGA 1972
Pro-scape grass cut July/August	168.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Playsafety Ltd play area inspection	88.20	LGA 1971
L Rogers Clerk's expenses	36.36	LGA 1072

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

Avis sign for village green	114.00	Public Health Act 1936, s234
Community Action Suffolk website host	60.00	LGA 1972 s142
SALC training (budget)	17.40	LGA 1972 s111
SALC training (new clerk)	55.80	LGA 1972 s111
PKF Littlejohn external audit	240.00	
Monks Eleigh village hall grant	2460.00	LGA 1972 s133
Community Action Suffolk insurance	1048.49	LGA 2000 s101
L Rogers clerk's salary	904.36	LGA 1972
L Rogers clerk's expenses	19.11	LGA 1972
Pro-scape grass cut Sept	84.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
SALC training (bookkeeping)	18.60	LGA 1972 s111
HMRC national insurance	59.32	

Unpresented cheques

CAS website hosting	60.00
SALC training – budget	17.40
SALC training- new clerk's	55.80
Village hall grant	2460.00
CAS insurance	1048.49
<u>Total</u>	<u>3641.69</u>

Bank Reconciliation

Account	Statement Date	Statement balance	Actual Balance	Credit/transfers not shown	Unpresented cheques	Difference
Community a/c	31/10/18	£17,444.58	£13,802.89	£0.00	£3,641.69	£3,641.69
Business reserve	31/10/18	£8,863.71	£8,863.71	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Millennium a/c	31/10/18	£165.76	£165.76	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		£26,474.05	£22,832.36			

Action List

Minute	Action	Who
101/18	Order 4 grit bins	clerk
72/18	St Elizabeth Hospice garden 2019 advert What's On	Cllr Forrest
97/18	Write to residents to say cannot allow parking on village green	Clerk
97/18	Investigate registering ownership of playing field with Land Registry	Clerk
102/18	Cllr Reynolds to remove 5 a-side goal	Cllr Reynolds
102/18	Move the litter bin further from the bench on the playing field	Cllr Reynolds
	Spray the log pile with fungicide	Who/how decide at next meeting
	Fill in the gaps in between the tiles on the ground below the swings	Who/how decide at next meeting
	To re-set the west end goal	Who/how decide at next meeting
	To repair the fence behind the west end goal but leave a gap to allow football retrieval	Who/how decide at next meeting
78/18	Email SCC data protection guide to Cllr Derry & clerk	Cllr Forrest
80/18	Cllr Lindsay to chase up about green at causeway	Cllr Lindsay
98/18	End Pro-scape grass contract	clerk
103/18	Bid to replace 5 a side goals and trim trail of seven items	Cllr Forrest
98/18	Advertise for grass mower person	Cllr Reynolds

107/18	Book committee room at new village hall for 2019 meetings	Clerk