

Monks Eleigh Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 23 September 2019 in the Committee Room, Monks Eleigh Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Angela Forrest (Chairman), Patti Derry, Victoria Keightly -Webb, Alan Braithwaite, Elizabeth Evans and Tony Woodgate, County Cllr Robert Lindsay and District Cllr Bryn Hurren

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

47/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Cllr Will Sykes were accepted.

48/19 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Derry disclosed her interest in the item for double yellow lines on the corner of The Swan pub and village green.

49/19 Minutes of the meetings held on 22nd July 2019

The minutes of the meetings were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as correct record.

50/19 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

51/19 Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay

Bus 112

As you are probably aware, the county has said that some of the buses through our area, including the 112 will receive a stay of grace until March. I can only presume this is due to the protests we all made. An earlier petition of bus passengers was never presented because it first appeared it was saved, but it would certainly be worth submitting a new one, particularly if confined to passengers. There is a meeting of concerned passengers scheduled on the bus, for Thursday 10th October.

School buses

The new policy on only providing school buses to "nearest school" rather than catchment school created havoc at the start of term. Several hundred pupils had no idea whether they had a seat on a commercial bus their parents were prepared to pay for, days before school was due to start.

Pension fund

I sit on the county council pension fund and I'm pleased to say that the committee agreed at its last meeting to move a small proportion of its passive part of its fund into a low carbon tracker fund. We will look at moving more at the November meeting.

Boundary Commission to shake up county ward boundaries (divisions)

The Local Government Boundary Commission has begun a review of Suffolk County Council, to determine both councillor numbers and the boundaries between divisions.

My group (the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independents) submitted a proposal to keep councillor numbers in Suffolk at a minimum of 75, with the potential for an increase to 80. This was based on the need to ensure proper local representation – the fewer councillors there are, the less representation residents receive. Also to ensure the workload does not discourage people with caring or work commitments from standing.

The Conservative and Labour Groups submitted a joint proposal asking for a reduction to 70 councillors.

We expect the Commission to reply shortly to give its indicative verdict on councillor numbers and will then move to determining new boundaries. The review is expected to be completed by July 2020.

52/19 Report from District Cllr Brynn Hurren

112 Bus –Cllr Hurren to attend bus meeting on 10th October

Joint Local Plan Consultation Monks Eleigh is a hinterland village which makes it more difficult for development to take place. Babergh have a 5 year land supply which enables defence against unfriendly planning applications. The plan addresses environmental and sustainability issues

School Transport There are many problems with this system including children in families going to different schools, some on school buses and others not. The calculation of the shortest route is often unsuitable with children expected to walk across fields. There are a lot of on going appeals.

Name Change Babergh to South Suffolk – the Cllrs conformed they were not in favour of the proposed name change, largely for financial reasons.

53/19 Public Forum

A member of the public asked about the broken streetlight outside Riverside Bulbs. The clerk explained that the type of lamp is being phased out and the bulbs are difficult to obtain. As the lamp is located under wires a specialist firm has to carry out the work and there is only one company in England with a big queue. Suffolk County Council have to wait until they have enough unlit lamps to justify calling in the company for a day's work. The Parish Council are in the process of considering replacing the existing lamps due to this situation.

54/19 Correspondence

The footpath to Chelsworth was reported as overgrown but has now been cut back and is fine to use.

A resident reported that Clive Elms has carried work to the benches on the recreation field which are looking good. Clerk to write a letter of thanks. She also reported her concerns of security at the recreation field. The parish council thank her for alerting them to the situation. The field is secure with the current measures. Clerk to reply. Merchant Navy Day – a resident thanked the parish council for flying the ensign to commemorate the day. And asked if a permanent memorial and flag pole could be installed on the village green. Clerk to write to the PCC to see if they would be happy with this. Clerk also to write to Babergh to check if permission is needed to install this on the village green. Clerk to thank resident for her letter and to Mark for lending the flagpole.

Website accessibility – clerk to check with Community Action Suffolk that our website complies with the new regulations.

55/19 Speedwatch and SID

Chris Eames reported no significant change to the figures. The SID is not holding battery charge and investigations are being made. It was agreed to earmark £300 in the 2020/21 precept to cover the cost of our share of replacement equipment.

SID

	2018	2019 to end August
Average Speed	29.1 mph	29.4 mph
Maximum speed	70.0 mph	85.0 mph
	At 02:55 from Lavenham	At 16:30 from Lavenham
85% percentile	34.2 mph	34.4 mph
% speeders from West	13.8 %	14.2 %
% speeders from East	6.9 %	6.9 %
Average Vehicles per day in one direction	1,852	1,898

Notes:

- A speeder is someone exceeding 35 mph
- The equipment is shared with Whatfield, each village using it for 5/6 weeks at a time

CSW

- 10 Volunteers trained
- 8 Sessions between June and August
- 2075 vehicles recorded
- 14 vehicles at 35 mph or greater = 0.7%
- The equipment currently being tested by the manufacturer, as the batteries are not holding their charge
- The equipment is shared with Bildeston and Hitcham

Comment

About 10% of drivers are speeding with SID but only about 1% are caught speeding with CSW

The Chairman thanked Chris Eames for his work with Speedwatch and SID

56/19 Recreation Field Land Registry Registration

This is still in progress – Clerk to chase

57/19 Yellow Lines at the corner of The Swan and Church Hill

Clerk to chase as no feedback

58/19 Parking on the Village Green

The 'No Parking' sign is to be replaced on the green at the top of the hill.

59/19 112 Bus

The Chairman attended a meeting where it was proposed that each parish council contribute £500 towards the bus subsidy. The group also are looking at ways to increase popularity of the bus by it stopping at a supermarket for those with heavy shopping and making timetables easily available in public places. The council agreed to contribute £500 towards the bus subsidy.

60/19 Allotments

Strutt & Parker have completed their sale. Clerk to follow up about swopping allotment land. Cllr Derry to send Clerk allotment agreements.

61/19 Streetlights

Due to the current streetlights being phased out by 2020, the Council agreed to carry out the work as per the approximate quote from Highways. Cllr Braithwaite and Clerk to investigate ways to finance the work.

62/19 Telephone Box

The door frame of the box is rotten and needs a specialist to make a new frame. Cllr Hurren to look at the work required. Thanks to Don Reynolds for painting the box

63/19 Grit Bins

Suffolk Highways have confirmed the request for grit bin placements has been received. Clerk to chase.

64/19 Play Area Inspection

Rospa will carry out the inspection in September at a cost of £68.50+vat. Don Reynolds reported that the log stack has a piece of wood that is rotting but safe to continue using. The Council thank Adrian Keightly-Webb for cutting the main recreation ground and keeping it looking tidy.

65/19 Dog Bin at Hampling

The dog bin has been installed and is being emptied.

66/19 Suffolk Highways Community Self Help Scheme

Sudbury Town Council have three Community Wardens who can be hired to carry out work in villages at a cost of £20 per hour plus travel of 65p per mile. The wardens can cut hedges and trees back, clean road signs and other jobs that Highways used to do. Cllrs Braithwaite and Evans to draw up a list of work needed in the village so the clerk can ask for a quote.

67/19 Village Person of the Year

Cllr Derry has bought the wine. It was agreed that the presentation will be made at the Annual Parish Meeting.

68/19 Standing Orders

The Standing Orders were reviewed and approved

69/19 Financial Regulations

Cllr Braithwaite has reviewed and made suggested changes to the Financial Regulations which he will circulate to be reviewed by all Cllrs and adopted at the November meeting

70/19 Finance

- a. The councillors also noted the income received since the last meeting and reviewed the bank reconciliation against the bank statements.
- b. All cheques signed and due for signing as itemized in the appendix were authorised by the councillors.
- c. It was agreed to make a donation to the village hall of £2583.00 and to continue donating the income from the recycling centre to the village hall.
- d. It was agreed to close the Millennium Green bank account as from minute 99/18. Clerk to write a letter to transfer the funds and to close the account for the signatories to sign.
- e. The insurance renewal of £888.48 was reviewed and approved
- f. Budget wish list – streetlights, community speed watch, sign cleaning, play equipment, grit bins, phone box repair, flagpole, war memorial, allotments, H lines near dropped kerb, maintenance of 2 defibrillators

71/19 Green at Causeway Adjoining Back Lane

Three quotes have been received. They were considered and it was agreed to accept the lower quote of £795.00. Clerk to instruct the contractor that the work must not be carried out from the road.

72/19 Training

It was agreed for Cllr Sykes to attend councillor training at a cost of £20.00

73/19 Defibrillator

The new defibrillator has been delivered. John Naylor and Richard Bines to connect it to the electricity supply. Then it can be registered with the ambulance service but with a not in use sign until ready to go. John Naylor to organize a training session to give people confidence to use the machines.

74/19 Dates for Council Meetings

The dates were set for 2020: 27 January, 23 March, 18 May, 27 July, 28 September 23 November. The Annual Parish meeting will be on 9 March

75/19 Planning

Tree Preservation Order - Works Related - WS317/G7 - T1- (Willow) and T3, T5,T7- (Poplar) - Re Pollard; T2,T4,T6 - (Poplar) - Fell; T8 - (Ash)- reduce crown by 30%; T9 - (Alder) - coppice. Location: The Old Mill House, Mill Lane – The planning application was considered and no objections made.

76/19 Action List

The action list was reviewed and updated – see attached

77/19 Date of the next meeting

Parish Council Meeting 25th November 2019

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Appendix - Financial Report

Income received since 22.7.19

SCC Grant Cllr Lindsay £500.00

Expenditure since 22.7.19

J Naylor Defibrillator 750.00 Public Health Act 1936 s234
£750.00

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

J Naylor Defibrillator 750.00 Public Health Act 1936 s234
L Rogers Clerk's wages August 426.89 LGA 1972
L Rogers Clerks expenses August 16.32 LGA 1972
Speedar CSW battery 41.82 Highways Act 1980 s274a
L Rogers Clerk's wages September 426.89 LGA 1972
GlasdonDog waste bin 102.44 Litter Act 1983 ss5,6
Strutt & Parker Allotments sept19-march 20 37.50 Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908
SALC Training - village hall 24.00 LGA 1972 s.111
SALC Training – budgeting x2 63.00 LGA 1972 s.111
£1888.86

Unpresented cheques

J Naylor Defibrillator 750.00 Public Health Act 1936 s234
L Rogers Clerk's wages August 426.89 LGA 1972
L Rogers Clerks expenses August 16.32 LGA 1972
Speedar CSW battery 41.82 Highways Act 1980 s274a
L Rogers Clerk's wages September 426.89 LGA 1972
GlasdonDog waste bin 102.44 Litter Act 1983 ss5,6
Strutt & Parker Allotments sept19-march 20 37.50 Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908
SALC Training - village hall 24.00 LGA 1972 s.111
SALC Training – budgeting x2 63.00 LGA 1972 s.111
Total £1888.86

Bank Reconciliation

Account	Statement Date	Statement balance	Actual Balance	Credit/transfers not shown	Unpresented cheques	Difference
Community a/c	30.8.19	£16,572.10	£14,683.24	£0.00	£1,888.86	£1,888.86
Business reserve	30.8.19	£8,876.97	£8,876.97	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Millennium a/c	30.8.19	£165.84	£165.84	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

£25,615.07	£23,726.21
------------	------------

Action List

Minute	Action	Who
56/19	Follow up registration of ownership of playing field and Polegate with Land Registry via Holmes & Hill	Clerk
54/19	Letter of thanks to Clive Elms Letter of thanks to Mandy Coll Letter to PCC re war memorial Letter of thanks to Mark re flagpole Website accessibility clerk to check with CAS	Clerk
145/18	Establish ownership of the fence behind the west end goal	Clerk
57/19	H lines on corner near Swan pub chase	Clerk
38/19	Grit bins – follow up to check placements accepted	Clerk & all Cllrs
60/19	Allotments – Clerk to follow up to see if area of allotments can be swapped Cllr Derry to send agreement to Clerk	Clerk Cllr Derry
61/19	Streetlights – finance/budget	Clerk & Cllr Braithwaite
66/19	Sudbury Community Warden – list of work needed	Cllrs Evans & Braithwaite
70/19	Letter to close bank account	Clerk
71/19	Accept quote for Green at Causeway	Clerk