

## Monks Eleigh Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 25 November 2019 in the Main Hall, Monks Eleigh Village Hall at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs Angela Forrest (Chairman), Patti Derry, Victoria Keitley-Webb, Alan Braithwaite, Elizabeth Evans Will Sykes, Tony Woodgate, and District Cllr Bryn Hurren  
**Attending:** Lucinda Rogers (Clerk) and 25 members of the public

### **78/19 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies from County Cllr Robert Lindsay were accepted.

### **79/19 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.

### **80/19 Minutes of the meetings held on 23rd September 2019**

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

### **81/19 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

### **82/19 Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay**

**Cabinet reshuffle.** The cabinet member for finance Richard Smith has quit his post after what was reportedly a row over raising the council tax (he wanted a freeze). This triggered a reshuffle. Gordon Jones has moved over to take Cllr Smith's role at finance. That in turn meant Mary Evans has been moved to take Gordon Jones' role in charge of education. In turn Andrew Reid has been appointed cabinet member for Highways and transport in place of Mary Evans. Cllr Reid was chair of the pension committee. **School bus travel to be reviewed** Mary Evans in her new role in charge of children and young people, issued an apology over the way the change to the school travel policy had been handled and said it would be reviewed by the head of the county's fire service Nick Hardingham. It is not clear however, whether this is a review of the whole policy or just of the way it was implemented. You will recall there were hundreds of appeals – there is still a huge backlog - and many children left not knowing whether they had a bus to their school at the start of term last month. Our group joined Labour to support a motion which asked for the policy to be modified to ensure an end to "split villages" and to ensure siblings still got free bus to their siblings school. This was voted down by the administration. **Public buses.** My one allowed question at full council was to the new cabinet member of highways Andrew Reid to ask if he could meet passenger groups for the three bus routes (the 112, 461/462 and 120) in my division under threat from subsidy withdrawal. He has subsequently said he cannot currently meet owing to the general election moratorium. **Impact of general election moratorium.** The election moratorium started on 6 November, and consequently a number of decisions and meetings at Suffolk County Council have been delayed. Budget scrutiny has been delayed from December to January.



The long-awaited children's centre consultation will need to wait until the new year. We still don't have any information about when exactly this consultation will be ready. Similarly, the council will not be able to publish the first draft of the Ipswich Northern Bypass business case until after the election. Finally, the Council has made the decision to postpone any meetings of the Climate Emergency Policy Development Panel until the new year. **Health visitors.** Our political group has been approached by very concerned Suffolk health visitors who revealed that their numbers have been cut by 41 from 117 in the wake of a new in-house contract in the county which is £1m cheaper than the previous contract. Another of the change is that 3 of the 5 mandatory visits to parents of children are no longer done by a qualified health visitor. We proposed a motion asking them to change this policy and ensure all visits were done by the same health visitor. This was also rejected. **Plans for civil parking enforcement across Suffolk.** Civil parking enforcement is expected to be rolled out across Suffolk from 31 January 2020. Currently Ipswich Borough Council is already responsible for parking enforcement, however across the rest of the county it is the police who are responsible. Under the new plans, West Suffolk Council and East Suffolk Council will take on the responsibility of parking enforcement in their own areas. IBC and WSC will also cover the Mid-Suffolk and Babergh area on an agreed operational split: WSC will operate in the northern two-thirds of Mid Suffolk and the western half of Babergh, and IBC will operate in the remaining areas. A consistent approach is being planned, to ensure that fines are the same across the whole county. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan published.** Suffolk County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2020-30) was agreed by the Cabinet on 6 November. The delivery plan focuses on four key areas: managing green access infrastructure; improving green access infrastructure; promoting green access; and developing healthy and sustainable communities. Measures proposed by the plan include creating a digital map of the county's footpaths and bridleways and a new system to prioritise maintenance of highly-used routes. The plan also focuses on sustainable travel choices and the health benefits of walking and cycling.

### **83/19 Report from District Cllr Brynn Hurren**

**C.A.B. Winter Fuel scheme** This is a scheme whereby recipients of the winter fuel payments (people aged over 65) who feel they do not need this benefit are invited to donate it to the Ipswich branch of the C.A.B. who will then allocate it to Suffolk residents who are deemed to be in fuel poverty. Last winter over £100,000. Was donated and redistributed to needy Suffolk residents. If you know someone who you think is going to be cold this winter please get in touch with Ipswich C.A.B. or myself. **Free Swimming for under 16s** Babergh District Council are once again giving free swims to under 16s at Hadleigh Leisure Centre and the Kingfisher pool in Sudbury during the Christmas school holidays, turn up with proof of age and you will be allowed to swim, please check at centres for times. **Free Tree for newborns.** As part of our green initiative and contribution to the green agenda Babergh are donating a free tree for life to every child born between 1st Jan 19 and 31st Dec 2020 This will be available from around March to all who apply before 12th Jan 2020 This offer is also extended to a family who adopt a baby or have the misfortune to lose a child during that time. **Fly Tipping** This is regarded as a serious rural crime and a recent incident in Semer of flytipping plumbing waste attracted a fine of £1500.00 in Ipswich Court. Please remain vigilant. We are still looking for the culprit who dumped 500tyres on the border of this village and Milden. **Babergh Name change to South Suffolk.** This is not now going to happen any time soon, the official officer line is that Councillors need more time to think about it. I will keep you posted on developments. **Parking Enforcement** This duty which has



always been carried out by the police until about three years ago will from this coming spring be carried out by the District and Borough Councils across Suffolk who will employ their own wardens to do these duties and enforce restrictions with statutory fines.

**General Election 12th December** This duty falls to the District Council ie. Babergh and it has not been easy this time around to find a place to vote in every village and town across the District, it has also been much more costly than usual and I do intend to ask how much. Having said that everyone and every place will have a polling booth on December 12th.

**Planning Matters** I am aware that you have a planning matter before you tonight that has generated some interest. As this is so I have used my powers as your elected Councillor to call this into committee where it will be heard in the public domain with speakers from the P.C.s as well as supporter and objector and myself as your representative. This planning application will be heard in the new year. Probably mid January.

#### **84/19 Public Forum**

Several members of the public expressed their objections to the planning application at Land north of Second Pits. Cllr Hurren will check who can speak at the public planning meeting to be held at Babergh. The applicant asked why people are opposed to the application. There was a suggestion that to prevent fly tipping increasing that the tips should be free and open more often to encourage people to use them.

#### **85/19 Correspondence**

Tree for Life - Babergh have a scheme of offering trees ready to plant for people who have had a baby this year. It also includes those who have adopted children or sadly lost a baby. Poster to be displayed on the notice board, website and Facebook.

Power for People – it was agreed not to pass a motion.

Headway – Clerk to let them know that grants to local organisations will be considered at the January meeting

#### **86/19 Speedwatch and SID**

It was agreed to pay £21.80 towards the cost of a new battery charger. The cost to be shared with Bildeston and Hitcham Parish Councils.

#### **87/19 Planning**

DC/19/04923 Land north of Second Pits, Highlands Road

It was agreed unanimously to object to the planning application on the following grounds: not in the settlement area, impact on a listed building, inconsistency of number gypsy and traveller sites required in Babergh, demand in emerging Joint Local Plan, application for one family not transit site, conservation of natural and historical environment, lack of connectivity to local services, schools, shops, no public transport, traffic generation and safety, creep of development, appearance of proposed site.

It was decided to hold an additional meeting to consider planning applications DC/19/05417 at Manna Farm, Stackyard Green and DC/19/05461 Hays Farm, Swingleton Hill

#### **88/19 Recreation Field Land Registry Registration**

This is still in progress – Clerk to chase



### **89/19 Stiches Meadow**

It was agreed that for the business proposal, change of use planning permission from agricultural to commercial should be sought

### **90/19 Yellow Lines at the corner of The Swan and Church Hill**

Clerk to follow up H lines. Parking still posing safety problems here regularly. The new traffic warden scheme will be in force in late spring to reduce the problem

### **91/19 Finance**

- a) A finance report was circulated to all Councillors
- b) The councillors noted the income received since the last meeting and reviewed the bank reconciliation against the bank statements.
- c) All cheques signed and due for signing as itemized in the appendix were authorised by the councillors.
- d) The draft budget was discussed and it was agreed to adopt it as a draft to be finalised at the January meeting. Clerk to check with Babergh about CIL application and to prepare for a loan application for replacing the streetlights. Clerk to check if litter pick is covered by the insurance, also self help on road signs.

### **92/19 Parking on the Village Green**

Clerk to check the Land Registry map to check the boundary near the bollards at the top of the green

### **93/19 112 Bus**

The number of people using the bus has increased to 16 or more. Important to show Norse that it is well used. It has been nationally recognized that there is a rural transport problem. Cllr Hurren to ask Cllr Lindsay about a possible grant. There is funding from Suffolk County Council until the end of June.

### **94/19 Allotments**

Clerk to follow up about swapping allotment land.

### **95/19 Streetlights**

It was agreed to update the current streetlights with new LED ones at an approximate cost of £12,500. Need to consider whether to keep the lights on all night or not

### **96/19 Telephone Box**

Cllr Hurren to quote for making a new door frame

### **97/19 Grit Bins**

The grit bins are all in place – thanks to Cllr Braithwaite for organizing. Clerk to email grit bin licence to all Councillors so that they can use the maps to check the bins are located correctly. Cllr Sykes to talk with parishioner about site of grit bin near her house.



### 98/19 Play Area Inspection

The report suggests the following work is carried out:

Move the bin so it is more than 2m from the seat on the recreation field

Replace the rotten timber on the log pile

The goal posts need re-setting

The MUGA needs cleaning

The slide needs cleaning

The gaps on the matting below the swings need to be filled

Cllr Keitley-Webb to email suggested dates for a working party to carry out some of the above. Also to ask Adrian Keitley-Webb if he can help with repairs

### 99/19 Councillor Training Session

Cllr Sykes found the recent training course from SALC to be a comprehensive and worthwhile evening. Topics covered included precepts, data protection and budgets

### 100/19 Green at Causeway Adjoining Back Lane

The work should be carried out soon

### 101/19 Defibrillator

The new defibrillator is installed and ready to be used. John Naylor to organize a training session to give people confidence to use the machines.

### 102/19 Action List

The action list was reviewed and updated – see attached

### 103/19 Date of the next meeting

Additional planning meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

Parish Council Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

### Appendix - Financial Report

#### Income received since 23.9.19

Babergh Precept	£8868.00
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Closure of Millennium account	£166.08
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	<u>£9034.08</u>
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#### Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

D Reynolds	Mower petrol	65.56	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10
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L Rogers	Clerks wages October	426.89	LGA 1972
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Community Heartbeat	defibrillator pads	45.60	Public Health Act 1936 s234
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Playsafety	ROSPA inspection	86.40	LGA 1972 s111
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Heelis & Lodge	internal audit	128.00	LGA 1092 s111
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Sudbiury Town Council	Training	24.00	LGA 1972
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L Rogers	Oct/Nov expenses	75.00	LGA 1972
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L Rogers	Clerks wages November	426.89	LGA 1972
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ESE Direct	Grit bins	583.50	LGA 1972 s111
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	<u>£1861.84</u>
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### Unpresented cheques

D Reynolds	Mower petrol	65.56	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10
L Rogers	Clerks wages October	426.89	LGA 1972
Community Heartbeat	defibrillator pads	45.60	Public Health Act 1936 s234
Playsafety	ROSPA inspection	86.40	LGA 1972 s111
Heelis & Lodge	internal audit	128.00	LGA 1092 s111
Sudbiury Town Council	Training	24.00	LGA 1972
L Rogers	Oct/Nov expenses	75.00	LGA 1972
L Rogers	Clerks wages November	426.89	LGA 1972
ESE Direct	Grit bins	583.50	LGA 1972 s111
		<u>£1861.84</u>	

### Bank Reconciliation

Account	Statement Date	Statement balance	Actual Balance	Credit/transfers not shown	Unpresented cheques	Difference
Community a/c	31.10.19	£20,979.04	£19,117.20	£0.00	£1,861.84	£1,861.84
Business reserve	31.10.19	£8,881.40	£8,881.40	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Millennium a/c	CLOSED					
		£29,860.44	£27,998.60			

### Action List

Minute	Action	Who
56/19	Follow up registration of ownership of playing field and Polegate with Land Registry via Holmes & Hill	Clerk
145/18	Ask Strutt & Parker to mend the fence behind the west end goal	Clerk
57/19	H lines on corner near Swan pub chase	Clerk
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
92/19	Check Land registry map for boundary of village green	Clerk
94/19	Follow up about swapping land for allotments	Clerk
98/19	Play area inspection various tasks	Cllr Keitley-Webb