

Monks Eleigh Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27th July 2020 at the Village Hall and remotely via Skype at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Angela Forrest (Chairman), Patti Derry, Victoria Keitley-Webb, Tony Woodgate, Alan Braithwaite and Will Sykes

County Cllr Robert Lindsay and District Cllr Bryn Hurren

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

28/20 Apologies for Absence

Elizabeth Evans sent her apologies due to family bereavement. Apologies accepted

29/20 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Braithwaite declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 8c & 12. Cllr Derry declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11. Cllr Keitley-Webb declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 17. No requests for dispensation had been received.

30/20 Minutes of the meetings held on 18th May 2020

The minutes of the meeting were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

31/20 Report from District Cllr Bryn Hurren

Firstly may I wish everyone well and continuing good health in these very uncertain times. While we may seem to have escaped the very worst of the pandemic in this part of rural Suffolk, we should remember that we have had 261 reported cases of Coronavirus within the Babergh area and I am sure that without a proper testing regime the real amount of contraction is very much higher than the reported figures that we are all given. The fact that we have come through this horror situation as well as we have is very largely down to the efforts of local government and our knowledge and dedication to our area. Our own Council staff have gone way beyond the normal call of duty and have worked long hours in unusual places and times. Also the many local people and organisations who have seen that neighbours, relations and friends have been kept safe and have had supplies of food and medicine where required. It is now more important than ever that we remain careful, both for ourselves and for all we meet and come into contact with.

On the financial aspect both Babergh and Mid Suffolk will have a budget shortfall of about two million pounds each, which will need to be made up somehow, or come from already depleted reserves which will leave us very close to a very uncomfortable edge. I think because of this the Government are making some overtures regarding a bailout providing we accept some sort of unitary form of local government, while I have always been in support of this I would not like to see one council across the whole of Suffolk which I feel would be unwieldy, very political and not very democratic or competent.

At last we have some certainty with our long overdue Joint Local Plan for our two districts with a firm timetable for completion by the end of 2021. I can only hope that officers and councillors can deliver on this with no more delays and further

concreting over of our much needed green agricultural land. Developers encouraged by the government of the day have had a terrible effect on our area and detrimentally changed it for ever and we are still short of the housing we so desperately actually need.

While our recent circumstances have brought out the best in many people it has also brought out the very worst in others, with the panic buying and hoarding to start off with and now the littering of our countryside and worse still the constant fraud attempts and scams with ever more ingenious attempts to trick innocent people out of their hard earned cash and belongings, please be vigilant everybody and if it seems too good to be true it probably is.

More locally I am very concerned about the application for the 70 ft mast at Swingleton Hill which will have a very large impact on the rural skyline and will be a very large blot on the rural landscape.

Also the demise of Age U.K. is having a profound effect on those that have depended on the services and support that they have provided for many years, the site that they occupy as a base in Sudbury is also the office and H.Q. of GoStart our community bus provider. I will keep Councils and Councillors briefed on progress with these two matters.

32/20 Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay

Pension saves £20m - I may have reported in the past that as a member of the Suffolk pension committee I was pushing the committee to reduce the pension fund's exposure to fossil fuel stocks. I'm pleased to say that the committee decided to move some funds at the end of last year into a low carbon tracker "Climate Aware" fund. They moved about £260m in two phases with the second phase switching in January. This was just before the crash in global stock markets due to the pandemic which was led by oil and gas stocks. As a result, the Climate Aware fund lost about 17% in value, but the traditional funds from which we switched lost about 21% which meant we saved about £20m by moving.

Cycling wins funding thanks to revised cycle strategy- Two years ago, my motion to set up a cycling working group to draw up a prioritised, costed list of cycle routes in the county received unanimous support. After much delay the working group's recommendations were approved by cabinet last month, just in time for some emergency funding for cycling and walking from the Government. The Government has just awarded the county 112% of the money than it originally allocated to us because of the strength of the county's bid. The money will not fund all the cycle routes on the list but having a list means we are more likely to win bids when they arise. Babergh is working closely with Suffolk to refine the list and there is an opportunity for communities to put in their own suggestions for routes for investment using emergency money that is coming for Government for this purpose.

Funding and pandemic – Suffolk County Council agreed its budget before the pandemic. Since then it has received extra funding from the Government to cover some of the considerable extra costs of the crisis. However, the council says this is

unlikely to be enough when budgets, particularly for social care, were already strained even before.

Test and trace Suffolk - I have been assured by the Director of Public Health that he is now getting the data on local community testing from central Government that he needs to enable local lockdowns should there be a local outbreak. However, I am not clear whether enough testing is yet being done, outside care homes, to pick up outbreaks in time.

Sizewell C - Earlier in July a motion to end support for Sizewell C my group brought to Suffolk county council was defeated by Conservative and Labour councillors. They argued that they first wanted to absorb the arguments from EDF in their application. 112 Go Start Bus Bideston to Sudbury via Monks Eleigh- This bus has been up and running since the start of lockdown and has not missed a single trip. Passenger numbers have been low as was expected due to lockdown. It has run empty on two occasions. The driver and all customers are wearing masks as per new rules. I have a couple of laminated timetables if someone is able to place those on the bus stop notice, I can drop one at their resident for them.

School Buses- Due to social distancing rules, no spare seats will be offered on school buses for those starting school in September. I have had three families in the area raise this as a problem for them (though not in Monks Eleigh) which I have passed on to the cabinet member in charge of education and school transport

33/20 Public Forum

A member of the public said they would prefer a different location for the proposed barn at Highlands Farm. Concerns about the planning application for a new mast at Wyncolls Farm were expressed. The shop had difficulty obtaining supplies at the beginning of the Covid outbreak which have been resolved.

34/20 Correspondence

Thank you for MEPC donations from: East Anglian Air Ambulance, Victim Support and Monks Eleigh Village Hall Committee

Play Area Inspection – will take place in September at a cost of £68.50 + vat. Cllr Keitley-Webb to try to mend the log pile before the inspection

Tree Consultancy – advertising service

Babergh Environmental Health- reports of smoke from fires at the old primary school during demolition work – resolved now

SALC – AGM 30th July – Cllr Sykes to attend

Highlands Road – report of poor surface on road – Cllr Lindsay to respond

Use of Village Green – a resident asks if he may picnic with a glass of wine on the village green. It is permitted but perhaps the Millennium Green with picnic tables and a seating area may be more attractive.

35/20 Planning

- a) The councillors reviewed Planning Application/Listed Building Consent DC/20/02664/5 Replacement of existing rear porch with new timber framed porch at **Church Cottage, Church Hill** and agreed to support the applications

- b) The councillors reviewed Planning application DC/20/02791 – Removal of existing telecommunications mast and associated apparatus. Installation of new 22.5 metre mast including 5 no. antennas, 3no 600mm dish antennas and 1no 300mm dish antenna, 2no equipment cabinets, associated apparatus and ancillary works at Telecommunications site 1491816, **Wyncolls Farm** and agreed to object to the application and comment to reduce the height of the mast or disguise it. Cllr Braithwaite to email comments to the clerk
- c) The councillors reviewed Application for Agricultural Determination DC/20/02939 – Erection, Extension or Alteration of a Building for Agricultural or Forestry use. Town and Country Planning (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, part 6 – Erection of Agricultural Straw Barn at **Highlands Farm, Highlands Road** and agreed to object and comment: poor choice of site, traffic problem at junction of Church Hill and A1141, tall imposing building in historical view of grade 1 listed church
- d) The councillors reviewed Application for Planning Permission DC/20/02927 Erection of a detached ancillary outbuilding, single storey rear extension; Erection of two storey front extension and balcony and re-siting of access. (following demolition of existing conservatory and porch) at **Nova Scotia House, Nova Scotia Lane** and agreed no comments
- e) Planning Permission has been granted DC/20/01626 to allow full height stairs window to be moved from west elevation to north elevation - **Maytree House, Mill Lane** – Variation of condition 2 on Planning permission DC/17/03678
- f) Planning Permission has been granted DC/20/01300 for erection of new dwelling & garage with workshop. Associated landscaping works (alternative scheme to DC/18/01387) at **Former Rushbrooks site, The Street**
- g) No further planning application had been received since the agenda was posted

36/20 Recreation Field Land Registry Registration

Polegate meadow has been registered with the Land Registry. Other parcels of land need to also be registered. Contact details of the clerk need to be updated with the Land registry. Clerk to follow up.

37/20 Speed of Traffic in the Village

Back Lane - The councillors agreed to apply to have a 30mph speed limit applied to the whole of Back Lane. Clerk to check how to apply. It was agreed to apply to the Quiet Lanes scheme for a 30mph limit for Back Lane

Speedwatch - have just finished a 3-week cycle of Speed watch - the first post-shutdown and here are the statistics:

1911 vehicles recorded over 9 hours (9 sessions)

1.7 % vehicles were recorded at 35mph or above

SID to be installed again soon and we shall have the CSW equipment again in September.

38/20 H Lines at the corner of The Swan and Church Hill

A six week log to be made when numbers of vehicles are high enough to record

39/20 Donation from Roundabout

The councillors agreed to donate £350 towards a new notice board at the community shop and to donate £100 to St Peter's PCC for the compilation of Roundabout in the village.

40/20 Finance

- a. The councillors reviewed and resolved to accept the July 2020 finance report.
- b. All cheques signed and due for signing, as itemised in the Appendix, were authorised by the councillors. The councillors also noted the income received since the last meeting and reviewed the Statement of Accounts against the budget. The bank statements will be circulated to councillors to review with the bank reconciliation
- c. The councillors reviewed and agreed to approve the Financial Regulations
- d. The councillors agreed to approve to increase the Fidelity insurance cover to £50,000 at a cost of £33.60

41/20 Standing Orders

The councillors reviewed the suggested amendments to the Standing Orders and agreed to approve them.

42/20 Definitive Map

Cllr Braithwaite has made a map of paths used and walked in Monks Eleigh. Clerk to ask Rights of Way to check this against the Definitive Map. Also to check if Church Walk is a footpath

43/20 Website Accessibility

The councillors agreed to ask CAS to carry out the website accessibility testing, carry out any work as a result and write the Accessibility Statement at a cost of £144 +vat

44/20 Notice Board at the Community Shop

It was previously agreed minute 39/20 to donate £350 towards a new notice board. The councillors agreed to refurbish the Parish Council notice board outside the community shop. Clerk to ask Cllr Hurren for a quote for the work.

45/20 Councillors Code of Conduct Consultation

The councillor reviewed the proposed Code of Conduct and agreed to approve the new Code of Conduct.

46/20 Recreation Field and Play Area

The councillors reviewed the quotes obtained for 14 grass cuts per year and agreed to accept the quote from Tye Farm Contracting at a cost of £1540 per year. Clerk to ask him to start in August. Clerk to write to thank Steve Richardson and Gilbert Keitley-Webb for their generous volunteering in cutting the recreation field.

47/20 Action List

The action list was reviewed and updated – see attached

48/20 Items for Future Meetings

The top corner of the village green on Church Hill needs to be sown with grass seed
Cllr Derry to organise. Cllr Keitley-Webb to provide grass seed.

A working party for the play area will take place on Saturday 22 August

49/20 Date of the next meeting

Parish Council Meeting 28th September 2020

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Appendix - Financial Report

Income received since 18.5.20

Bildeston PC Share of SID battery £21.80
£21.80

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

L Rogers Clerk wages June 426.89 LGA 1972
Information Commissioner Annual fee 60.00 LGA 1972
Bryn Hurren Phone box repair 215.00 LGA 1972
L Rogers Clerk wages July 426.89 LGA 1972
L Rogers April/May expenses 9.30 LGA 1972
£1118.08

Unpresented cheques

SALC Annual subscription 259.00 LGA 1972 s111
L Rogers Clerk wages April 426.89 LGA 1972
Sudbury CAB Donation 70.00 LGA 1972 s142(2a)
Mid Suffolk CAB Donation 50.00 LGA 1972 s142(2a)
EAAA Donation 100.00 LGA 1972 s142(2a)
SARS Donation 75.00 LGA 1972 s142(2a)
Wattisham 1st responders Donation 100.00 LGA 1972 s142(2a)
MAGPAS Donation 50.00 LGA 1972 s142(2a)
Samaritans Donation 50.00 LGA 1972 s142(2a)
Suffolk family Carers Donation 50.00 LGA 1972 s142(2a)
Heelis & Lodge Internal audit 128.00 LGA 1972
L Rogers Clerk wages June 426.89 LGA 1972
Information Commissioner Annual fee 60.00 LGA 1972
Bryn Hurren Phone box repair 215.00 LGA 1972
L Rogers Clerk wages July 426.89 LGA 1972
L Rogers April/May expenses 9.30 LGA 1972
£2351.97

Bank Reconciliation

Account	Statement Date	Statement balance	Actual Balance	Credit/transfers not shown	Unpresented cheques	Difference
Community a/c	1.7.20	£19,839.63	£17,487.66	£0.00	£2351.97	£0.00
Business reserve	1.7.20	£8,891.34	£8,891.34	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		£28,730.97	£26,379.00			

Action List

Minute	Action	Who
136/19	Follow up registration of ownership of playing field and village green 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 parking diary	Clerk/Cllr Derry
7/20	SALC training, footpath map,	Cllrs Evans, Braithwaite & Clerk
48/20	Play area working party – Saturday 22 August	All