

## Monks Eleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 23rd May 2022 at Monks Eleigh Village Hall at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs John Newton (Chairman), Patti Derry (Vice-Chairman), Alan Braithwaite, Angela Forrest and Will Sykes  
County Cllr Robert Lindsay

**Attending:** Lucinda Rogers (Clerk) and one member of the public

### **1/22 Election of Chairman**

Cllr John Newton was unanimously elected as Chairman and signed his acceptance of office form

### **2/22 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Victoria Keitley-Webb and Elizabeth Evans – family event  
District Cllr Bryn Hurren

### **3/22 Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllrs Patti Derry was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman and signed her acceptance of office form

### **4/22 Appointment of Parish Council Representatives**

Millennium Green – Cllr Patti Derry  
Village Hall – Cllr Angela Forrest  
SALC – Cllr Will Sykes  
Defibrillators – John Naylor  
Footpaths & Highways – Cllr Elizabeth Evans  
Planning – Cllr John Newton  
Finance – Cllr Alan Braithwaite  
Recreation Field – Cllr Victoria Keitley-Webb

### **5/22 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation**

Cllr Braithwaite – re item on donations as Chairman of Sudbury CAB and St Peters Church

Cllr Newton – re item on donations as member of the village shop committee

### **6/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

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

### **7/22 Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay**

**Motion to clean up Suffolk's Rivers** My political group at Suffolk Council proposed a motion for the meeting last Thursday (19<sup>th</sup> May) for the council to try to address some of the causes of river pollution. The motion passed through general acclamation. It involves asking Government to better fund the regulator – the Environment Agency, but also for the council itself to liaise with the NFU and planning councils to ensure sustainable drainage is conditioned on new developments and to write to Anglian Water calling for reduction of waste water discharges. **Petition to pause Highways outsource tender** Since the county outsourced its maintenance contract to Kier 9 years ago, charges for one off road safety projects have sky rocketed. The contract with Kier expires in October next year and the county is about to re-tender for the contract for at least another 10

years and up to 20. Kier could well be a frontrunner again. The administration appears to have ruled out taking the work back in-house although there has been no public debate or explanation. Our group has launched a petition to ask the county council to prepare and cost an in-house bid to see if it stacks up economically with outside companies. We need 3,675 signatures to get it debated.

[https://www.petitiononline.uk/for\\_suffolk\\_county\\_council\\_to\\_develop\\_an\\_in-house\\_bid\\_for\\_suffolk\\_highways\\_maintenance](https://www.petitiononline.uk/for_suffolk_county_council_to_develop_an_in-house_bid_for_suffolk_highways_maintenance)

**Ukraine, full County Council meeting 24<sup>th</sup> March** Full Council presented a rare show of solidarity between Councillors, as our Group and the Conservatives shared a single motion in support of Ukraine. The motion condemned the actions of the Russian government, as well as agreeing a commitment to supporting and welcoming refugees as they become a part of our Suffolk communities. However we did raise the Government imposed bureaucracy surrounding current attempts of Suffolk residents to house Ukrainian refugees. **Freeport East** Suffolk's Cabinet met 29<sup>th</sup> March to vote on a plan to establish 'Freeport East'. This is part of a controversial national attempt to generate economic activity through tax incentives with freeports across the country. Felixstowe Port, Harwich Port, and Stowmarket's 'Gateway 14' Business Park are set to become part of Freeport East. My Green group believes there is a risk this project will benefit foreign owned businesses seeking tax havens onshore at the expense of existing home grown businesses. It will also generate huge quantities of lorry and other traffic and be unlikely to fit with zero by 2030 targets. Businesses on the Freeport sites will be exempt from business rates so development at the three sites will be funded by business rates levied on all businesses within a 25km radius of them. **Cycling and walking plan** Suffolk County Council and Babergh have now unveiled a list of cycling and walking improvements as part of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan which will require funding from developers and any Government grants. This list is subject to change as communities submit their own suggestions. So if there is a specific footway or cycle infrastructure in Monks Eleigh that would make a major improvement to people getting around safely do let me know and we can see if it can be included. **Sunnica and pylons** Suffolk's cabinet met on March 1 to recommend the Government reject current plans by Sunnica to build the country's largest solar farm in Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire. The report for cabinet says the application fails to properly mitigate the impacts of such a large project. In addition, the Cabinet voted to recommend, subject to satisfactory answers on environmental impact, the National Grid's project for a new pylon route from Bramford to Twinstead. National Grid says the pylons are needed for Sizewell C and offshore windfarms. Since then a second line of pylons has been proposed going north-south through Suffolk, via Hintelsham and East Bergholt. Our group has formally objected to this. We believe both lines could have been carried in an underwater cable to London.

Scripps Cross Bridge – Highways are aware of the problem with lorries hitting the bridge and plan to install kerbing to ease the problem. If there are issues with road closures let Robert know.

## **8/22 Public Forum**

No matters were raised

## **9/22 Planning Matters**

- a. Refusal of Application for Listed Building Consent - DC/22/00052 - Internal alterations including insertion of new staircase to second floor, Insertion of window to rear elevation (existing opening reopened), Insertion of new partition walls to create new en-suite and formation of two bedrooms, Insertion of new doors, Removal of fireplace, Installation of thermal insulation to plaster boarded walls and replacement of ceiling on second floor Discharge of Conditions have been approved for at 2 Foysters Hall
- b. Babergh does not wish to object to DC/22/01506 - Works to trees at The Rectory, The Street
- c. The Councillors agreed to make no objections to application for works to trees – DC/22/01680 - Rustlewood, Back Lane
- d. Babergh does not wish to object to DC/22/01680 - Works to trees at Rustlewood, Back Lane
- e. The Councillors agreed to make no objections to application for Listed Building Consent DC/22/01838 – Installation of internal secondary glazing to 11no windows at Alexanders, The Street
- f. The Councillors agreed to make no objections to Planning application DC/22/01819 – Erection of Victorian style greenhouse at Rushbrooks, The Street
- g. Planning application DC/22/00674 Erection of one dwelling at Land at Back Lane has been withdrawn
- h. Babergh does not wish to object to DC/22/02010 – works to trees at Rushbrooks, The Street
- i. The Councillors agreed to make no objections to Planning application DC/22/02400 – Construct 1.8m high brick wall from outbuilding corner across to main house along line of boundary. Bricks used will match both the existing wall and property at 1 The Alley Listed + building application DC/22/02401 same

## **10/22 Revised Code of Conduct**

The councillors agreed to adopt the revised Code of Conduct. Clerk to add to the website.

## **11/22 Swingleton Green Notice Board**

The councillors agreed to accept the quote of £315 for repair. Clerk to request a magnetic pin board instead of cork.

## **12/22 Jubilee Celebration**

The councillors agreed for the village sign to be decorated with bunting for the events. The Risk Assessment for the event was approved. Cllr Derry to meet with Chris Eames to carry out a Health & Safety check prior to the event. Cllr Forrest to make announcements at the event. The parish council wishes to thank Chris Eames for his work on this issue.

## **13/22 Recreation Field Management**

It was unanimously agreed accept the quote of £37.51 to order two signs to ban dogs from the field. Clerk to arrange for the two signs to be made. It was agreed to make a CIL bid for £20,000 to install a zip wire and to replace the climbing log stack. Clerk to obtain quotes and complete.

## **14/22 Quiet Lanes**

The posts have been installed. Cllr Forrest waiting for the signs to be available.

**15/22 Suffolk Enhanced Bus Partnership**

It was agreed for Cllrs Forrest and Derry to be representatives on this working group.

**16/22 Torch Relay**

The torch relay went well yesterday and a good sized crowd came to support the event.

**17/22 Speedwatch**

Nothing new to report however there are early indications that there are more speeders mainly from the Lavenham direction. The Police write to those travelling at more than 35mph when caught by Speedwatch. The Parish Council thanked Chris Eames and his team for their work.

**18/22 Trees at Swingleton Green**

The three quotes for tree work were considered and Cllr Braithwaite will discuss further with Suffolk Tree Services.

**19/22 Emergency Plan**

The councillors adopted the revised version of the emergency plan. Clerk to add to the website

**20/22 Triangle at Causeway**

The contractor has been asked to carry out the work to repair the grass. Clerk to follow up.

**21/22 Footpath from Back Lane to Stackyard Green**

Cllr Forrest to walk the path to check if stiles have been removed.

**22/22 Finance**

- a. The councillors approved the financial report and noted income received
- b. The councillors authorised payments from the RFO Report made since the last meeting and to be made
- c. Donations for 2022-23 agreed were: village hall £2750, MESCAL £200 (Cllr Newton declared an interest), St Peter's Church £350 (Cllr Braithwaite declared an interest). Other donations to be decided at the next meeting
- d. The councillors reviewed the allotment rents and agreed to maintain them at £15 each and £30 for Polegate.
- e. The councillors approved the CIL statement for 2021-22 and the Chairman signed the statement.
- f. The Councillors approved the Annual Governance Statement 2021-22 and the Chairman signed the form
- g. The Councillors approved the Accounting Statements 2021-22 and the Chairman signed the form
- h. Clerk to obtain quote to replace street lights with LED lamps

**23/22 Action List Review**

Minute	Action	Who
49/21	Grass cutting risk assessment for volunteers. Clerk to email form to Cllr Sykes	Clerk/Cllr Sykes
122/20	Land Registry – check progress with Homes & Hill	Clerk
86/21	Families in need bursary – Cllrs Derry & Braithwaite to meet with Rev Birt to discuss	Cllrs Braithwaite/Derry

108/21	Quote to power wash the MUGA	Clerk
112/21	Request removal of stile on Back Lane to Stackyard Green footpath Cllr Forrest to check	Clerk/Cllr Forrest
115/21	Place larger logs with reflectors on triangle at Causeway	Cllr Braithwaite
118/21	Request locality funding to build a raised flowerbed on triangle at top of Church Hill village green	Clerk
128/21	'No dogs' signs for recreation field	Clerk
137/21	Quote to repair footbridge at Polegate– request quote for work	Clerk

## 24/22 Councillors Reports

It was agreed to buy traffic cones to aid safety during the village clean up event. Cllr Braithwaite to order cones to protect volunteers from the traffic.

## 138/21 Date of the next meeting

Parish Council Meeting 25th July 2022

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

## Appendix - Financial Report

Income received since 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Allotment	£15
Polegate	£30
Yodel Grass repair	£105
Precept	£9,500
CIL	£3,327.53
Total	<u>£12,992.53</u>

## Expenditure (movement since 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022)

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

St Peters	Donation	400.00	LGA 1972, s137
Tye Farm Contracting	March grass cut	99.00	Open Spaces Act 1906
L Rogers	Clerk wages April	473.41	LGA 1972
SALC	Annual subs	268.28	LGA 1972, s111
Heelis & Lodges	Annual audit	140.00	LGA 1972
Gp Start Bus	Donation	450.00	LGA 1972, s137
Tye Farm Contracting	April grass cut	278.00	Open Spaces Act 1906
L Rogers	Clerks expenses April	16.10	LGA 1972 s111
L Rogers	Clerk wages May	473.41	LGA 1972
		<u>£2,598.20</u>	

## Unpresented cheques

St Peters	Donation	400.00	LGA 1972, s137
Tye Farm Contracting	March grass cut	99.00	Open Spaces Act 1906
L Rogers	Clerk wages April	473.41	LGA 1972
SALC	Annual subs	268.28	LGA 1972, s111
Heelis & Lodges	Annual audit	140.00	LGA 1972
Gp Start Bus	Donation	450.00	LGA 1972, s137

Tye Farm Contracting	April grass cut	278.00	Open Spaces Act 1906
L Rogers	Clerks expenses April	16.10	LGA 1972 s111
L Rogers	Clerk wages May	473.41	LGA 1972
		<u>£2,598.20</u>	

#### Bank Reconciliation

Account	Statement Date	Statement balance	Actual Balance	Credit/transfers not shown	Unpresented cheques
Community a/c	29.4.22	£39,251.47	£36,653.27	£0.00	£2,598.2
Business reserve	29.4.22	£8,893.89	£8,893.89	£0.00	£0.00
		£48,145.36	£45,547.16		