**Monks Eleigh Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 28th November 2022 at the United Reformed Church Hall, Monks Eleigh Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs John Newton (Chairman), Angela Forrest, Victoria Keitley-Webb, Alan Braithwaite, Patti Derry, Elizabeth Evans and Will Sykes

County Cllr Robert Lindsay

District Cllr Bryn Hurren

**Attending:** Lucinda Rogers (Clerk) and 12 members of the public

**167/22 Apologies for Absence**

None

**168/22 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation**

Cllr Derry – re planning application DC/22/05734

**169/22 Minutes of the meetings held on 26th September and 24th October 2022**

The minutes of the meeting 26th September and 24th October 2022 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

**170/22 Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay**

Suffolk Highways have said they will not remove the cats eyes from Brent Eleigh Road for safety reasons. Scripps Bridge – requires a long term solution. The bollards have not prevented further damage and the turning space does not allow different placement. Cllr Lindsay’s report covered the following topics:(the full report is appendix 1) Investment for Buses, Special Educational Need services – Update, more hosts for Ukrainian refugees needed, Suffolk to have a “Directly Elected Leader”, Bildeston Food Bank, Heating Bildeston Project, Automatic Numberplate Recognition, Roundabout Magazine and Suffolk County Council Budget Survey

**171/22 Report from District Cllr Bryn Hurren**

Babergh are working on their budget. Prices are rising and the cap is 5% this year but they are aiming for 2%. They have a 2m grant to build houses on brown field sites. Gainsborough’s house has been awarded £300,000 CIL to renovate the house where he lived. The new Joint Local Plan is ongoing and has been partially passed by the Inspector. Negotiations continue with Northcote Drive and Babergh have started legal proceedings.

**172/22 Public Forum**

Speeding on Brent Eleigh Road. Important to buy a SID for sole use of Monks Eleigh. Suggestion that the parish council review the grant to the village hall. Seventeen empty houses in the village so no need for more houses. The Orchard development is not needed. Objection to development at the Orchard and support for the development. The 64 page document looks at previous concerns. Residents can make their comments to Babergh. Concern was expressed about the status of the applicant and their future intentions. Triangle at Causeway has cars regularly parking on the rubber matting put to protect the grass. Need to put large logs to prevent this

**173/22 Planning Matters**

1. The councillors considered the Revised Plans for Full planning application – DC/22/03432 – Erection of 6no dwellings, creation of vehicular access including associated landscaping and parking at Land to the north of The Street and agreed to make the following comments: The bungalow is too large and is overdevelopment of the site. It’s visual impact is not suitable in a Conservation area. The changes to the five houses were noted.
2. Babergh have refused the Planning Application - DC/22/04154 – Erection of 2no 1 bedroomed thatched cottages at Land at Former Cottages at Manor Farm, Tye Road, Monks Eleigh
3. Planning permission has been granted – DC/22/04198 – Erection of outbuilding/shed and willow fencing at 2 Foysters Hall
4. The councillors considered the Householder application DC/22/05734 – Replacement and re-position oil tank and siting external boiler at The Manse, the Street and agreed to make no objection.

**174/22 Finance**

1. The councillors approved the financial report and noted income received – see appendix 2
2. The councillors authorised payments from the RFO Report made since the last meeting and to be made
3. The councillors considered the draft budget for 2023-24 and agreed to ask the Clerk to check with Cllr Lindsay about a grant towards SID. The starting precept figure has risen to 7% so a small 2% rise was suggested. To be decided at the January meeting. Bryn to email Clerk about a CIL meeting for the council with Richard Kendrew
4. The councillors agreed to approve the Clerk’s annual pay award with effect from 1st April 2022 of £1 per hour

**175/22 Street Lights Upgrade to LED**

Clerk to ask for a start date for the upgrade. Clerk to report streetlight out at Lower Byfield

**176/22** **SID Speed Camera**

The councillors agreed to sell their share of the current SID to Whatfield. Clerk to negotiate a price. The councillors agreed in principle to buy a SID for the sole use of the village at a cost of £3,455 + vat. Cllr Lindsay has kindly offered a£2,000 grant towards the cost. Clerk to ask Cllr Lindsay the cost of speed camera signs to attach to lamp posts. Chris Eames to chase Whatfield if they wish to buy the share of the SID

**177/22 Church Hill Green Raised Flower Bed**

It was agreed to defer this item to the January agenda

**178/22 Footbridge at Polegate**

Mike Hearnden no longer carrying out the work. Clerk to obtain further quotes.

**179/22 Recreation Field Management**

Play Area improvements – 4 companies are in the process of making quotes and a further company to quote following a visit on 5th December with a further visit on 19th December.

**180/22 Parish Trees, Hedgerows and Wildflower Scheme 2022** – It was agreed to not cut the square at the end of the car park on the playing field from now on and see what grows. Clerk to liaise with Will Pratt. The access for vehicles will need to be move to the side to prevent damage. The Bio Diversity Officer asked that we count the living hedge plants and note the variety. He will send replacement plants. It was agreed to do this in the spring when the new growth can be seen.

**181/22 Tree Work at Swingleton Green**

This item deferred as no access at present due to building work at Fenn Farm

**182/22 Dates for Parish Council Meetings 2023-24**

The dates were agreed as the fourth Monday in the month: 23rd January, 27th March, 22nd May, 24th June, 25th September and 27th November. The Annual Parish meeting will be on Wednesday 15th March

**183/22 Councillors Reports**

Adjust No Dogs sign on Church Hill as it interferes with opening the notice board. Cllrs Derry and Braithwaite to action

**184/22 Action List Review**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Minute  | Action | Who |
| 49/21 | Grass cutting risk assessment for volunteers. Clerk to email form to Cllr Sykes | Clerk/Cllr Sykes |
| 157/22 | Causeway ditches – to ask Jamie Smith and Will Pratt for work | Clerk/Cllr Braithwaite |
| 164/22 | SID camera – negotiate sale with Whatfield Parish Council. Confirm Cllr Lindsay grant | Clerk |
| 163/22 | Report street light not working at Lower Byfield | Clerk |
| 115/21 | Place larger logs with reflectors on triangle at Causeway | Cllr Braithwaite |
| 151/22 | Erect dog bin on Church Hill green Repair to dog bin at Causeway | Cllr Braithwaite |
| 166/22 | Polegate Bridge – obtain quotes | Clerk |
| 147/22 | Aerial runway/climber – quotes for work and grant application. Amount pc can add to the application and a post on Facebook to discover number of children living in the village | Clerk/Cllr Braithwaite |
| 149/22 | Count the living new hedge plants in the spring | Clerk/Cllrs |
| 168/22 | Clerk to stop grass being cut at end of car park | Clerk |
|  | Adjust No Dogs sign on Church Hill | Cllr Derry/Braithwaite |

**185/21 Date of the next meeting**

Parish Council Meeting 23rd January 2023

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

**Appendix 1 – County Cllr Robert Lindsay’s Report**

**Bus motion**

At full council this Thursday (1 st December) I will be proposing a motion to try to get a proper strategy in place for investing in buses in the county, the county having failed to win a penny in its latest bid for “Bus Back Better” money. Many of our former rural scheduled routes have disappeared to be replaced by dial a

ride services. But dial a ride services are not properly promoted, nor is there any

check on them by the county to see if they are working. My motion asks that SCC

and the community bus provides monitor demand annually and aim to bring back

scheduled routes for those routes that prove popular. The motion also asks the

county to recognise in the next iteration of its Local Transport Plan (currently being

drawn yup) that we need to increase the ratio of journeys by bus to journeys by car

in the county. We are also asking that it investigates a workplace parking levy for

Ipswich, as has been recommended by officers. **Special Educational Need services – Update** Last year, Suffolk CC’s SEND services were criticised in a damning report conducted by Lincolnshire Council which contained 32 recommendations. This month our political group on the county was told that 22 of the 32 recommendations have been actioned, and the remaining 10 will be completed by the end of 2022.

The delivery of 1,317 new specialist school places by 2026 has been agreed and

826 of these places are now open. The number of Education Health Care Plans

(ECHP) has increased to 6,847 in September 2022, from 5,849 in September 2020.

**Suffolk looks for more hosts for Ukrainian refugees** New hosts coming forward to help accommodate guests that are already in Suffolkcan sign up via the Suffolk County Council website, by completing our onlineform or emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk.Accommodation must be available to guests for a minimum of 6 months. Hosts willbe eligible to receive the £350 thank you payment for up to 6 months or more,depending on the date your guests arrived in the UK (12 months starting from thedate your guests first arrived in the UK). If you know anyone that might beinterested, please encourage them to visit Ukraine: Could you help a family in need?Suffolk County Council **Suffolk to have a “Directly Elected Leader ”**Suffolk County Council’s leader has agreed to a deal with central Government that will create the post of directly elected leader of the county council. This person will be able to appoint their own cabinet from existing county councillors. But theGovernment have at this stage not made clear what powers, if any, it is devolvingfrom itself to the elected leader. The prospect of an elected leader of a differentpolitical party to the majority of county councillors could create stalemate. **Bildeston Food Bank Update** Soaring food and energy prices mean there is now a record 23 families regularlyusing Bildeston food bank, that represents 53 people, including 19 children.The Food Bank has just launched its domestic oil winter appeal and is working withthe Mrs LD Rope Trust to provide 500 litres of heating oil to each of six families thathave requested it. **Heating Bildeston Project**

The project has now received a thumbs up to go to the next stage from a feasibility

study conducted by an independent consultant. The study found that a scheme

requiring about 10 boreholes and a small “energy centre” where heat pumps are

used to bring up the temperature of borehole water, would be technically and

financially feasible and would qualify for a Government grant for £50% of the capital

cost. However the group first needs to identify £50k to do the second phase

feasibility including drilling a test borehole. I have put them in touch with county

grant’s officers to help them identify funding. **Automatic Numberplate Recognition**

This week, (8 th November) Suffolk’s cabinet is likely to decide to apply to the

Government to give itself powers to enforce moving traffic offences. This will allow it

to use numberplate recognition cameras to fine people for driving on streets or

through bus gates where private motors have been banned. It intends to pilot four

roads in Ipswich to start with. Each camera costs around £20k plus £5k annual

maintenance fee and it wants the fines at each site to at least cover the costs at

each site. **Roundabout Magazine** Roundabout magazine’s printer is on its last legs and they need £10k-£12k. They have about £4k already in their kitty so I have match funded that with another £4k from my locality allowance. Nedging PC are holding that £4k contribution in their account until the magazine publishers purchase the machine. **Budget Survey** Suffolk County Council is predicting a £16.2 million overspend on its £625m budget for the full year to March 2023, according to its Q2 projections. This is mainly due to a surge in spending on children in care. There are six children in particular who warranted very intensive care which required purchasing places in very expensive special homes. But there is also more spending on specialist school travel (taxis) for Special Needs children and higher inflation is driving costs higher than expected. The overspend will be met by extra cash from reserves. Meantime the county is asking residents for their thoughts on the upcoming 2023/24 budget. It will consider a summary of responses when deciding how to spend your money. With inflationary pressures, it is unlikely the government will leave out local authorities from spending cuts – meaning council reserves may have to be used. I recommend you share your thoughts on how the Council should spend their money, as well as highlight vulnerabilities you see in your communities that need further addressing. For a link to the online survey, click here: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/7BQY0J/

**Appendix 2 - Financial Report**

Schedule of payments & receipts from 26th September 2022

Income received since 26th September 2022

Nil £0.00

Total £0.00

Expenditure (movement since 26th September 2022)

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cancelled cheque |  | 139.00 | 101532 | Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10 |
| L Rogers |  |  | 512.52 | 101534 | LGA 1972 |  |  |
| Cancelled cheque |  | 0.00 | 101535 |  |  |  |
| Anthea Power |  | 100.00 | 101536 | LGA 1972,s111 |  |
| L Rogers |  |  | 32.60 | 101537 | LGA 1972,s111 |  |
| Mike Hearnden |  | 35.00 | 101538 | Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10 |
| A Braithwaite |  | 29.26 | 101539 | LGA 1972,s111 |  |
| L Rogers |  |  | 512.52 | 101540 | LGA 1972 |  |  |
| L Rogers |  |  | 60.05 | 101541 | LGA 1972,s111 |  |
|  |  |  | 1,420.95 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tye Farm Contracting |  | 278.00 | 101526 | Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10 |
| Hadleigh United Reformed Church | 10.00 | 101528 | LGA 1972 |  |  |
| Tye Farm Contracting |  | 139.00 | 101532 | Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10 |
| Cancelled cheque |  | 0.00 | 101535 |  |  |  |
| Anthea Power |  | 100.00 | 101536 | LGA 1972,s111 |  |
| Mike Hearnden |  | 35.00 | 101538 | Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10 |
| A Braithwaite |  | 29.26 | 101539 | LGA 1972,s111 |  |
| L Rogers |  |  | 512.52 | 101540 | LGA 1972 |  |  |
| L Rogers |  |  | 60.05 | 101541 | LGA 1972,s111 |  |
|  |  |  | 1,163.83 |  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| Bank Reconciliation

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Account | Statement Date | Statement balance | Actual Balance | Credit/transfers not shown | Unpresented cheques |
| Community a/c | 31.10.22 | £37,117.84 | £35,954.01 | £0.00 | £1,163.83 |
| Business reserve | 31.10.22 | £8,897.30 | £8,894.56 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
|  | £46,015.14 | £44.848.57 |

 |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |