

Monks Eleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18th September 2023 at the Village Hall, Church Hill, Monks Eleigh at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Alan Braithwaite (Chairman), Angela Forrest, James Hodges and Rupert Perry

District Cllr Bryn Hurren

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

51/23 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Robert Lindsay (SCC)

52/23 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Braithwaite declared a non-pecuniary interest in Wyncolls phone mast pre-planning item and donations (CAB & St Peter's church)

53/23 Minutes of the meeting held on 24th July and 23rd August

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th July and 23rd August 2023 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

54/23 Report from District Cllr Bryn Hurren

Concern at Babergh about the budget but they are keeping solvent. They are using CIL money to support many projects in the villages. Tourism is now the largest industry in Babergh, overtaking agriculture. The school site houses CIL has been registered as a debt. The archaeological report for the site has been approved by Suffolk County Council. The site is open to offers.

Full report appendix 1.

55/23 Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay

Cllr Lindsay sent his apologies and his reporting is in Appendix 1.

56/23 Public Forum

No matters were raised.

57/23 Planning Matters

- a) Application Reference: DC/23/03113: Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area- Remove dead branches of 4 No. Ash (T1- T4) at Millennium Green, Brent Eleigh Road,
- b) Application Reference: DC/23/01682 Householder Planning Application - Installation of new slender pane double glazed timber windows set behind existing diamond mullions. Replacement of single glazing in existing timber casement windows with slenderpane double glazing units. Installation of additional timber window in front elevation at Stackwood Cottage, Stackyard Green, Monks Eleigh
- c) Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - DC/23/03700
Proposal: - Remove 3No diseased cherry trees. Location: Meadow House, Foysters Hall, Monks Eleigh
- d) Babergh have approved Application DC/23/03028 - Householder Application - Replacement and re-position oil tank and siting external boiler (amended

scheme to that approved under DC/22/05734). The Manse, The Street, Monks Eleigh

- e) Babergh have no objections to Application Reference: DC/23/03418: Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area- Fell 1 No. Willow (T1) and Fell 8 No. Poplars (T2 - T9) Rushbrooks, The Street, Monks Eleigh,
- f) The Councillors considered APPLICATION FOR PRIOR APPROVAL - TELECOMMUNICATIONS - DC/23/03782 Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Development by or on behalf of an electronic communications code operator for the purpose of the operator's Electronic Communications Network in, on, over or under land controlled by that operator or in accordance with the electronic communications code. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 16, Class A - Installation of a 17.5 metre high monopole, supporting 3no. antennas and 2no. transmission dishes, 3no. equipment cabinets, 1no. electric meter cabinet, and ancillary development thereto, including 3no. Remote Radio Heads (RRHs), 1no. GPS module and a 1.8m fenced compound, for the Smart Meter and Shared Rural Network projects on behalf of Cornerstone Location: Land At Wyncolls Hall Farm, Swingleton Hill, Monks Eleigh. Councillors agreed to request that Babergh put this application through the full planning permission process and object to the application. Monks Eleigh has sufficient 4G coverage for Smart Metering and as this proposal does not cover the introduction of 5G it is of no material benefit to the village
- g) Babergh does not wish to object to the Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Remove 3No diseased cherry trees at Meadow House, Foysters Hall, Monks Eleigh
- h) Babergh have granted permission for Planning Application: DC/23/03219 Proposal & Location of Development: Householder Application - Proposed internal and external alterations. Proposed rear extension and erection of workshop and garden shed at The Old Thatched Cottage, The Street, Monks Eleigh
- i) The Councillors considered the Application for Planning Permission - DC/23/03487 : Household Application - Erection of a cartlodge; construction of raised roof to form accommodation at second floor level and external alterations at Melbourne House, Back Lane, Monks Eleigh and agreed not to comment

58/23 Finance

- a. The councillors approved the financial report and noted income received – see appendix 2.
- b. The councillors authorised payments from the RFO Report made since the last meeting and to be made.
- c. The bank mandate changes been approved by Barclays
- d. Insurance – it was agreed to renew with Ansvar at £687.59 on a three year fixed contract
- e. Reserves Policy – the councillors agreed to approve the reserves policy and to reserve 6months of precept (£10,000); the deposit account will be topped up to this level.

- f. Local Donations – It was agreed to review this in November. Cllr Hodges to confirm the budget and Cllrs to review the list and come prepared with their preferences.

59/23 People and Place Plan – The first meeting will be set up in a couple of weeks with Babergh and Cllr Hurren. It was agreed that the group will meet with other interested parties including Strutt & Parker who have indicated a desire to interact with the Parish Council to contribute to the detail of the plan. Any such meetings to be minuted and without commitment.

60/23 Standing Orders – The Councillors approved the Standing Orders

61/23 Play Area Improvements – The final invoice has not been settled as there is one small snag outstanding; the height of a swing. Clerk to chase this. It was agreed to hold an opening event on the weekend 21/22 October. Clerk to invite Cllr Hurren, Christine Thurlow and Jo Moy to determine a date. It was agreed to accept Mortimers quote to improve the path to the play area on the recreation field at a cost of £225

62/23 Causeway– A team under the supervision of the Probation service will be digging and clearing the path in the next month. Clerk to enquire about ownership and how to apply for grants for work to install a board walk.

63/23 Thermal Camera –Cllr Forrest waiting to be trained to use the thermal camera. She will have the camera 9th – 22nd January 2024

64/23 Tree Work at Swingleton Green

An updated quote for £1450 for work to the pine, oak tree and beech tree has been received. Clerk to organise work to be carried out

65/23 Dates of Future Meetings

The following dates for future meetings were agreed: 27th November, 22nd January, 25th March, 20th May, 29th July, 23rd September, 25th November and 18th March Annual Parish Meeting

66/23 Action List Review

Actions from the previous minutes have been completed unless otherwise stated.

| Action | Who |
|---|---------------------------|
| Training for Cllr Forrest as camera host for thermal camera | Clerk/Cllr Forrest |
| Investigate changing to on line banking - ongoing | Clerk |
| Grass cutting volunteers – risk assessment | Cllr Forrest/Hodges/Clerk |
| Dates for play area opening | Clerk |
| Establish ownership of Causeway walkway | Clerk |
| Mortimer work on play area path | Clerk |
| Chase tree work at Swingleton Green | Clerk |
| Renew insurance | Clerk |

67/23 Councillors Reports

There were none

68/23 Date of the next meeting

Parish Council Meeting 27th November 2023

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Appendix 1 – District Councillor Bryn Hurren report

Report for Monks Eleigh PC 18-09-23.

The Budget remains a big issue with all councils with many authorities facing serious problems. The insolvency of Birmingham unitary council has sent shock waves through Local Government. Also many other examples throughout the land.

Babergh try to make good investments to bring in income and make all monies work for us and you, the taxpayer. Everyday investments do help----Our £50m investment brought us in £2 ½ m last year, also solar panels £350,000 and along with service charges and council tax bring us up to balanced budget. We can now also do some small, medium and large projects through CIL funding to enhance and provide infrastructure throughout all of our district, local playgrounds are one such beneficiary of these grants. Boxford Pavilion have just received £30,000 towards an upgrade to play adult football to FA standards, also to make a step towards having a women and girls team. We have also received a tranche of money from DEFRA towards enhancing rural business and facilities. £621,369.00 in Babergh.

Change of leader in Babergh with new leader falling ill and having to take a break, Neighbouring councillor John Ward will step up with other councillors taking on extra duties. Development of Tourist strategy now complete and officers will be trying to keep running what we have and bring more prosperity to our area, this is now a very big money earner for our area. Hospitality and tourism now major employer throughout Suffolk. Housing and Rural Transport remain huge concerns along with the cost of living difficulties.

Local Issues remain. School Site and recent planning application.

Report for Monks Eleigh Parish Council by Robert Lindsay, Suffolk County Councillor for 18 Sept 2023

Lower speed limits A1141 Hadleigh to Semer

Earlier this year I commissioned an officer report on reducing the speed limit on the road between Stone Street and Letts swimming pool from 60mph to 40mph. The officer's report says the issue is "finely balanced" but allows that it could be possible. It will be submitted for decision by end of September. Coincidentally, a separate request to change the speed limit on Stone Street, at the Hadleigh end of the A1141, from 40mph to 30mph has recently been approved.

20mph limit Bildeston being installed

As I write, 20mph signs are being installed in Bildeston, the result of a campaign I began back in 2010. There will be an extended 30mph buffer zone a few hundred metres out of the built up part of the village at the north and south ends. A 20mph limit for Lavenham is still awaiting design work. Disappointingly, Police have objected to 30mph extensions on Brent Eleigh Road and Melford Road to help act as buffer zones. I am asking Highways to over-ride these objections.

Footpath between Nedging and Chelsworth

On 14th September I'm pleased to say that the county council's footpath committee agreed with me that public access to a footpath that runs from Nedging Mill to Parsonage Lane, Chelsworth, be protected. The officer had been recommending refusal of an application to put it on the Definitive Map for rights of way which legally protects public access. This should ensure that it is signposted as a footpath.

Council warns over £30 million deficit predicted for current financial year

The latest prediction, based on the first quarter of the year is for a 4% deficit on the £688m budget the council set itself in February. This is not unexpected but the council has chosen to press release this now and state that their current answer of seeking more cuts and dipping into reserves to finance shortfalls is not sustainable. All the cost pressures, inflation and interest rates were known about when the council set its budget in February and raised council tax by 4% rather than the full 5% allowed, as the Green and LibDem opposition had proposed. Our amendment was voted down by the Conservatives. The overspend comes largely in costs for children in care with complex needs and for taxi transport to special needs schools, also the growing costs of elderly care.

Hadleigh High School one of four in Suffolk so far affected by concrete problem

Pupils were scheduled to return to school in a phased manner over past two weeks. The costs of repairs for RAAC problems will be borne by the Dept of Education but cost of transporting pupils etc dealt with case by case.

Appendix 2 - Financial Report

MONKS ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT 18 SEPTEMBER 2023

Schedule of Payments & Receipts from 24 July 2023

Income Received since 24.7.23

| | | | |
|---------|---------|------------|------------------|
| 18.8.23 | Babergh | CIL grant | 37,971.22 |
| 21.8.23 | HMRC | VAT refund | 8,481.54 |
| 8.9.23 | Babergh | Precept | 10,545.00 |
| | | | <u>56,997.76</u> |

Expenditure (movement since 24.7.23)

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

| | | | | | |
|---------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------|------------------|
| | | Spoiled cheque | 0.00 | 101596 | |
| 31.7.23 | GoStart | Donation | 500.00 | 101597 | LGA 1972, |
| 31.7.23 | St Peters Church Tye Farm | Donation | 350.00 | 101598 | LGA 1972, |
| 31.7.23 | Contracting | July grass cuts | 139.00 | 101599 | Open Spac LGA |
| 7.8.23 | L Rogers | August wages | 542.49 | 101600 | 1972 LGA |
| 7.8.23 | HMRC | August tax | 11.20 | 101601 | 1972 LGA |
| 7.8.23 | L Rogers | August expenses | 38.90 | 101602 | 1972 |
| 10.8.23 | Mortimer Contracts | Removal old goal post | 96.00 | 101603 | Open Spac |
| 21.8.23 | Playdale Community | Final payment | 48,581.81 | 101604 | Open Spac |
| 21.8.23 | Heartbeat Tye Farm | Defibrillator pads | 56.34 | 101605 | Public Hea |
| 21.8.23 | Contracting | August grass cuts | 139.00 | 101606 | Open Spac |
| 23.8.23 | A Braithwaite | Play area grass cut | 40.00 | 101607 | Open Spac |
| 1.9.23 | Babergh | May election costs | 128.36 | 101608 | LGA 1972, LGA |
| 8.9.23 | L Rogers | September wages | 542.49 | 101609 | 1972 LGA |
| 8.9.23 | HMRC | September tax | 11.20 | 101610 | 1972 LGA |
| 8.9.23 | L Rogers | September expenses | 48.60 | 101611 | 1972 |
| | | | <u>51,225.39</u> | | |

Unpresented cheques

| | | | | | |
|---------|---|-----------------|--------|--------|------------------|
| 5.9.22 | Hadleigh United Reformed Church Tye Farm | | 10.00 | 101528 | LGA 1972 |
| 11.4.23 | Contracting | Grass Nov-March | 278.00 | 101564 | Open Spac |
| | | Spoiled cheque | 0.00 | 101596 | |
| 31.7.23 | GoStart | Donation | 500.00 | 101597 | LGA 1972, |
| 31.7.23 | St Peters Church Tye Farm | Donation | 350.00 | 101598 | LGA 1972, |
| 31.7.23 | Contracting | July grass cuts | 139.00 | 101599 | Open Spac LGA |
| 7.8.23 | L Rogers | August wages | 542.49 | 101600 | 1972 |