

Monks Eleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 24th July 2023 at the Village Hall, Church Hill, Monks Eleigh at 7.30pm

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

County Councillor Robert Lindsay

District Cllr Bryn Hurren

Attending: Lucinda Rogers (Clerk) and 5 members of the public

25/23 Apologies for Absence

None

26/23 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Hodges declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning item DC/22/03432

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

27/23 Minutes of the meeting held on 19th June

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th March amended under minute 8/23 public forum planning item by adding 'It improving the sustainability of the village' was approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

28/23 Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay

The water main is to be replaced at Bildeston from March 2024 for 16 weeks. It consists of 4 stages of work and traffic diversions will be used. Cllr Lindsay is concerned that many narrow rural roads with speed limits of 60mph should be reduced to 40mph to be safe for their conditions. He has proposed that Suffolk County Council change their policy to allow this but this was voted down in council. Cllr Lindsay agreed to circulate the speed limit criteria to Monks Eleigh parish council to allow us to understand how the village meets the range of criteria. Bildeston's new speed limit will cost £28,000 which includes some side roads as well as the main road. Other councils have done so. Monks Eleigh shop has collected food for Bildeston food bank which is currently supporting 35 families with 42 people under 16; there are families in Monks Eleigh who are part of this support. Cllr Lindsay's full report is in Appendix 2.

29/23 Report from District Cllr Bryn Hurren

Babergh are gradually adding to their social housing stock by building and acquiring new houses. Although pressed by Babergh repeatedly, there has been no response from the receiver for the Old School site. The job of the receiver is to maximise the return for the creditors of which the largest is the prime contractor. The new play area is almost complete having been largely funded by CIL and s106 money from Babergh. An opening ceremony to be arranged. Cllr Hurren is assisting the shop to buy 3 new chilling units.

30/23 Public Forum

In response to questions. Cllr Hurren kindly offered supporting detail. He said that the planning application for the The Orchard – will probably be determined by the planning officer using delegated powers. Very few cases go to committee. It is difficult for Babergh to refuse applications unless they prove they have negotiated with the developers. Babergh are committed to affordable housing. The proposed development could allow householders to downsize to the proposed housing; 2-3 bedrooms would work well. The smaller houses meet a definite need for some people living in the village as they age and it will allow them to remain in the village.

It was noted that Monks Eleigh intend to carry out a People and Place plan to ascertain these types of need and help the parish and district council respond to planning applications on behalf of the village. It would highlight any housing need. Developers would need to fit in with any such plan. It was suggested that it would be good if the developers would come to and talk to the village about the development and assist understanding. However in response to this it was noted that in a previous instance the developer was poorly received and treated at such a meeting.

The concern was expressed that the development could be given permission and then sold on and changed. The two affordable houses are for social housing and to be rented.

31/23 Councillors Roles

It was agreed for councillors to hold the following roles:

Chair Person -Alan Braithwaite
Footpaths & Highways- Rupert Perry
Millennium Green -Angela Forrest
Planning - Rupert Perry
Playing Fields & Common Areas - Angela Forrest
SALC Representative - Alan Braithwaite
Parish Council Finance - James Hodges
Asset Manager - James Hodges
VH Representative -Angela Forrest
Website - Clerk

It was agreed for councillors to show their email addresses on the website

32/23 Planning Matters

- a. The councillors agreed to make no objections to the application for planning permission - DC/23/03028 Proposal: Householder Application - Replacement and re-position oil tank and siting external boiler (amended scheme to that approved under DC/22/05734). Location: The Manse, The Street, Monks Eleigh,
- b. The councillors agreed to make the following objections to the application for planning permission - DC/22/03432 Proposal: Full Planning Application - Erection of 6no. dwellings, creation of vehicular access including associated landscaping and parking. Location: Land to The North Of, The Street, Monks Eleigh, Suffolk Reason(s) for re-consultation: "This re-consultation is solely

for the inclusion of the affordable homes included on drawings received on 29.06.2023. It is still in the Conservation area; it is still on agricultural land. The Councillors noted concerns based on the Housing Enabling Officer's report based on the re-submission which appeared to be negative to the revised scheme. In summary the changes have not changed the council's original position on the application. The council is generally in support of affordable housing but not in this location in the village and with this scheme. The clerk was asked to respond on this basis.

- c. The councillors agreed to make no objections to the application for planning permission - DC/23/03220 - Proposed internal and external alterations. Proposed rear extension and erection of workshop and garden shed. The Old Thatched Cottage, The Street, Monks Eleigh, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7JE
- d. Pre-planning consultation in relation to new telephone mast at Wyncolls Farm: It was agreed to forward the email to Cllr Hurren and to submit feedback to the applicant.

33/23 Proposal to create a village 'People and Place' Plan – Following agreement at the last meeting we now have a core team of volunteers to contribute: Cllr Hodges, Forrest, Perry and Alan Line, Arthur Grossett and Grainne Marmion. It was noted we can use the plan to determine housing need in the village among other things. Support will be available from Groton and Alan Line's experience at Kersey. Cllr Hodges to organise a meeting of the group.

34/23 Finance

- a. The councillors approved the financial report and noted income received – see appendix 1.
- b. The councillors authorised payments from the RFO Report made since the last meeting and to be made
- c. The bank mandate changes are slowly being accepted by Barclays. Just need to re-send Cllr Perry's form
- d. Reserves Policy – the councillors recognise the reserves policy and will review the detail on the restricted and unrestricted funds and the way they are expressed. To confirm at the next meeting. Two more streetlights to be converted to LED and then we will be able to vire CIL to pay for this.
- e. Local Donations – It was agreed to donate £500 to GoStart buses and £350 to St Peter's Church. Others to be reviewed in September.

35/23 Gallets & Polebridge Recreation Ground – It was resolved to move £600 of the funds towards the new bridge from restricted funds to unrestricted funds

36/23 Grass Cutting Along The Street – Clerk to report long grass on Highways reporting tool. Clerk to reply to letters suggesting long grass on Church Hill green. There are large areas of the village set aside for grass and flowers to grow. The recreation field is to have a dedicated corner set aside for this purpose

37/23 Church Hill Green - The Millenium Green have politely turned down having an oak planted there as there are already oak trees growing. The council will consider the recreation field for an oak tree

38/23 Grass Cutting & Strimming Risk Assessment – The councillors reviewed and approved the risk assessment. Mr O'Leary mows Swingleton Green, Cllr Hodges

mows opposite his house on The Street, Phil Sayers mows the green opposite Corncraft – clerk to give address to Cllr Forrest. All the volunteers must read and sign the risk assessment for mowing and strimming.

Tye green Contracting are finishing at the end of August so new quotes have been obtained and a decision will be made for the new contractor.

39/23 Play Area Improvements - the work is completed and now subject to inspection later this week. Then it should be good to use. The parish council insurance covers the new equipment. The zip-wire is on land leased to the village hall. Cllr Forrest to ask if they wish to write for confirmation of this.

40/23 Causeway installation of a walkway along the footpath – This recently flooded during heavy rain. It was agreed that the council were in favour of this idea on the basis that CIL/grants could be used to fund it. Clerk to enquire about ownership and how to apply for grants for the work. A working party to clear and dig out side ditches was proposed.

41/23 Greenest County Community Network – The advert for this will go out in the August Roundabout and Cllr Braithwaite to put a post on Facebook. Clerk to complete survey by 21st August so leaving time for responses. Cllr Forrest to be trained to use the thermal camera.

42/23 Tree Work at Swingleton Green

An updated quote for £1450 for work to the pine, oak tree and beech tree has been received. It was agreed to go ahead with the work.

43/23 Village Gates

It was agreed to check via the People and Place plan if people are in agreement with the proposal. It could cost up to £4,000; the councillors are minded to carry out the work.

44/23 Action List Review

Action	Who
Nominate Cllr Forrest as camera host for thermal camera	Clerk
Write about problems with the CIL money collection to James Cartlidge MP and Michael Gove	Clerk
Update Councillors roles and emails on website	Clerk
Forward Wyncolls Farm pre-planning email	Clerk
Reserves and reserves policy for September meeting	Clerk
Update bank signatories	Clerk
Investigate changing to on line banking - ongoing	Clerk
Grass cutting volunteers – risk assessment	Cllr Forrest/Hodges/Clerk
Money transfer for bridge at Polegate is allowed	Clerk/Councillors

Donations to GoStart and St Peter's Church	Clerk
Paths on recreation field and Church Hill – quotes	Clerk
Grass cutting contract quotes	Clerk
Establish ownership of Causeway walkway	Clerk
Greenest County survey by 21.8.2023	Clerk
Go ahead with tree work at Swingleton Green	Clerk
Mark out wildflower area on recreation field	Cllr Forrest

45/23 Councillors Reports

The path on the recreation field leading to the play area needs to be upgraded. Clerk to obtain quotes for the work.

46/23 Date of the next meeting

Parish Council Meeting 25th September 2023

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Appendix 1 - Financial Report

MONKS ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT 24 JULY 2023

Schedule of Payments & Receipts from 19 June 2023

Income Received since 19.6.23

5.6.23	Barclays	Interest	18.58		
			<u>18.58</u>		

Expenditure (movement since 19.6.23)

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

8.6.23	Tye Farm Contracting	May grass cuts Causeway	278.00	101583	Open Spaces Act 1906,
13.6.23	A Braithwaite	strimming	50.00	101584	Open Spaces Act 1906, LGA
14.6.23	Hadleigh URC	Hall hire	10.00	101585	1972
17.6.23	SALC Information Commissioner	Training	72.00	101586	LGA 1972,s111 LGA
17.6.23	Commissioner	Subs	40.00	101587	1972
18.6.23	Community heartbeat	Defibrillator pads	106.74	101588	Public Health Act 1936,
19.6.23	L Rogers	June expenses	48.35	101589	LGA 1972,s111
22.6.23	L Rogers	Watering system	500.44	101590	Open Spaces Act 1906,
6.7.23	MESCAL	Donation	2,000.00	101591	LGA 1972, s137
10.7.23	ME village hall	Donation	1,500.00	101592	LGA 1972, s137 LGA
13.7.23	L Rogers	July wages	542.29	101593	1972 LGA
13.7.23	HMRC	July tax	11.40	101594	1972 LGA
13.7.23	L Rogers	July expenses	30.09	101595	1972
			<u>5,189.31</u>		

Unpresented cheques

5.9.22	Hadleigh United Reformed Church		10.00	101528	LGA 1972
11.4.23	Tye Farm Contracting	Grass Nov-March	278.00	101564	Open Spaces Act 1906,
10.5.23	Tye Farm Contracting	Grass cuts May	278.00	101575	Open Spaces Act 1906,
10.5.23	Heelis & Lodge	Internal Audit	220.00	101578	LGA 1972,s111
8.6.23	Tye Farm Contracting	May grass cuts Causeway	278.00	101583	Open Spaces Act 1906,
13.6.23	A Braithwaite	strimming	50.00	101584	Open Spaces Act 1906, LGA
14.6.23	Hadleigh URC	Hall hire	10.00	101585	1972
17.6.23	SALC	Training	72.00	101586	LGA 1972,s111
	Information				LGA
17.6.23	Commissioner	Subs	40.00	101587	1972
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					LGA
13.7.23	HMRC	July tax	11.40	101594	1972
					LGA
13.7.23	L Rogers	July expenses	30.09	101595	1972
			<u>5,975.31</u>		

Bank Reconciliation

Account	statement date	statement balance	actual balance	credit/transfers not shown	unpresented cheques
Community a/c	30.6.23	£32,821.19	£32,225.88	0.00	£595.31
Business reserve	30.6.23	£8,931.89	£8,931.89	0.00	£0
		£41,753.08	£41,157.77		

GALLETTS AND POLEBRIDGE RECREATION GROUND

M.E.P.C. is the sole trustee for the Galletts and Polebridge Trust.

To date there has been no expenditure. Income is held in the Parish Council's bank account on behalf of the Trust equates to £960 (2023-2024 inc.) and is to be used solely for maintenance of the ground

Appendix 2: Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay

Replacing the mains pipe on Bildeston High Street

Over several years, both I and Bildeston Parish council have been lobbying Anglian Water to ask when they would be replacing the ageing and continually leaking Victorian main on Bildeston High Street. I'm pleased to say they are now planning to

do it, from April next year. I have met on site with parish council reps and the project manager from AW, Nigel Plumb, and he has assured me he will communicate with parish councils of the villages affected. It will mean four different road closures at different places on Bildeston High Street for a continuous period of about 16 weeks. I have heard repeatedly from residents that they would put up with a lengthy planned closure and diversions if it meant the frequent unplanned closures due to leaks were avoided.

Motion to get lower speed limits on twisty rural roads rejected

The criteria for getting speed limits changed have not been updated since 2014 and I believe they are not fit for purpose given that 60mph is not a safe speed on many of our twisty rural roads. Other counties such as West Sussex and Surrey make it much easier to reduce speed limits. Last week, 14th July, I proposed a motion to ask the council to review the criteria with this principle in mind. Sadly it was voted down by the Conservatives, and they used their majority to cut short any debate.