

Monks Eleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27th March 2023 at the Village Hall, Monks Eleigh at 7.30pm

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

District Cllr Bryn Hurren

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

209/22 Apologies for Absence

Cllr John Newton and Elizabeth Evans

210/22 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Derry item 12 Church Hill village green

211/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2023

The minutes of the meeting 23rd January 2023 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

212/22 Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay

None received

213/22 Report from District Cllr Bryn Hurren

Reflecting on the past four years and the year 22/23 specifically, there has been much change. We now have many meetings and briefings held remotely, on Zoom or Teams, usually at around 8.30 -10.00.am. for me as this enables me to get on with the days work. Full Council and main Committee meetings such as planning, Audit and Scrutiny have gone back to face to face meetings in council chamber with officers and public present, these are now live streamed on Utube (whatever that is) and can be watched live or at a later date. These do tend to have a following and mean that our public can avail themselves of this facility. One drawback is that this has picked up some not very amicable incidents. More work and training needed here. The Babergh Budget for 23/24 has now been agreed and brings a 2.9% rise in what residents will be paying for our services. Regrettably Babergh District is now responsible for only an 8.5% share of your council tax, despite extra duties in Parking and Licensing, with the Police now taking approx. 10.5%, parish councils 2% and the County Council 80%. These bodies are going for around 4% rises which will mean that residents will be paying around £70.00 extra on a Band D property. Not good news and totally unsustainable. Planning is our most controversial function and lacks clarity I feel to our residents, we have to work to the national NPPF which means that we have to do and carry out what the National Government tells us. It has become very hard to refuse anything without going back to the applicant multiple times and the sharp developer knows that. Two local matters are the six houses in the Street. Also the Old School site which is as of two weeks ago is now in the control of the receiver. Our joint local plan is progressing slowly. Should be statute early next year. Is devolution the answer, YES, but not what is on offer. Could give us better control of finances and Planning Decisions. We continue to work hard on our Public Realm and environmental role. We successfully collect the districts Blue, Black and Brown bins. And recycle just under one half in a variety of ways which is probably worth your council tax alone. About £4.00 weekly. None of the kerbside collections

go to landfill in Suffolk. Environmentally, I do feel we are doing more than most with our leisure Centre's and vehicle fleet powered by green fuel and energy, we also were one of the first councils to install Solar panels on our council houses, (approx. 2,000 out of 4,000) which brings us in around £350,000. Regrettably on an old tariff, as is our Energy from Waste facility which sells power into the grid. Which is why the power utilities are making millions. Two new initiatives that we have worked on the past year are the walking and cycling strategies which are trying in partnership to upgrade and make it safer to follow these pursuits which are green initiatives in themselves, while we cannot change the routes we can through using gains from developments and monies from CIL make improvements. The second initiative is a new Culture, Heritage and Tourist Strategy to encourage, develop and manage tourism in our area, while farming is still important in Suffolk, Tourism is now worth millions as well and allows farmers to diversify and gives our many B & Bs, Restaurants and Pubs some income to develop or just hang on and survive. There is a huge workforce depending on a good outcome from this initiative and it needs to succeed. Locally I have been pleased to support the upgrading of your new playground with the grant of CIL monies and of the 112 bus route from my own Councillor Locality Budget. Thank you to your clerk Lucinda and all councillors for your support, help and friendship over the past year.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Receiver for Old School site and ask for the unpaid CIL monies. Cllr Hurren to check if MEPC can put a charge in. Six houses in the orchard. The owners will make a revised application soon and MEPC will be consulted. Cllr Hurren is looking for sources of funding for the shop. The chillers and freezers need replacing. Cllr Hurren thank ed Monks Eleigh for their support during this term of office.

214/22 Public Forum

Church Hill Green – concern raised about the possible loss of parking on the apex of the village green outside Costa Plenty. Delivery and oil drivers need access. Do not want raised flower beds.

Parking on The Street – The road is narrow so have to park half on the pavement to avoid parked cars being hit. Need to leave enough room for agricultural vehicles and also room on the pavement for buggies, pedestrians, mobility scooters. The Highway Code leaves room for a suitable local solution.

Swan Pub & Shop – not happy with application for an asset of community value. When pub on market last year no bids were received for it so why apply again. It delays and adds difficulty to any sale. Simply the shop and pub need customers to keep them running. The ACV was made in the best interest.

192/22 Planning Matters

- a. Babergh have Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/18/02404 - Condition 9 (Details of Illumination) Location: Land West Of The Fenn, Swingleton Green, Monks Eleigh, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7AB Babergh District Council hereby gives notice that the details submitted in pursuance to the conditions referred to above have been determined Approved Conditions(S): 9. Action required in accordance with a specific timetable: Details of illumination.
- b. Application for planning permission - DC/23/00784 Proposal: Householder Application - Construction of covered parking and front boundary wall and gates Location: Monks Cottage, Brent Eleigh Road, Monks Eleigh – The

councillors agreed to make the following objections: the gates must open inwards not onto the road, there is no shuttered retaining wall behind that part of the plot. The plan looks as though there should be a retaining wall. They have concerns that the wall alongside the road may have safety implications and there is reduced visibility as it is on a bend in the road so vehicles may get very close to it when passing other vehicles.

- c. Application for Listed Building Consent - DC/23/00959 Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent - Replacement of damaged and leaking flat lead roof. Location: Orchard House, The Street, Monks Eleigh – The councillors agreed to make no comments and have no objections

215/22 Finance

- a. The councillors approved the financial report and noted income received – see appendix. Thanks to District Cllr Hurren for his £450 donation to be donated to GoStart bus. Thanks to County Cllr Lindsay for the £1,900 grant towards the cost of Polegate bridge and £250 towards the new SID
- b. The councillors authorised payments from the RFO Report made since the last meeting and to be made
- c. The councillors approved the Financial Risk document for 2023-24
- d. The councillors approved the Finance Regulations
- e. The councillors agreed to appoint Heelis & Lodge as the Internal auditor for 2022-23
- f. The councillors approved the CIL Statement for 2022-23
- g. The councillors agreed to donate the glass recycling money to the village shop

216/22 Street Lights Upgrade to LED

Five of the street lights have been upgraded to LED and the councillors approved the invoice of £2,050.00. There are four more lights to be upgraded.

217/22 SID Speed Camera

The new SID for the sole use of Monks Eleigh will be delivered this week. It will be moved between the two agreed positions in the village. The councillors thanked County Cllr Lindsay for his grant of £250 towards the cost.

218/22 Parking on The Street

It was agreed that it is very difficult to accommodate everyone's needs along The Street. It was agreed to ask people parking cars to be considerate of pedestrians, parents with buggies and mobility scooter users and try to leave enough room for them to get past. Drivers need to leave enough road room for agricultural vehicles and to reduce damage to parked cars. Unfortunately there is little that can be done to make a difference. Information to be posted on facebook.

219/22 Church Hill Green

It was agreed to accept Libby Grosset's kind offer to restore the damaged area of the village green to grass.

220/22 New Greenest County Community Network – the councillors agree to join this group to use the thermal imaging camera to check for areas of heat loss in houses

221/22 Assets of Community Value in the village – Babergh have received the applications and written to say a decision will be made by 29th April. The current ACV's expire on 4th April.

222/22 Quiet Lanes – It was agreed to ask if it is possible to add the lane to Stackyard Green. If not can it be considered on the next round of Quiet Lanes. Clerk to write

223/22 Neighbourhood Plan

It was agreed to go ahead with this project – Clerk to inform Brent Eleigh, Milden and Kettlebaston. A working group will need to be formed to make arrangements. At least one councillor will need to be a member of this group. It will be useful for the village to form a vision for the future and helpful for the parish council.

224/22 Village Hall Benches

Cllr Braithwaite has informed Bruce Whitehead that he has permission to buy a bench and plaque to commemorate his mother who used to be Parish Clerk to the village. The village hall will buy an additional bench.

225/22 King's Coronation

It was agreed to pay £50 to hire the marquee. It was agreed to buy commemorative mugs and to hold a meeting to agree how to organise the event. It was agreed to include Steve and Julie from The Swan pub. Cllrs Derry and Forrest to arrange a working party.

226/22 Recreation Field Management –the play area improvements have been fully funded by CIL and s106 monies. The order has been placed with Playdale and we await the start date. The zip wire will run along the rear fence to achieve sufficient drop so it will run smoothly. The football goal will need to be moved up the field to accommodate this.

227/22 Dogs on Recreation Field – it was agreed to ask dog walkers to exercise their dogs away from the childrens' play equipment dogs on the recreation field. The no dogs signs to be removed.

228/22 Parish Trees, Hedgerows and Wildflower Scheme 2022 – Nearly all the replacement hedging plants have been planted. It was agreed to buy a 150m hose and 100m soak hose to water the hedging plants during hot weather should it happen. The cost of the water would need to be paid the village hall. Clerk to add to May agenda. Clerk to ask Will Pratt not to mow the end square of grass at the end of the car park as to be left as a wildflower area. Cllr Keitley-Webb to mark areas of orchids with bamboos and string. Clerk to ask Will Pratt to avoid mowing these areas.

229/22 Tree Work at Swingleton Green

It was agreed to have comprehensive work carried out to the large conifer tree and some to the surrounding trees at a cost of £2,000. Cllr Braithwaite to liaise with the contractor and to check if the quote needs to be updated.

Work at The Fenn has caused much damage to Swingleton Green. Clerk to ask for the green to re-instated when the work is complete

207/22 Action List Review

| Minute | Action | Who |
|--------|---|------------------------|
| 157/22 | Causeway ditches – to ask Jamie Smith and Will Pratt for work | Clerk/Cllr Braithwaite |
| 168/22 | Clerk to stop grass being cut at end of car park | Clerk |

230/22 Councillors Reports

Cllr Braithwaite to tidy up budget spreadsheet

To encourage people to stand for the election

The Chairman thanked the Clerk and her fellow Councillors for their time over the past term

231/21 Date of the next meeting

Parish Council Meeting (Annual Meeting) 22nd May 2023

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Appendix - Financial Report

MONKS ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT 27 MARCH 2023

Schedule of Payments & Receipts from 23 January 2023

Income Received since 23.1.23

| | |
|------|-------------|
| None | 0.00 |
| | <u>0.00</u> |

Expenditure (movement since 23.1.23)

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

| | | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 7.2.23 | L Rogers February wages | 540.69 | 101544 | LGA 1972 |
| 7.2.23 | HMRC Feb tax L Rogers Feb | 13.00 | 101545 | LGA 1972 |
| 7.2.23 | expenses | 59.19 | 101546 | LGA 1972, s111 |
| 2.3.23 | Mortimers Contracts L Rogers March | 4,602.00 | 101547 | Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10 LGA |
| 7.3.23 | wages | 540.49 | 101548 | 1972 |
| 7.3.23 | HMRC March tax | 13.20 | 101549 | LGA 1972, s111 |
| 7.3.23 | L Rogers March expenses | 51.35 | 101560 | Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10 |
| | | <u>5,819.92</u> | | |

Unpresented cheques

| | | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|----------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 5.9.22 | Hadleigh United Reformed Church | 10.00 | 101528 | LGA 1972 |
| 9.1.23 | Tye Farm Contracting | 417.00 | 101548 | Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10 LGA |
| 7.2.23 | L Rogers February wages | 540.69 | 101544 | 1972 LGA |
| 7.2.23 | HMRC Feb tax L Rogers Feb | 13.00 | 101545 | 1972 LGA |
| 7.2.23 | expenses | 59.19 | 101546 | LGA 1972, s111 |
| 2.3.23 | Mortimers Contracts L Rogers March | 4,602.00 | 101547 | Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10 LGA |
| 7.3.23 | wages | 540.49 | 101548 | 1972 |
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| 7.3.23 | L Rogers March expenses | 51.35 | 101560 | Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10 |

6,246.92

Bank Reconciliation

| Account | statement date | statement balance | actual balance | credit/transfers not shown | unpresented cheques |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Community a/c | 28.2.23 | £33,994.14 | £27,747.22 | 0.00 | £6,246.92 |
| Business reserve | 28.2.23 | £8,902.26 | £8,894.56 | 0.00 | £0 |
| | | £42,896.40 | £36,641.78 | | |

GALLETTS AND POLEBRIDGE RECREATION GROUND

M.E.P.C. is the sole trustee for the Gallets 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 £780 (1991-2017 inc.) and is to be used solely for maintenance of the ground

