

Monks Eleigh Parish Council

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

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

Cllr Robert Lindsay (SCC)

District Cllr Bryn Hurren (BDC)

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

69/23 Apologies for Absence

None

70/23 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Braithwaite declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item of donations (CAB & St Peter's church)

71/23 Minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2023 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

72/23 Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay

Cllr Lindsay introduced his report and explained the current opportunity for bus funding. He agreed to support and coach connections with other parishes in putting together a proposal to SCC. He also raised the work of the Bildeston foodbank and the need to roll out that model across other locations. His comments on speed limits raised a discussion on the poor state of the roads. The full report is in Appendix 1.

73/23 Report from District Cllr Bryn Hurren

Cllr Hurren pointed to the adoption of Babergh's Joint Local Plan. The aim is to provide 25% social housing on bigger sites. He advised there is a consultation to change Listed Building planning consent to enable energy efficient improvements. BDC is putting major emphasis on climate change and its effects and has been support flood relief and recovery of late. There has been significant interest in the 17 houses on the former school site but it is not possible to say what the outcome might be. There is now a significant risk that the site will be bought for demolition and redevelopment. There has been a catalogue of failures in relation to this site. He will also support and facilitate any efforts by MEPC in relation to the Bus initiative by SCC. Locality Grants can be applied for – about £400 for our village.

74/23 Public Forum

- Old School Site – there was a retained strip of land from this site and it was suggested that might link up with the proposed Strutt & Parker development
- Christmas Lights – Battery operated lights to adorn the village sign was considered a good option. There is a large Christmas tree stand and lights which belong to the village and the suggestion was that the VH might like them? Corncraft may take the tree stand.

- Traffic & Pavements – The road by the Old Forge and along the south side of the street is being eroded especially in the wet weather, by lorries. The road is 40cm wider. Flooding is also a problem especially near The Old Bull. The surface water from the road goes into the sewer and overwhelms the system so sewage comes out in the village. There have been three instances of sewage spillage this year. There is a risk of lorries toppling off the road and the camber of the road causes the water to go all over the place.

75/23 Planning Matters

- a. DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
Proposal: Discharge of Conditions Application for B/16/01718 - Condition 18 (Archaeology) Location: Site of Former Monks Eleigh C P School, Churchfield
- b. Babergh does not object to the APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/23/04439 Proposal: Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Proposal to fell 3 Trees: Alexanders, The Street
- c. Babergh have notified that this application has been withdrawn. 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
- d. Babergh has no objection to the APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/23/04652 Proposal Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Crown thinning and reduction of Ornamental Cherry (T1) and removal of Poplar/Birch tree (T2) Location: Salix Cottage, The Street
- e. Planning Permission has been granted to Application Reference: DC/23/03487 Date Registered: 30-Aug-23 Proposal & Location of Development: Householder Application - Construction of raised roof to form accommodation at second floor level and external alterations Melbourne House, Back Lane, Monks Eleigh
- f. Babergh has no objection to the Application Reference: DC/23/04857 Date Registered: 17-Oct-23 Proposal & Location of Development: Notification of Works to Tree in a Conservation Area - Removal of (T1) Maple. Melbourne House, Back Lane
- g. Babergh has no objection to the Application Reference: DC/23/04939 Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area – at Highfield, Back Lane

76/23 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 councillors agreed to transfer £15,000 to the Business Deposit account to secure interest payments.
- d. The councillors reviewed a budget update which shows a projected deficit for the current financial year of c £4K vs the original plan for more than £7K. It was noted this is not yet a firm forecast. A first view on the implications for the precept were discussed and it was agreed to review and agree the budget at the January meeting in time for submission of the precept form.
- e. Local Donations – the councillors agreed to make the following donations: Bildeston Foodbank £550, Kernos £550 and Sudbury & South Suffolk CAB £550

- f. The councillors agreed to fund the defibrillator training on 30th November at 6.30pm at a cost of £125.00
- g. The councillors agreed to donate the recycling credits of £56.10 to the shop. Please support the glass recycling as the monies are used to support the village

77/23 People and Place Plan –

- a. The first working group meeting will take place before Christmas to agree actions including the possibility of a survey.
- b. The team are James Hodges, Alan Line, Rupert Perry, Angela Forrest, Grainne Marmion and Arthur Grosset. There is room for more people if others would like to help.
- c. It was noted that Babergh's new Joint Local Plan aligns well with Monks Eleigh's values
- d. James is looking at Groton's People and Place Plan surveys. Bryn to arrange for Nigel Chapman to meet with Monks Eleigh, Milden and Brent Eleigh to discuss housing needs surveys.
- e. Strutt & Parker have made an expression of interest through Fiona Jacques for the possible development of the field adjacent to the recreation field as a rural exception site with self-build and affordable housing. There is a desire on the part of S&P to engage with the village in its needs before develop hard proposals. The Chair and Clerk noted that this approach had been put on the agenda to ensure transparency.
- f. The village is a little emotionally traumatised from the Old School site debacle and the Orchard site planning.
- g. It was agreed that any housing need in the village should be ascertained after the Old School site has been resolved to gain clarity.
- h. The possibility of aligning the housing needs survey with the People and Place Plan was agreed to be important.
- i. In the context of the points above, it was agreed for James Hodges and the working group to interact with Fiona Jacques to set out a process to consider housing needs and explore options from Strutt & Parker.
- j. Rural Buses – We have until 20th December to submit a proposal to SCC. Cllrs Braithwaite and Forrest to talk to Bildeston, Brent Eleigh and Lavenham about bus routes. An Uber style service to provide connectivity to other bus routes to get to major locations (Hadleigh/Lavenham) is a favoured angle. Liaison is needed to understand and complete the proposal

78/23 Recreation Field – The wooden fence near the footpath entrance needs to be replaced. Clerk to obtain quotes for the work

79/23 Causeway– A team under the supervision of the Probation service cleared the path last month. It was a very satisfactory job. Unfortunately, an unexpected return visit to the site ended with verbal exchanges and abuse towards the team. As a result, they will not be returning to complete the digging out. It was agreed to write to them to thank them for their work and say how upset the council is about the verbal abuse towards the team person(s) in the village.

Clerk to enquire about ownership and how to apply for grants for work to install a board walk. The Causeway is flooding regularly and it is difficult for people without cars to get from Back Lane to The Street to use the shop or catch the bus.

80/23 Traffic & Pavements – It was agreed to write formally to County Cllr Lindsay to outline the following problems in the village: sewage overflow, speeding, visibility, pavement access and cats eyes

81/23 Review of Polling Places and Polling Stations – It was agreed that the arrangements in Monks Eleigh at the village hall are good. However, it was agreed it would be best to move the Polling Station within the village hall to the Meeting Room so other activities can continue in the main hall during an election. Clerk to correspond accordingly.

82/23 Thermal Imaging Camera –Cllr Forrest has booked the camera from 9th – 22nd January 2024. She will collect the camera and has space to carry out more surveys. Cllr Braithwaite to advertise on Facebook

83/23 Tree Work at Swingleton Green – The work has been completed satisfactorily.

84/23 Climate and Ecology Bill – The councillors agreed to support the Bill. Cllr Forrest to pass details to the Clerk to reply.

85/23 Christmas Lights – The councillors agreed to put up battery -operated lights and a star on the village sign.

86/23 Memorial Tree – The bench in memory of a previous parish clerk is in place by the village hall. The councillors are trying to find a suitable location for a proposed tree in her memory. The suggestion of a weeping willow was not agreed due to short lifespan and being water hungry. Cllr Braithwaite to discuss with Mr Whitehead

87/23 Action List Review

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

Action	Who
Send Barclays online banking email to Councillors	Clerk
Traffic & pavements letter to Cllr Lindsay	Clerk
Ecology Bill details to Clerk to respond	Cllr Forrest
Play area opening in the Spring	
Establish ownership of Causeway walkway	Clerk
Polling place review response	Clerk
Quotes for recreation field fence	Clerk
Transfer £15,000 to Business deposit account	Clerk

88/23 Councillors Reports

It was agreed to discuss lockable bollards on Church Hill Green at the January meeting

89/23 Date of the next meeting

Parish Council Meeting 22nd January 2024

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Appendix 1: Report for Monks Eleigh Parish Council by Robert Lindsay, Suffolk County Councillor

Suffolk communities being asked to bid for new bus services. The county council have some new money from central Government they have to use for new or extra bus services within a short time frame. They are asking communities (parish councils) or organisations to make expressions of interest. Katherine Davies, sustainable transport officer for Babergh is attempting to coordinate the various bids by parish councils. Contact her if you have any thoughts.

katherine.davies@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk. Various parishes in the very poorly served Cosford area are looking at various routes. But to summarise 112 Bildeston to Sudbury, via Monks Eleigh, twice a week. Bildeston and Brent Eleigh PCs are liaising with GoStart to see if a fortnightly route could be run from Sudbury to Bury and back, via Bildeston. The 379 Hadleigh to Bury bus (once a week on Weds) via Bildeston. I have asked operators GoStart (Hedenhams) if it can be expanded to a daily service with changed timings to meet 9 to 5 working day and West Suffolk college start and finish times. It is important to evidence demand so if you know of people locally that might use such a service, do let me know. GoAhead interested but awaiting meeting date. 753 Sudbury to Bury – Lavenham PC are planning to bid to improve this service with more capacity at rush hour to meet demand from college students, an evening and Sunday service and better service to Sudbury Health Centre. The 461 Hadleigh to Stowmarket via Bildeston. Potential to bid with operator HCT to expand this from twice a week to five days a week with timings to meet the West Suffolk college Kura bus service from Stowmarket. West Suffolk College are v interested and are gathering data for potential pupil demand for me for this or the 379 route. 111 Hitcham to Ipswich via Bildeston – daily but only three services – frequency could be double with an extra bus and it may be possible to persuade Mulleys or another operator to start this from Stowmarket rather than Hitcham. Cllr Brearley investigating. Deadline for bids is 20 th December. Details and online form here <https://www.suffolkonboard.com/news/bus-service-improvement-plan-where-should-the-money-be-spent/>

Foodbank and community support - Bildeston food bank is now supporting 39 families from several different villages in the area including Monks Eleigh, Nedging and Hitcham. Together with the district council, we are exploring ways to help roll out the Bildeston model out across the district, because it is clear that existing food banks and CAB are only reaching about 30% of those in need.

Lower speed limits A1141 Hadleigh to Semer My application on behalf of Semer and Kersey PCs to reduce speed limit on this road between Stone Street and Letts swimming pool from 60mph to 40mph has been approved. However, funding must be found and it will be some time before it comes into effect

Bildeston 20mph Work installing this by the county's previous contractor Kier was stopped by an emergency road closure just before their 10-year contract with the county council came to an end. As a result, the work will have to be completed by

the new contractor Milestone, which took over the contract on 1st October. I have not yet been given a restart date.

Appendix 2: Financial Report

MONKS ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT 27 NOVEMBER 2023

Schedule of Payments & Receipts from 18 September 2023

Income Received since 18.9.23

Nil	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>

Expenditure (movement since 18.9.23)

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

18.9.23	CAS	Insurance	687.59	101612	LGA 1972
2.10.23	Hadleigh URC	Hall hire	25.00	101613	LGA 1972
4.10.23	CAS	Website hosting	69.00	101614	LGA 1972
4.10.23	Moser Groundcare	September grass cut	180.00	101615	Open Spaces Act 1906, s
9.10.23	Mortimer Contracts	Improve path	270.00	101616	Open Spaces Act 1906, s LGA
9.10.23	L Rogers	October wages	542.49	101617	LGA 1972
9.10.23	HMRC	October tax	11.20	101618	LGA 1972
9.10.23	Hadleigh URC	Hall hire	25.00	101619	LGA 1972
24.10.23	Moser Groundcare	October grass cuts	360.00	101620	Open Spaces Act 1906, s
26.10.23	Mortimer Contracts	New swing bolt	120.00	101621	Open Spaces Act 1906, s LGA
7.11.23	L Rogers	November wages	542.29	101622	LGA 1972
7.11.23	HMRC	November tax	11.20	101623	LGA 1972
7.11.23	L Rogers	October expenses Back pay 1.4-	37.95	101624	LGA 1972
10.11.23	L Rogers	30.11.23	329.33	101625	LGA 1972
			<u>3,211.05</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, s LGA
2.10.23	Hadleigh URC	Hall hire	25.00	101613	LGA 1972
4.10.23	CAS	Website hosting	60.00	101614	LGA 1972
9.10.23	Mortimer Contracts	Improve path	270.00	101616	Open Spaces Act 1906, s LGA
9.10.23	L Rogers	October wages	542.49	101617	LGA 1972
9.10.23	HMRC	October tax	11.20	101618	LGA 1972

9.10.23	Hadleigh URC	Hall hire	25.00	101619	LGA 1972
26.10.23	Mortimer Contracts	New swing bolt	120.00	101621	Open Spaces Act 1906, s LGA
7.11.23	L Rogers	November wages	542.29	101622	LGA 1972
7.11.23	HMRC	November tax	11.20	101623	LGA 1972
7.11.23	L Rogers	October expenses	37.95	101624	LGA 1972
10.11.23	L Rogers	Back pay 1.4- 30.11.23	329.33	101625	LGA 1972
			<u>2,262.46</u>		

Bank Reconciliation

Account	statement date	statement balance	actual balance	credit/transfers not shown	unpresented cheques
Community a/c	31.10.23	£31,835.40	£29,572.94	0.00	£2,262.46
Business reserve	31.10.23	£8,955.82	£8,955.82	0.00	£0
		£40,791.22	£38,528.76		

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 £360 (2023-2024 inc.) and is to be used solely for maintenance of the ground