

Monks Eleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 29th July 2024 at the Village Hall, Church Hill, Monks Eleigh at 7.30pm

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

County Councillor Robert Lindsay (SCC), District Cllr Bryn Hurren (BDC)

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

25/24 Apologies for Absence

None

26/24 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

None declared

27/24 Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2024 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

28/24 Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay

Councillor Lindsay is following up reports of a blocked drain on Church Hill. His full report is in appendix 2

29/24 Report from District Cllr Bryn Hurren

An enforcement notice has been served on the house in Highlands Road. Babergh are in talks about the houses at Churchfield. The Councillors agreed to write to Babergh urging them to urgently get the matter resolved. Cllr Hurren to give a contact. It was agreed that the council would write again to James Cartlidge MP and others asking for a quick resolution on the matter.

30/24 Public Forum

Concern that the type of houses needed for the village are not being built; especially those for older people to move to. The People and Place survey has provided good information about what people in the village want. Some people were unsure about the numbering on the forms – this was done to prevent people from copying forms and handing in too many. It was agreed to put a further 20 forms at The Swan for people to complete with a poster. So far the survey shows that people do not want green field development but more small size family homes and to limit this to small size developments of up to five houses. It was agreed that the need for development depends on what the old school site will eventually provide.

The Swan is open as a pub with Julie running the bar. The B&B continues. The approved room conversions for more B&B have yet to be made.

The unlit footpath at the top of Church Hill from the Church to the Old Rectory needs to be lit to make it safer.

The frequency of lorries driving through the village continue to cause problems of noise, speed and the weight of the lorries causes vibration through the houses. The lorries are driving on the grass verges and half the verge has now disappeared.

Pedestrians feel unsafe walking along the narrow pavements when lorries drive past. It would be good to have 20mph speed limit through the village as in Bildeston, Assington and Lavenham.

31/24 Planning Matters

- a. Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/23/01347- Condition 3 (Materials), Condition 5 (Ventilation and S&VP), Condition 6 (Facing Materials), Condition 7 (Rainwater Goods), Condition 8 (Eaves and Verge Details) and Condition 9 (Windows, Doors and Glazing Panels). Location: Alexanders, The Street, Monks Leigh
- b. Babergh has approved the Application for Planning Permission - DC/24/01066 Internal alterations and Change of Use of restaurant part of the pub to B&B, whilst retaining the Wet Trade. At The Swan Inn, The Street, Monks Leigh
- c. APPLICATION FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT - DC/24/02006 Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of single storey linked rear extension; remove roof glazing from existing extension and re-roof using tiles, other alterations as per Design & Access Statement. Location: The Cottage, Church Hill, Monks Leigh
- d. Babergh has approved the Application Reference: DC/24/01064 -Householder Application - Construction of dropped kerb and driveway at Penfranric, The Street, Monks Leigh
- e. DC/24/02752: Application for works to a tree in a Conservation Area - Fell 1No Ash tree as it has decay at the base Location: April Cottage, The Street, Monks Leigh
- f. Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Fell and grind out stumps of 3 x Leyland Cypress trees in rear garden to approx 200mm or grub out stumps below current ground level. Location: Little Pond Cottage, The Street, Monks Leigh
- g. DC/24/02997 Proposal: Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 1 No. Ivy (T1), Fell 2 No.Thuja Cyprus (T2 and T3), Fell 1 No. Blue Cedar (T1), Fell Indian Bean (T5), Re Coppice 3 No. Hazel (T6,T7 and T8) Location: Onchan, Back Lane, Monks Leigh
- h. DC/24/02630: Application for Outline Planning Permission (Access Points to be considered, all other matters reserved) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Erection of 3No self-build dwellings at Land South Of, Brent Leigh Road, Monks Leigh – The councillors agreed to object to this planning application for the following reasons: It is not a brown field site – it is an agricultural field used for grazing and is a green field site. Building on it would require a change of use.

The site is outside the village built up boundary in an unspoilt area and within the Conservation area. Any building here would have a harmful impact on the street scene of an historical village.

The site has a dangerous access on a blind bend in the road with no visibility for the fast, oncoming traffic. Our SID camera shows that traffic leaving and entering the village from the Lavenham end travels faster than that coming in and travelling towards Bildeston.

The recent village survey shows that small family homes are required in the village not large detached houses.

The field has marsh loving plants growing to the rear and it is often very wet to walk on. The self build is a tool to avoid the obligations of CIL or section 106.

32/24 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 councillors agreed to sign a direct debit for paying the Information Commissioner's fees at a cost of £35 annually. This saves £5 each year.
- d. The councillors approved the Finance Regulations with an extra paragraph "Any item not in the budget should be brought forward to the Council"
- e. The councillors confirmed the appointment of Lucinda Rogers as the Responsible Finance Officer
- f. The councillors confirmed the appointment of Heelis & Lodge as Internal Auditor for 2024-25
- g. Clerk to add Local Donations and future spending to the agenda for 23rd September meeting. A sheet summarising the current spend vs budget was circulated and it was agreed that the September meeting would review allocations in the light of emerging priorities.

33/24 People and Place Plan – There has been a good return of c. 30% returns for the survey. It was agreed to put a further 20 surveys at The Swan to encourage others to give their views. When the returns are processed, the working group will meet to collate the information. The results will be circulated to the village via notice boards, Facebook and The Swan. Then to agree the next step. The Council thanked Cllr Hodges for his work.

34/24 Safety of Lithium ion Batteries and e-bikes and scooters – The Councillors agreed to support the Bill to increase the safety of these batteries. Clerk to action via email.

35/24 Standing Orders – The Councillors approved the Standing Orders

36/24 Grit Bins – The salt has turned to rock and two grit bins have been hit by cars or lorries. Clerk to ask Cllr Lindsay for help to empty the bins in preparation for the winter. Two bins need to be replaced. Cllr Braithwaite to ask Richrd Hartley for quote to support this work.

37/24 Annual Play Equipment Report – Playquip to inspect and correct any problems with the zip wire at a cost of £360 in the autumn. It was agreed to continue to use Babergh to arrange the inspection of the remaining play equipment.

38/24 Causeway – SCC are looking at other options to the boardwalk. Clerk to ask Chris Mortimer for advice. It was agreed to make a CIL application for the cost of installing a board walk. In the meantime and in preparation for autumn winter, Cllr Braithwaite is meeting Richard Hartley to discuss and agree on digging the ditches out. Clerk waiting for a response from Rights of Way about adopting the footway from Back Lane to the Lavenham Road.

39/24 Brett Valley DigiBus – Cllr Braithwaite’s has been unable to visit the bus scheme in Lincolnshire as they cancelled the meeting date. He plans to visit the scheme in Hertfordshire. It is essential to know the levels of demand, how many buses, the routes and subsidy needed in relation to population in order to forecast demand with a degree of accuracy. Need to integrate the school bus and community buses from Go-Start and Hadleigh Community Transport. Clerk to follow up Cllr Braithwaite’s expenses in relation to travel to meetings to date.

40/24 Street Lighting on Church Hill– Suffolk County Council estimate the project could cost £10,500. Clerk to apply for grants to carry out the work. The streetlight by the garages in Churchfields is on all night. Clerk to report.

41/24 Lorries Travelling Through the Village – The Clerk has requested the conclusion of the recent lorry traffic meeting in Lavenham held by James Cartlidge. The Council needs to understand the scale of the problem and to ask Cllr Lindsay about how to carry out a survey of the traffic. Need to ask Lavenham how they surveyed Water Street.

42/24 Action List Review

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

Action	Who
Conclusion of lorry conference in Lavenham	Clerk
People & Place Plan information to be collated	Cllr Hodges & team
Grit bin – empty / replace as needed	Clerk/Cllr Braithwaite
Old school site write to Babergh and MP	Clerk
Agreement for removable bollards	Clerk/Cllr Braithwaite
Causeway footway funding/quote	Clerk
Identity of street light at Churchfields on all night – photos and number	Cllr Forrest
Footway Back Lane to Lavenham Road – SCC to adopt	Cllrs
Traffic survey	Clerk
Memorial cherry tree for Sally Whitehead will be planted at the back hedge of the Recreation field. Agreed with Bruce Whitehead and council to acquire and plant.	Cllr Braithwaite (September)

43/24 Councillors Reports

None

44/24 Date of the next meetings

Parish Council Meeting 23rd September 2024

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Appendix 1: Financial Report

MONKS ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT 29 JULY 2024

Schedule of Payments & Receipts from 3 June 2024

Income Received since 3.6.24

Interest	<u>77.30</u>
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Expenditure (movement since 3.6.24)

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

7.6.24	Babergh	Play area inspection	63.78
7.6.24	Moser Ground Care L	May grass cuts	360.00
7.6.24	Rogers	June wages	588.25
7.6.24	HMRC L	June tax	6.60
7.6.24	Rogers	May expenses	20.00
17.6.24	A Braithwaite	Survey printing	159.43
25.6.24	Babergh	Bin emptying	662.40
25.6.24	A Braithwaite	Strimmer	55.29
1.7.24	Moser Ground Care L	June grass cuts	360.00
8.7.24	Rogers	July wages	588.45
8.7.24	HMRC L	July tax	6.40
8.7.24	Rogers	June expenses	50.50
			<u>2,921.10</u>

Pending Payments

5.9.22	Hadleigh United Reformed Church	10.00
		<u>10.00</u>

Bank Reconciliation

Account	statement date	statement balance	actual balance	credit/transfers not shown	unpresented cheques
Community a/c	28.6.24	£15,068.19	£15,068.19	0.00	£0.00
Business reserve	28.6.24	£19,153.40	£19,076.10	0.00	£0
		£34,221.59	£34,144.29		

Appendix 2

Report for Monks Eleigh PC by Robert Lindsay, Suffolk County Councillor

County agrees motion to do more secure and spend developer money for communities

Suffolk County Council currently holds £52 million in developer contributions – such as Section 106 money or Community Infrastructure Levy. This is money that the council makes developers provide as a condition of obtaining planning permission. The money is supposed to fund things like footways, junctions, cycle paths or extra school spaces near new housing developments. But there are often lengthy delays before this money is spent, either because

the developer takes too long to hand it over, or the county does not have the capacity to complete the work in good time. My Green colleague Simon Harley at the last council meeting proposed a motion that asked the council to ensure guidance for developer contributions is updated, that the work required is carried out in a timely manner and to a high standard and that legal action against developers is taken where needed. The motion was approved with no votes against and nine abstentions. **Youth Justice Plan** Council officers put before council their "Youth Justice Plan" for this year which aims to support children at risk of re-offending or involved in the criminal justice system. The levels of girls, children in care and ethnic minorities are over-represented in this group compared with the population at large. The best solution is to prevent children offending in the first place and members of the Green, LibDem and independent group expressed concern that funding from the Ministry of Justice for an early intervention programme "Turnaround" is due to end in March 2025. We suggested that the council should ask the county's new MPs should lobby for the continuance of this program in Westminster. **Suffolk Youth Climate Conference** On 3 July, 250 local schoolchildren pledged to write to their local Member of Parliament about climate change after an inspiring address by Chris Packham, renowned UK naturalist, at this year's Suffolk Youth Climate Conference. The event was held at Suffolk One Sixth Form College and organised by the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. A range of workshops were held on topics such as electric vehicles, nature-based solutions, the global food system, coastal adaptation, plastic pollution, flood and water management, sustainable fashion and climate anxiety. Students also had the opportunity to engage with 30 charities and organisations working to improve the natural environment in Suffolk. **Local Businesses attend Carbon Charter event** On 11 July, Suffolk County Council's annual Carbon Charter event was held to honour businesses from Suffolk and Norfolk for their achievements in environmental sustainability. More than 100 delegates from a range of local businesses shared their experiences of reducing their environmental impact. Carbon Charter Gold Awards were presented to leading print company, Denny Bros, from Bury St Edmunds, and to Seckford Hall for their exceptional environmental contributions