

Monks Eleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2024 at the Village Hall, Church Hill, Monks Eleigh at 7.30pm

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

District Cllr Bryn Hurren (BDC)

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

1/24 Co-option of Councillor

The Councillors unanimously agreed to co-opt Sarah Bennett to the parish council

2/24 Election of Chairman

The Councillors unanimously agreed to Councillor Braithwaite continuing as Chairman

3/24 Apologies for Absence

James Hodges

4/24 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

None declared

5/24 Minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2024 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

6/24 Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay

Councillor Lindsay was not present at the meeting. He sent his apologies and his report is in Appendix 2.

7/24 Report from District Cllr Bryn Hurren

Cllr Hurren confirmed that Babergh is currently in purdah due to the forthcoming election. The leisure centres have been opened for free at half term to groups of children who are eligible for free school lunches. There has been no more news about the houses at Churchfield. An enforcement notice has been served on the house in Highlands Road

8/24 Public Forum

Road by the United Reformed Church – the problem of poor visibility for pedestrians crossing the road was raised. Cllr Braithwaite to see if he can find someone to cut the hedge back to improve visibility

9/24 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 Eleigh
- 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 Eleigh

- 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 Eleigh
- d. Babergh has approved the Application Reference: DC/24/01064 -Householder Application - Construction of dropped kerb and driveway at Penfranric, The Street, Monks Eleigh

10/24 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. Reserves - The councillors agreed that reserves policy for the council should be at least nine months of current precept, plus the Gallet and Polegate fund and the any ringfenced CIL monies.
- d. The councillors approved the end of year bank reconciliation 2023-2024
- e. The councillors reviewed the Internal Audit and noted that the notice for the exercise of public rights to inspect the annual accounts must be made. The trust fund must also be accounted for in the accounts. The Internal Auditor's report must be reviewed and the minutes should record this and any actions to be taken. It was resolved to place a notice of access on the website and on the Facebook page in order to comply with the public rights obligations.
- f. The councillors approved the CIL statement 2023-2024
- g. The councillors approved the Annual Governance Statement 2023-2024
- h. The councillors approved the Accounting Statements 2023-2024

11/24 People and Place Plan – The village survey is ready to be printed and circulated against a return date of 17th July. It was agreed to number the forms to prevent duplication. It was agreed to pay for the cost to print the survey. Cllr Hurren to check if Babergh are able to grant printing costs. It was agreed to put posters in the shop and on notice boards to encourage people to complete the forms. The forms to be only on paper (a web option was considered and rejected) and hand delivered to the houses. Completed forms will be returned to the shop, Angela's house or James's house

12/24 Electricity Supply in Monks Eleigh – Following nine power cuts since January 2024 affecting up to fifty houses in Back Lane and Swingleton Hill, the councillors agreed to write to UK Power Networks with a copy to Ofgem to ask what they are doing to resolve the problem and when will this be achieved. Of the nine power cuts only two were 'planned'. Clerk to draft a first version of the letter.

13/24 Annual Play Equipment Report – It was agreed to ask Playquip to inspect and correct any problems with the zip wire at a cost of £360. Clerk to ask Playquip for a quote to carry out an inspection of the entire site next year

14/24 Opening of New Play Area – The councillors agreed to plan this for Saturday 29th June at 9.30am. Clerk to send invitations

15/24 Causeway – SCC are looking at other options to the boardwalk. Clerk to ask Chris Mortimer for advice. Clerk to ask Sudbury Wardens about digging out the Causeway or volunteer teams.

Clerk to enquire about the footway from Back Lane to the Lavenham Road be adopted by Rights of Way.

16/24 Brett Valley DigiBus – Cllr Braithwaite's is attending a country wide meeting in London and visiting the bus scheme in Lincolnshire. These meetings should show if it is likely to work – particularly the levels of demand and subsidy needed. A good meeting was held with East Suffolk who were very helpful in sharing their experience on operations, demand and costs.

17/24 Village Gates– It was agreed not to follow this idea

18/24 Street Lighting on Church Hill– The councillors agreed to explore installing low level lights along the path at the Limes at the top of Church Hill. Clerk to inform Jean Gatewood.

19/24 Riparian Ownership in Monks Eleigh– The councillors agreed to respond to Highways that it is their duty to contact land owners about this. Cllr Braithwaite to discuss with John Milner.

20/24 Lorries Travelling Through the Village – Clerk to ask for the conclusion of the recent lorry traffic meeting in Lavenham held by James Cartlidge. Council will then consider the option of carrying out its own census.

21/24 Christmas Tree on Church Hill Village Green– The councillors agreed give permission to the placement of a Christmas tree on the village green. It is be lit with battery powered lights – the parish council have some lights that can be used.

22/24 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 to be printed & delivered	Cllr Hodges & team
Arrange zip wire inspection & quote for 2025	Clerk
Play area opening 29.6.24 9.30am invitations	Clerk
Agreement for removable bollards	Clerk/Cllr Braithwaite
Causeway footway funding/quote	Clerk
Identity of street light at Churchfields on all night	Cllr Forrest/Clerk
Footway Back Lane to Lavenham Road – SCC to adopt	Cllrs
Complaint letter to UK Power Networks	Clerk/Cllrs
Memorial cherry tree at Recreation field	Cllr Braithwaite (September)

23/24 Councillors Reports

Cllr Forrest to inform the Clerk of the Churchfields street light which remains on all night.

24/24 Date of the next meetings

Parish Council Meeting 29th July 2024

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Appendix 1: Financial Report

MONKS ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT 3 JUNE 2024

Schedule of Payments & Receipts from 25 March 2024

Income Received since 25.3.24

4.4.24	Precept	Babergh	10,750.00
	Allotments		
1.4.24	3&4	Thomson	30.00
11.4.24	Polegate	Whitehead	30.00
	VAT		
22.4.24	Refund	HMRC	1,804.32
			<u>12,614.32</u>

Expenditure (movement since 25.3.24)

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

25.3.24	Suffolk County Council		Sreet Light replacement	6,389.40	Highw:
			Street lights		
28.3.24	Suffolk County Council		2023-24	668.07	Highw:
					LGA
9.4.24	SALC	bacs	Subs to 2025	271.21	1972
					LGA
9.4.24	L Rogers	bacs	April wages	588.48	1972
9.4.24	HMRC	bacs	April tax	6.40	LGA 15
			March		LGA
9.4.24	L Rogers	bacs	expenses	29.45	1972
					Open :
2.4.24	Moser Ground Care	bacs	Grass cutting	360.00	1906,
					LGA
26.4.24	Heelis & Lodge	bacs	Internal audit	320.00	1972
			APM		LGA
26.4.24	A Braithwaite	bacs	refreshments	56.67	1972
					Open :
8.5.24	Moser Ground Care		April grass cut	360.00	1906,
					LGA
8.5.24	L Rogers		May wages	588.45	1972
					LGA
8.5.24	HMRC		May tax	6.40	1972
					LGA
8.5.24	L Rogers		April expenses	20.00	1972
				<u>9,664.53</u>	

Pending Payments

5.9.22	Hadleigh United Reformed Church	10.00	101528	LGA 1972
		<u>10.00</u>		

Bank Reconciliation

Account	statement date	statement balance	actual balance	credit/transfers not shown	unpresented cheques
Community a/c	30.4.24	£17,241.10	£18,215.95	974.85	£0.00

Appendix 2

Report for Monks Eleigh PC by Robert Lindsay, Suffolk County Councillor 3.6.24
Funding for Local Government

My group – Green, Libs and Independent - proposed a motion for council on Thursday 23 May to lobby the government for improved funding for local authorities, which was seconded by the Conservative administration and voted through unanimously in the chamber. Politicians of all parties are concerned by the £4 billion funding ‘gap’ predicted for councils in the next few years, particularly for social care. To balance the books this year, Suffolk County Council had to withdraw £15.9 million from its reserves, but this is not a sustainable approach. Councils that have become bankrupt have to cut services back to the minimum they have to provide by law, and seek to raise revenue by increasing council tax and other avenues they have such as charges for parking or social care.

Transport for Post-16 Students

Cabinet also considered a paper on recommendations for charges for post-16 school transport. Although students now have to be in education or training up to the age of 18, the council receives no funding from the government to pay for their transport. This means the council asks parents and carers to pay for part of the cost with the rest subsidised by the council. In 2023-24, the average cost for a “mainstream” seat was £1,701 and the average cost for a Special Educational Needs (SEND) student seat is £11,819.

The proposal approved by Cabinet was for the charge for a mainstream seat to rise to £1,050 a year, which is a steep £90 increase from last year. There will be no increase for SEND students so their seats will remain at £780 a year. The 50% reduction in charge for families on a low income and in receipt of free school meals will continue for another year.

SEND Strategy 2024-29

A new SEND new strategy that takes on board recommendations from the recent Ofsted/CQC inspection to set the Partnership’s direction for SEND services for the next five years. The strategy was produced with input from children, parents, carers and members of staff who work in SEND services and aims to improve services in several areas where they have been criticised by inspectors: communication, outcomes for SEND children and improved timeliness and quality of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and Annual Reviews.

Nature survey

In order to prepare Suffolk’s Local Nature Recovery Strategy, the council has launched a public survey so residents can share their favourite nature spots and which habitats they think should be protected. Farmers, landowners and land managers are also encouraged to submit practical, achievable proposals to support nature conservation, as well as sharing how land is currently managed and any challenges faced applying for government funding schemes. The strategy will form a plan to help reverse the decline in nature across the county, and to connect and expand existing areas that are important for wildlife and the landscape.

You can share your thoughts in the Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy Survey by visiting <https://www.nsnrp.org/get-involved>. It closes on 30 June 2024.