

Monks Eleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27th January 2025 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 Cllr Robert Lindsay and District Cllr Bryn Hurren

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

88/24 Apologies for Absence

None

89/24 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Bennett – Planning matter: Appeal: APP/D3505/W/24/3354585

Cllr Forrest – Millenium Green

90/24 Minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2024 were approved by the councillors subject to the correction of the figure in item 82/24 to read £18,000; They were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

91/24 Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay

Councillor Lindsay's report is in appendix 2

Scripps Cross Bridge has been hit several times over the last few years and may have a crack in the arch which presents a risk of collapse. The southern side of the bridge is silting up and may lead to flooding. Highways are aware of this and are monitoring the situation. Cllr Lindsay is trying to engage with them about this through a site meeting.

92/24 Report from District Cllr Bryn Hurren

Councillor Hurren's report is in appendix 3

Cllr Hurren kindly offered £350 Locality Grant towards a village project and he will send an application form to the Clerk.

93/24 Public Forum

VE Day Anniversary 8th May falls near the Bank holiday weekend. It was suggested to hold a Church service, followed by a traditional tea. We need to decide which day to hold the celebrations and the format.

94/24 Planning Matters

- a) Babergh have given planning permission for DC/24/04603: Householder Application - Construction of 2no. parking bays at The Manse, The Street, Monks Eleigh
- b) Appeal Reference: APP/D3505/W/24/3354585 Appeal by: Mr G Newley
Proposal: 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. Location: Land South Of, Brent Eleigh Road, Monks Eleigh, Suffolk I am writing to confirm that the Hearing into

the above appeal will start at 10:00 am on 29 January 2025 at Council Offices, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich Suffolk IP1 2BX

- c) Babergh does not wish to object to DC/24/05410 Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Re-pollard 1 No Beech tree back to previous points to clear from overhead wires. Location: High Bank House, Back Lane, Monks Eleigh
- d) DC/24/05288 Proposal: Planning Application. Conversion of redundant agricultural building to provide 1 no dwelling Location: Tye Farm, Tye Road, Monks Eleigh
- e) Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/24/04603 - Condition 3 (Biodiversity Enhancement Measures) Location: The Manse, The Street, Monks Eleigh
- f) Babergh does not wish to object to DC/24/05550 Proposal: Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Pollard 1 No. Ash (T1) up to approx. 8m, Reduce top of 1 No Alder (T2) by up to approx. 5m and reduce sides in accordingly (up to 3m) Location: Foysters Lodge, Hadleigh Road, Monks Eleigh
- g) DC/24/05520 Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of a single storey front extension. Location: 13 Lower Byfield, Monks Eleigh
- h) Babergh have granted planning permission for DC/24/05059 Householder Application - Erection of single storey rear extension at Wyncolls Bungalow, Swingleton Hill, Monks Eleigh

95/24 Finance

- a. The councillors approved the financial report and noted income received and recent expenditure – see Appendix 1. The councillors authorised payments from the RFO Report since the last meeting to be made.
- b. The councillors agreed the budget for 2025-26 at £26,292.68 excluding projects. Projects are anticipated at £23,500. It was agreed to review the budget in March.
- c. The councillors agreed the precept for 2025-26 at £22,300. This increases a Band D property by 0. 3. % from £81.13 to £83.59 = £2.46 extra for the year.
- d. Cllr Hodges has updated the asset register. The councillors approved the Asset Register.
- e. Defibrillator – Clerk to ask Cllr Hurren for Locality Grant from 2025-26 towards replacing the ten-year old machine as recommended.

96/24 People and Place Plan – Cllr Hodges was thanked for his great work in completing the Neighbourhood Priority Statement. It was agreed to hold a Community Meeting with the community at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 28th April. It was also agreed to put a copy on the website. It was agreed that the council should consider moving up to a Neighbourhood Plan as it is possible to move onwards from the survey and current document and the additional status may be valuable. Cllrs Braithwaite and Perry to take the project forwards.

97/24 Community Speed Watch and SID Annual Report – This is managed by Chris Eames on behalf of Monks Eleigh Parish Council. The number of drivers speeding continues on a small downward trend. The parish councillors thanked Cris Eames for his work maintain the SID and organising the Speed Watch within the village and the contribution it makes to reducing speed. The Police now ask for three volunteers to be present at each Speed Watch session so more volunteers are needed to continue

with the project. Cllr Braithwaite to advertise on Facebook. Clerk to update the Speed Watch information Chris Eames to proofread it before updating the website.

98/24 Footpath and traffic calming on A1141 Brent Eleigh Road – The parish council are following up on last years petition about this. The hedge by Millennium Green has been cut back, improving visibility for pedestrians and traffic. Cllr Bennett observed that the rumble strips and SLOW sign on the road to the Lavenham end of the village have faded. Clerk to request for them to be restored. It was agreed that the SID signs and Community Speed Watch have really helped to slow traffic in the village but lorries are wide and struggle to remain within the road width with their wing mirrors close to pedestrians. Cllr Braithwaite outlined the proposed approach to revive the 2008 plans that were drafted by SCC and add to the case with the petition and the lorry county. The doorbell CAM will be used to count lorries passing through the village on a daily basis. This was agreed and every effort will be made to involve parishioners in the preparation of the case.

99/24 VE Day Celebration – Cllr Bennett will liaise with the PCC to make arrangements for the celebration. It was noted that the actual anniversary is Thursday 8th May. Subject to final clarification, it was agreed that the event will be on the Bank Holiday Monday 5th May with a short service in the church followed by teas and music at the village hall with people being asked to bring a plate of food for this community get together. Church bells to be rung. There will then be a service on the 8th to mark the day.

100/24 Causeway Footpath – The council have secured four quotes to improve the Causeway by raising the level of path at its low point. It was agreed to accept the quote from James Smith Landscapes at a cost of £15,424.50 + VAT. Cllr Braithwaite to liaise with James before commencing work. Clerk to contact Katherine Davies to apply for an Active Travel grant towards the cost of the work. CIL funds held by the council may also be used.

101/24 Brett Valley DigiBus – SCC have agreed to a budget of c. £5000 to work with a software company, PADAM, on the project. Fiontan Connolly will be work as an intern from early February. He will populate the software and put in existing rides, then add rides and simulate rides to test the software. Fiontan will be paid expenses. Cllr Braithwaite made it clear that Hadleigh Community Transport and Go Start will an integral part of the project. It is hoped that this will validate the project.

102/24 Thermal Imaging Camera – Cllr Forrest collected the thermal imaging camera on 15 January and is returning it 28 January. She has surveyed five houses checking for heat leakage when it is dark. The householders given a leaflet to show how to reduce heat leakage.

103/24 Church Hill Dog Mess – Following a report from a parishioner the website has been updated to say that Church Hill has experienced unpleasant dog mess. The dog waste bin is there for dog walkers to use when they clear up after their dogs.

104/24 Millenium Green – The Councillors agreed to cover the costs of seasonal work at Millennium Green. Also to pay for two grass cuts at the beginning of the season to help the volunteers manage the grass. Should the volunteers feel the need for help with the grass cutting, the parish council will help. It was agreed to use

Richard Hartley at £75 per cut. We will advertise for volunteers at the Annual Parish Meeting.

105/24 Pathway Lighting on Church Hill– Cllr Braithwaite to meet with a contractor to consider the project and report back to the March meeting.

106/24 Action List Review

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

Action	Who
People & Place Plan Neighbourhood – Annual Parish Meeting 28 April and add to website	Cllrs Perry & Braithwaite/Clerk
VE Day Anniversary liaison with PCC	Cllr Bennett
Traffic problems and pavement along A1141 – create draft proposal	Cllrs Hodges/ Braithwaite
Install webcam to monitor traffic	Cllr Braithwaite
Recreation field red gates – renovation quote	Clerk
Causeway footway liaise with contractor and apply for Active Travel grant	Cllr Braithwaite /Clerk
Website Speed Watch page – update wording in conjunction with Chris Eames	Clerk
Asset register update on website	Clerk
Church Hill footpath lighting bollards – meet with contractor	Cllr Braithwaite
Defibrillator replacement: add to March agenda	Clerk
Progress the Brett Valley Digibus Project	Cllr Braithwaite

107/24 Councillors Reports

The pedestrian barrier gate to the recreation field needs renovating and to the posts to be replaced so it is possible to remove them to allow vehicular access to the field. Clerk to ask Mortimers for a quote for the work and to ask Cllr Hurren for Locality Grant towards the project.

The Councillors agreed that the recreation field can be used for the village fete on Saturday 7th June

108/24 Date of the Next Meetings

Parish Council meeting 24th March
Annual Parish Meeting 28th April

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Appendix 1: Financial Report

MONKS ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL REPORT 27 JANUARY 2024

Schedule of Payments & Receipts from 25 November 2024

Income Received since 25.11.24

2.12.24	Barclays	Interest	94.91
			<u>94.91</u>

Expenditure (movement since 25.11.24)

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

25.11.24	Garden Graft	Work at Millenium Green	340.00
7.12.24	Moser Groundcare L	December grass cuts	180.00
7.12.24	Rogers L	November expenses	28.50
7.12.24	Rogers L	Back pay	207.48
9.12.24	Rogers	December pay	617.28
9.12.24	HMRC	December tax	13.80
		Millennium Green	
11.12.24	Business Services at CAS	Insurance	309.14
16.12.24	Alan Braithwaite	Grit bin shovels	17.97
24.12.24	RS Whitehead	Hedge cutting	120.00
3.1.25	BD Hurren L	Noticeboard	432.82
7.1.25	Rogers	January pay	617.48
7.1.25	HMRC L	January tax	13.60
7.1.25	Rogers	December expenses	34.90
			<u>2,932.97</u>

Pending Payments

5.9.22		Hadleigh United Reformed Church	10.00	101528
7.12.24	Moser Groundcare	December grass cuts	180.00	
16.12.24	Alan Braithwaite	Grit bin shovels	17.97	
3.1.25	BD Hurren L	Noticeboard	432.82	
7.1.25	Rogers	January pay	617.48	
7.1.25	HMRC L	January tax	13.60	
7.1.25	Rogers	December expenses	34.90	
			<u>1,306.77</u>	

Bank Reconciliation

Account	statement date	statement balance	actual balance	credit/transfers not shown	unpresented cheques
Community a/c	31.12.24	£8,931.89	£7,625.12	0.00	£1,306.77
Business reserve	31.12.24	£39,319.94	£39,319.94	0.00	£0
		£48,251.83	£46,945.06		

Conservative/Labour vote to centralise local government –

At the county council's extraordinary general meeting 9th January, Conservative and Labour councillors voted in favour of fast tracking a massive reorganisation of local government. This involves the scrapping of district councils and the imposition of a single, elected Norfolk/Suffolk mayor with wide ranging planning powers. The county is also asking the Labour government to scrap the scheduled May 2025 County council election with county councillors serving an extra two to three years before having to seek re-election to a new unitary authority of unknown size or shape. Although this has been tagged "devolution" I see this as centralisation of powers away from local councils into the hands of a single mayor and much larger local authorities under the mayor of around between 300k to 500k people. The mayor will be easily controlled by central government which can give or withhold funds to the mayor as it likes. The Green, LD and independent group voted against the proposals but the Conservatives have a majority on the county council.

Free home survey to find out how best to stop heat leaks from your home

Suffolk Public Sector Leaders are offering home owners a free or discounted "retrofit" assessment. The only criteria is that your home's Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band must be below C. You can apply online at suffolkenergyassessment.co.uk You can check your home's EPC on gov.uk/find-energy-certificate. The approved retrofit assessor will identify the best measures for your home, eg insulation, draft proofing, ventilation repairs, heat pumps or solar panels. They will also give you a cost: benefit analysis of any measure recommended. It is free if your property is smaller than 98m² There is a maximum fee of £30 for larger homes.

Loft Insulation Offer for Suffolk Residents For the second year running, Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders are providing funding to help Suffolk residents make their homes warmer and save money on their energy bills by providing discounted loft insulation - an uninsulated home can lose up to a quarter of its heat through its roof. The Suffolk Loft Insulation Offer enables homeowners in Suffolk to receive a 50% discount (up to £200) and free delivery on orders of 200mm or 370mm wide eco-friendly thermal insulation rolls from High Loft, the UK's leading eco loft insulation brand. Last year, the project enabled the insulation of over 5,000m² of roofs in Suffolk, and this year the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership wants to double that figure. The offer is open to anyone in Suffolk and will only close once the allocated funding has been spent. Visit <https://highloft.co.uk/pages/suffolk-council-200-loft-insulation-contribution> and fill in the form to receive your discount code. **£15k offer for home efficiency loan opens.** The council's new £3m fund for interest-free loans to residents wishing to undertake home energy efficiency upgrades that was mentioned in last month's parish report is now active, and applications can now be made at <https://www.lendology.org.uk/warm-home-suffolk-loan>. Energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation, solar panels, batteries, glazing, or heat pumps are possible with loans from £2,000 to £15,000 to be repaid over a maximum of seven years at 0% interest

Appendix 2 – Report from District Councillor Bryn Hurren

Firstly the thorny issue of devolution and the possibility of unitary councils across Suffolk. The government has expressed a wish for this to happen and has invited

Suffolk councils to come up with a preferred model to enable this massive change to our local government, otherwise it seems it will be imposed upon us forthwith. It seems it is likely to be a version of one Suffolk with both the County and Districts being replaced by one authority in spring 2026 but a long way to go with this yet. I personally feel that the residents would be better served by a smaller split across our county, say 2 unitary councils. It is important that we lose the overlap and confusion from local government but still represent and work hard for every individual throughout our whole region, whatever that turns out to be. Despite my misgivings, it seems we are to be plunged into a mayoral system across two counties with a separate entourage of staff and its own huge budget which will negate any savings made and impose more political claptrap which will maybe get in the way of good decision making. The District Councils are due to have simultaneous meetings on 10th February to decide if we wish to go jointly forward with others to be part of this massive change in Local Government.

Happy to report that the Primrose Wood footpath in Boxford was made available before the holidays and we now have a clear strategy to enact the handing of the amenity land across to the woodland trust with full access for maintenance vehicles and pedestrian access as well. It is very hard to enforce planning matters now, due to lack of meaningful access to court time and long process's for anything to happen but carrot, stick and strong talking seems to have worked here and long may that continue.

Sadly and wrongly in my view, blanket car parking charges have been introduced across the District to charge for short stay as well as long term stay parking in the Babergh owned car parks, this is regrettable as well as short sighted in my view as this will cut down on the churn of customers who just want to pop in to pick up supplies or services. Our late appeal to the government to Zero rate the business rates of just over £300,000 on our car parks of course fell on deaf ears and they continue to rake the money in at our expense.

With the release of the governments house building targets BaberghMidSuffolk has made the decision to revisit our joint local plan with some urgency and immediate effect, with some 1500 homes now being needed across the joint district per year, we will have to bring forward some new sites quicker than anticipated and encourage a big uplift in affordable homes.

While I feel this is doable for the length of this parliament, any longer will be difficult as land supply will become scarce and harder to find under current designation. Also can materials be manufactured and craftsmen employed to carry out this massive uplift.

While the national growth picture remains slow and sluggish, we here in BMS are seeing some very green shoots emerging, with quite a few business planning applications, mainly for leisure, entertainment and tourist businesses, but then a job is a job I think. We have locally here the application at Perrywoods and for the Nethergate Brewery expansion at Long Melford, which will bring in employment opportunities, along with the cocoa factory at Glemsford. Also trying to engage and discuss planning matters with the new owners of the old Lucas C.A.V./Delphi site in Sudbury.

Further to my attendance at your meeting three days ago, I discovered that legal enforcement, had not in fact yet been instigated, this brought on a sharp exchange of letters between myself and planning and enforcement teams responsible for this matter. The matter has now been referred to leaders briefing tomorrow by my neighbouring councillor Deborah Saw, who as well as being Councill leader is also the DC for Kettlebaston. Very Handy. She like me is also very cross!!!

To bring you even more up to date, I have been told that the legal documents to enable the 5 LNH houses to be sold at a 20% discounted rate has been drawn up and the developer approached for approval. Also that the other 12 are being marketed on Rightmove for rent, can this be true?? Maybe someone very clever can check that out and confirm.

Just a gentle reminder that you are entitled to bid for around £350.00 from my locality budget. I have had contact with grants team and have forms ready for you now.