

MONKS ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 25th March 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. D Reynolds, welcomed the following Parish Councillors: Cllrs. J. Clarke; P. Derry; L. Grosset and D. Reynolds, as well as Mr. J. Pembroke, County Councillor; Mr. C. Arthey, District Councillor; Mrs. V. Waples, Clerk to the Council; Mr. B. Panten, Lavenham 1st Responder Team and 55 members of the village to the meeting.

The Chairman of the Parish Council opened the meeting by welcoming all those present and thanked them for their attendance.

1. Apologies for absence - the following apologies of absence were received and are to be recorded as accepted: Cllr. C. Eames; Mrs. D Bell and Mr. J Nahler.
2. Minutes of the meeting of 26th March 2012 - these were agreed by all eligible to vote as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman as such.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- i. Update on affordable housing scheme - the Clerk provided updated the meeting with an update on the 5 new houses that had been built along Back Lane and confirmed that whilst viewings had been done on the properties, they had not been in a very good state for viewing as externally the structure was finished but inside the walls were only studwork. It was however confirmed that there had been interest from local connections and that 2 houses had been allocated - one to a current resident of Monks Eleigh and one to a resident from Lindsey. Currently there were 3 houses being thought about as the prospective tenants needed time to reflect on the changes from private to social housing. If these three rejected the houses then they would be offered to neighbouring villages. It was noted that further viewings would only take place once internal works were near to completion and some landscaping had been done. The hand over date had now been pushed back to the end of April. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had been consulted over the naming of the new estate and had agreed upon the name 'Long Meadow' as it referred in part to the 1700s name of the meadow in which the houses were situated.
- ii. School Hall/Community Project (MESCH) - the Chair of MESCH reiterated the reasoning behind MESCH and the choice of the school site for the School Community Hall. She confirmed that £362,000 had been secured to date and that the two issues facing MESCH at the moment were: to finalize negotiations on the lease from SCC, which would then need to be approved by the Village Hall Trust and the village and to complete the tender process as new tenders would be required due to changes to the build project. She confirmed that building permission expired in October 2013 and that SCC were considering break clauses and the level of compensation should the break clause be enacted by the landlord. It was also mentioned that on March 18th MESCH had provided SCC with an updated business plan and that on 3rd April there would be a further meeting with SCC and VHT to discuss the terms of a loan for the balance of monies needed to commit to building the new School Community Hall within the grounds of the school. When questioned it was confirmed that there were currently 30 children on the school roll.
- iii. Update on the Provision of a Bus Service - it was confirmed that the Wednesday bus service had been replaced by two buses a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays travelling between Hadleigh, Bildeston and Sudbury. There was also a new service on a Wednesday that had commenced in December 2013 between Hadleigh and Bury St Edmunds and was operating via Monks Eleigh, Brent Eleigh, Preston St Mary, Cockfield, Felsham, Gedding and Bradfield St George. This would be on a trial basis until the end of March 2013. A plea was given that the service should be used or else the village(s) would lose it.
- iv. Maintenance of the roads - it was noted that a number of areas were currently scheduled for maintenance work vis-a-vis potholes.

4. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM CLLR. DI REYNOLDS ON THE PROVISION OF A DEFIBRILLATOR AND A TALK FROM MR. B. PANTEN - LAVENHAM 1ST RESPONDERS

Cllr. Reynolds made the meeting aware that Dr. G. Gould who had lived in the village, along with his late wife Leila, for over 30 years, had given, as a parting gift, monies to fund the purchase of a defibrillator for use by the parish of Monks Eleigh. The defibrillator would be mounted in a special wall cabinet and agreement had been given that this could be attached to the outside of the Community Shop wall. It was noted that the cabinet to house the defibrillator would cost £750.00. It was proposed and agreed by all present that the meeting would ask the Parish Council to consider, at its next full Parish Council Meeting, the funding and installation costs for the cabinet and that the order for both should be placed as soon as practically possible. The meeting asked that its official thanks be recorded to Dr. G. Gould and it was confirmed that there would be a presentation in Mrs. Gould's name along with a presentation ceremony once the unit was sited.

Mr. Panten from Lavenham 1st Responders, was thanked for attending the meeting and invited to give a short talk on the use of the defibrillator. He confirmed that the unit could be operated by a member of the general public and outlined the general procedure to be followed. It was preferable that people had some sort of training which could be provided by an approved trainer from the East of England Ambulance Trust. Mr. Panten was a 1st Responder which ensured that he had been trained up to a certain level which allowed him to respond to a 999 call and often meant that he could get there quicker than an ambulance. He had actually been called out to over 650 999 calls over the last 10 years. It was confirmed that the training to become a 1st Responder would take a couple of days and anyone interested in becoming a 1st Responder should contact Cllr. Reynolds who would pass details onto the East of England Ambulance Trust. Mr. Panten also confirmed that he was willing to attend a couple of evening meetings to train up those interested in the use of the defibrillator. It was also confirmed that if you acted in good faith and only did things that you were trained so to

do then you could not be sued for giving the wrong treatment.

5. POLICE REPORT - WEST BABERGH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

A written report had been received from the West Babergh Safer Neighbourhood Team - *a full copy can be seen at Appendix A.*

The meeting's attention was further drawn to the increase in domestic burglaries in particular in the vicinity of Lavenham and Long Melford and residents were urged not to be complacent. There was also an increase in oil thefts which were particularly high in rural areas.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR - MR. CLIVE ARTHEY

District Councillor, Mr. Clive Arthey was invited to present his report - *a full copy can be seen at Appendix A.*

When questioned, Mr. Arthey confirmed that whilst a number of services would be integrated between Babergh District council and Mid Suffolk District Council there would be no overall merger and that each would keep its own legal entity.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR - MR. JEREMY PEMBROKE

County Councillor, Mr. Jeremy Pembroke was invited to present his report - *a full copy can be seen at Appendix A.*

He also mentioned that this would be the last time that he addressed the Parish as he would not be standing at the forthcoming elections. He reiterated the County's commitment to plough an extra £3m into road repairs and given that 60% of the County's roads were either C or U roads it was a constant battle to ensure all roads receive the resources that were needed to ensure their suitability for all users. He finished his report by thanking the parishioners for their support and the Parish Council and the Clerk for the good work they carried out on behalf of their parish.

8. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN DONALD REYNOLDS AND CLLR. BARRY BAILEY ON THE PARISH'S EMERGENCY PLAN AND PROCEDURES

Cllrs. Reynolds and Bailey confirmed that there had been a very good response to the survey that had been circulated to all parishioners asking for details to include within a database to be accessed in cases of emergency. 100+ volunteers had come forward with a wealth of talent and had agreed to help with an emergency plan. It was confirmed that the plan covered many areas and contained a large amount of information and that the information contained within the plan and the manner in which that information was kept would conform to the Data Protection Act. Details as to who would be key people and how the plan would work and the trigger to activate the plan would be discussed with the Emergency Planning Officer at BDC but it should be noted that the plan was not a replacement for the Good Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The main priorities of the plan was to help those vulnerable members of the community and those in need of medical care. The plan had been drawn up and a copy had been sent to the Emergency Planning Officer for his comments. It was hoped to publish the actual plan within 6 - 8 weeks and a sanitised copy would be available from the website.

9. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR DONALD REYNOLDS

The Chairman, Mr. Donald Reynolds, commenced his report by thanking the County Councillor for his commitment to the Parish over the past 12 years during which he had kept the community up to scratch with matters concerning the county council. He wished him well in his retirement. He further thanked the District Councillor, who always turned up to the meetings and the Parish Councillors for their hard work and support during a very busy year and especially the Clerk without whom nothing would get done. He reported that the Council had held six scheduled meetings and a further three to consider planning applications. The Council had been consulted on 13 planning applications: 2 of which had been withdrawn; 2 had been refused against the Parish Council's recommendations; 7 had been approved in line with the Parish Council's recommendations and 2 were awaiting decisions. He confirmed that following the previous year's reduction in its portion of the Council Tax for 2011-2012 the Parish Council had not been able to reduce the precept for 2012-2013 and there would be a modest increase of 17pence per annum for a Band D Property. The Clerk was asked to explain the reasoning behind the increase which had come about due to changes to the tax base being introduced by the Government. The Parish Council had been advised to set a precept that took into account all known expenditure for the coming year with an inflationary increase only as there was a strong chance that automatic referendums would be introduced for the following year for those whose increases exceeded a certain level - this was unclear at the moment but further details were awaited. The Chairman continued by thanking all who had helped make the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations a success which had gone had been enjoyed by all who had attended. He confirmed that a number of items on the Playing Field had been refurbished and that a new log stack had been added for the older primary school age children. He thanked the Parish Council sub-committee that had been set up to respond to the cutting of the village's bus service and was pleased to report that some success had been achieved in the reinstatement of some services although this might be limited at this stage. With regards to the Parish Council's decision to apply for planning permission to build a village owned hall on village owned land he made the meeting aware that back in January 2012, the Parish Council appointed representative on the Village Hall Trust had identified a potential problem with regards to financing and lease issues. This was reported to the Parish Council and a sub-committee had been formed to look into the feasibility of building a parish owned village hall on parish owned land. The sub-committee reported that it would be possible to build a village hall, similar to that at Offton, in the right hand corner of the playing field with a separate entrance and footpaths. Initial costings had been undertaken and it was believed that a hall could be built for £325,000. This sub-committee had now been dissolved and a new one set up to take the plans forward to the planning stage. If the Parish Council was successful in gaining planning permission it would then be put back to the

village as to which of the two plans (the School Community Hall on school owned land or the Village Hall on parish owned land) the village preferred.

He reminded all that the Parish Council meetings were open to all to attend and that there was a Public Forum in which members of the public could raise items of issue direct to the Council.

10. PUBLIC FORUM

the following questions and comments were raised within the public forum:

- i. Building Contract for the new Monks Eleigh School Community Hall - why had this not been discussed and the clauses ironed out? It was confirmed that this would not be up for discussion until the lease had been signed.
- ii. MESCH - what funds were in place? It was confirmed that currently the funds raised to date totalled £362,000. £185,000 of this had been contributed by SCC and that there was a meeting to be held on 4th April to discuss a possible loan to the Village Hall Trust for the MESCH project from SCC. It was confirmed that the Village Hall Trust would need to not only discuss the loan amongst itself but would also need to revert to the village for approval to take such a loan and hand it over to another organisation.
- iii. If the MESCH project failed and did not go ahead would the £185,000 be able to be allocated to another project in the village for the provision of a village hall? It was confirmed that this money from SCC was only for the MESCH project.
- iv. How had expenditure totalling £63,000 identified within the accounts for MESCH been spent? And if it had been spent on plans and surveys etc why was there still no lease after seven years? It was confirmed that all these details had been available at previous and the next MESCH AGM and that some delays had been due to ongoing discussions over the break clause in the lease and the S106 restriction on the Village Hall Site.
- v. Were any monies available within the MESCH project transferable to the Plan B project for a Village Hall should the MESCH project fail? No-one from MESCH was prepared to answer this question at this point in time.
- vi. How much had the feasibility study cost for the Alternative Plan that had been undertaken by the Parish Council to ascertain whether it should apply for planning permission for a Village Hall for the Community on the Recreational Field? It was confirmed that it had cost the parish £0 as all the costs had been borne by private donators.
- vii. Would Plan B impact on the actual playing field? It was confirmed that Plan B would be built in the northern part of the field and would not impact on any of the provisions currently located on the playing field.
- viii. When would the planning application for Plan B be submitted if the feasibility study had indicated that this was a viable project? It was confirmed that the planning application would be submitted within 3 weeks and that the target time for a decision once submitted and all details verified would be eight weeks.
- ix. It was mentioned that the figure quoted for the possible sale of the Village Hall was overestimated at £250,000 and that in reality the building trade would price the hall at around £150,000. If the build project for Plan B was £325,000 from where would the remaining monies come? It was confirmed that the balance of monies would be raised by funding sources open to the Parish Council and that the Sales Agents for the Village Hall Site maintained that with a variation to the S106 clause £250,000 for the Village Hall Site was a reasonable figure.
- x. A member of the Youth Club Committee mentioned that he was disappointed that the Millennium Green Trustees had not given support to the Youth Club in its request for facilities at the United Reform Church. In response a Millennium Green Trustee stated that the trust document was very clear as to the fact that the Trustees could not change the area and build paths and lights on part of the Millennium Green.

There being no further questions or comments from those present the Chairman of the Parish Council declared the meeting closed and thanked all for coming and for their contributions.

BABERGH DISTRICT

Report To Monks Eleigh Parish Council For APC Monday 25th of March 2013

This report covers the period from 20th March 2012 to 20th March 2013. During this time there have been 14 crimes recorded that affect the village of Monks Eleigh. This compares to 6 crimes for the same period in the previous year

BREAKDOWN OF CRIME

Burglary Dwelling	-	0 reports	(The same as the previous year)
Burglary Other Building	-	3 Reports	(increase from previous year)
Vehicle crime	-	2 Reports	(Increase from previous year)
Assaults and public order	-	3 Reports	(Increase from previous year)
Theft	-	1 Reports	(Increase from previous year)
Criminal Damage	-	0 Reports	(The same as the from previous year)
Other Miscellaneous	-	5 Reports	(Increase from previous year)

(Possession of Drugs, Produce of Controlled Drug and Malicious communications)

If you have any information that would be of interest regarding this or any other offences, please let Babergh West SNT know or contact Crimestoppers anonymously.

There are many ways in which you can help yourselves not becoming a victim of crime. If you would like to have a tailored crime prevention survey for you, your home, vehicle or business premise, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Babergh West safer neighbourhood team. In addition to this there is a website called www.immobilise.com, where you can register your property for FREE and improve your chances of getting it back if it is lost or stolen.

PCSO 3226 J Fudge
PC 704 Horton
Babergh West SNT
16 February 2015
New Non Emergency Telephone: 101
baberghwest.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk
www.suffolk.police.uk



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR CLIVE ARTHEY **2013 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MONKS ELEIGH**

25th March 2013

Integration and Funding.

Last year I told you about the integration of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council services under one Chief Executive. The last twelve months has seen that process continuing towards full integration with a shared staffing structure and annual savings of £1.8m across both councils (equivalent to revenue savings of 9%). Changes in the way Government funds councils has led to significant reductions in Babergh's 'Formula Grant'. However, we have been able to qualify for some additional funding such as Council Tax Freeze Grant and New Homes bonus by meeting certain criteria. From 1st April we will also be able to retain a proportion of additional business rates generated by growth.

Development Plan.

Babergh's Core Strategy outlines growth in the district over the next 20 years. The 'examination in public' stage has just been completed and any proposed changes will go out to consultation before the Core Strategy is adopted later this year. You will remember that 40% of housing growth is proposed in 'core' and 'hinterland' villages and that Monks Eleigh is classified as a 'hinterland village' where some growth may be appropriate to help satisfy housing need and sustain the local community and its facilities.

Local parish issues.

Local Needs Housing for the village and a new Community Hall are both agenda items tonight and I don't wish to add

anything other than to wish you well in your ambition to provide better facilities for your community.

Suffolk Waste Partnership.

Work on the Energy from Waste plant at Blakenham is progressing well and is on schedule to take residual waste by the end of 2014. It will produce electricity, re-usable heat and recyclable bottom ash, ensuring less than 5% of our waste goes to landfill. We regularly carry out waste analysis which has identified recyclable material in the black bins. This has led to the recent introduction of textiles collections and the current plastics initiative which includes leaflets to every household. Please also view our short film 'Plastics - Know Your Place' at www.youtube.com/suffolkrecycling (especially if you remember the 1950s!).

Council Tax.

This year there is no increase in Council Tax for Babergh, Suffolk Police or the County Council.

Finally, thank you to your Parish Council, your clerk Vicky, and all of you.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR JEREMY PEMBROKE **2013 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MONKS ELEIGH**

Council Tax is frozen... again.

There will be no increase in council tax this year. This is the third year in a row that the county council has frozen its share of council tax. These three years of 0% increases follow on from two years which saw record-low increases.

Front-line services protected in budget savings.

Alongside the freeze in council tax, the council voted through a budget for the next 12 months that will achieve savings of £25million. We are doing this as a result of reductions to our grant from the government, together with on-going increases in the demands on our services, and the costs of producing them.

The savings will be achieved by reducing management and back-office costs, cutting bureaucracy and working in new, innovative and more efficient ways.

No increase in council tax for the next four years.

If the Conservatives are re-elected to run the county council in May this year, there will be no increase in council tax for the next four years.

During this year's budget debate, Conservative Leader Mark Bee announced that the number one Conservative pledge at the forthcoming county elections would be a four-year freeze in council tax.

A secure future for Suffolk's Libraries.

Responsibility for the day-to-day running of the county's library services as transferred to Suffolk Libraries Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) at the beginning of August last year.

All Suffolk's 44 libraries and the mobile, school and prison services now come under the direct control of the IPS - a first in the country - which works in partnership with local library groups to support and expand the service.

Raising the bar in education.

SCC has launched an ambitious project to drive up educational standards across the county and help ensure young people in Suffolk have the best possible start in life.

'Raising the Bar' was launched last summer with a conference involving secondary school head teachers, colleges and business leaders, aimed at focusing our collective energy into driving up attainment and employability of young people in Suffolk.

'Raising the bar' will aim to develop a collective understanding of the key priorities for Suffolk with regard to student attainment; raise awareness of employment opportunities in the Suffolk economy and provide an opportunity for employers and educationalists in the Suffolk economy and develop a clear plan for raising the bar for attainment in Suffolk.

Positive early signs for SOR

Schools in areas which were re-organized as part of our Schools Organization Review saw huge gains last year in SATs results at key stage 2, with up to 19% improvement in some subjects.

Those in Haverhill and Lowestoft, which were in the first phase of the move from three to two tiers, witnessed a 12% improvement in writing and 6% in maths - which, in each instance, represents double the improvement rate seen across the rest of Suffolk.

Suffolk's Residential Care Homes to benefit from £60m investment

Proposals developed together with Care UK will see SCC's existing 16 council-run residential homes replaced by ten new state-of-the-art homes. These will deliver the very latest in design and technology, with the aim of providing the best possible care for Suffolk people.

The 16 existing run council-run homes were built up to 50 years ago, and the cost to the county council of bringing those up to modern standards would be simply prohibitive.

At the same time, the number of older people in the county aged 75 and over is expected to increase by 85% by 2030 and the number of older people with dementia is expected to increase by 100% in the same period. As a result the new facilities which will see the number of specialist beds increase to 680 represent the best way we can continue to support vulnerable older people in the years ahead.

A Growth Strategy for Suffolk

In February this year, SCC together with partners from around the county, launched the Suffolk Growth Strategy. The strategy is designed to create the fertile environment in which the private sector can develop the economic growth, jobs and increased prosperity that Suffolk needs.

The county council has been working with borough and district councils, as well as local businesses from sectors across Suffolk's economy to produce the strategy, which will now have a detailed delivery timetable for the coming years. At the same time a new official 'invest in Suffolk' website was launched - an easily accessible site for businesses looking to invest in the county - www.investinsuffolk.com. A new award made up of a team of professional to provide a single point of contact for investors was also launched.

Broadband for everyone in Suffolk is on the way.

By 2015, every property in Suffolk will be guaranteed broadband speeds of at least 2 megabits per second (Mbps) with 85% receiving superfast coverage.

At a special meeting of the cabinet in September, it was announced that the county council would be working in partnership with BT to deliver the Better Broadband for Suffolk programme. By 2015, 9 out of 10 Suffolk properties will be connect to fibre-based broadband with speeds of at least 10Mbps.

Saving Suffolk's libraries for the future

Suffolk's libraries have been set on a secure footing for the future, following the decision of the council to move the management of the library network to a new operating model.

The Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) is now established and will enable us to retain our library network, working in partnership with local communities, while reducing the budget by around 30% over three years, from approximately £9m to £6m.

Official Start of Construction of Suffolk's energy-from waste facility

In May last year, the official construction got underway of an energy-from-waste facility for Suffolk.

After many years in the planning, the site will open in December 2014, diverting 252,000 tonnes of waste a year from environmentally damaging landfill sites. The waste will be used to create enough electricity for 30,000 homes. Not only will this help towards our mission to make Suffolk the Greenest County, it will also save Suffolk council tax-payers around £350million over the next 25 years.

Suffolk shows it appreciation of our armed forces

In October, the county council, together with the district and borough councils, community and armed forces leaders signed a Community Covenant - pledging support for all the armed forces and their families who are based in Suffolk.

Part of a national scheme to strengthen the ties between our armed forces and the local communities in which they are based, the Community Covenant re-enforces the strong bonds between the people of Suffolk and the military personnel and their families who live here.

In practical terms, each organization will look to provide support for the armed forces across a whole range of local service and aspects of their lives, as well as raising public awareness of the issues face by those who have entered service life.