

Minutes of the Cavendish Annual Parish Meeting – 22nd May 2019

The Annual Parish Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm in Cavendish Memorial Hall under the Chair of Cllr Halliday.

Present: Parish Councillors Malcolm Halliday, Shannon Craig, Annette Williamott, Rosemary Silver and Edward Gittins

Also present: 9 Parishioners. In attendance Chris Turner (Clerk).

Cllr Halliday welcomed those present and made a short speech.

Apologies received from Parish Councillors Rowe and Rudd.

Apologies from County Councillor Mary Evans and our three new District Councillors. All were attending the first full District Council meeting.

Minutes of the meeting in May 2018 were accepted as correct, Proposed Cllr Craig, Seconded Cllr Gittins.

County Councillor Mary Evans had sent her annual report from Suffolk CC. This was read out by Cllr. Halliday. See attached below.

Various representatives from local groups made reports detailing activities during the last year.

Bowls Club - Annette Williamott

Sports Club - Chris Turner

Cavendish Community Council - Mike Ward

Illuminators - Ray Burdett

Cavendish Speedwatch - Stuart Letten

Cavendish Magazine - Nick Young

Cavendish Pre -school - Gill Hawkins

Cavendish Care - Pat Verrinder

Cavendish Tuesday Club - Written Report

Cavendish Local History Society - Nick Young

Village Shop - Written Report

Stour Astro Soc - Glynn Parsley

The chairman gave an overview of the last 12 months and what the council was hoping to achieve in the forthcoming year. He followed this with a financial overview for 2018/19.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

Reports where available are held with the minutes.

C Turner-Clerk

Dear All

I am very sorry not to be at your APM tonight – I will be at the first annual meeting of the new West Suffolk Council. Here is my report:

Generally, Suffolk's schools have done well again over the past year.

Suffolk has risen in national league tables for students in achieving the standard GCSE pass in English and Maths.

In January Suffolk County Council's Cabinet decided we needed over 850 more specialist education places in Suffolk. This is to cope with the expected 18% increase in demand and to educate our SEN children in-county.

The demand for specialist education places in Suffolk is rising rapidly due to the county's population growth, advances in medicine, and the increasing complexity of specialist needs.

The proposals include three new special schools and 36 specialist units attached to existing mainstream schools. This is likely to cost £45.6m.

Yesterday we had the fantastic news that the Ofsted inspection of Suffolk Children's social services earlier in the year has resulted in a judgement of Outstanding – there are only 8 other authorities across the country that have achieved the highest rating. It is a great achievement considering Suffolk was only graded as "adequate" six years ago.

On 14 February 2019, Suffolk County Council we set our budget and this year we will be spending £10m a week. Since 2011-12 Council has made over £260 millions of savings

Recognising the unrelenting rise in demand and the complexity of support required by vulnerable children and adults in Suffolk, the Council are significantly increasing spending in these two top priority areas.

The net budget for Adult and Community Services (ACS) will rise to £243m and the net budget for Health, Wellbeing and Children's Services (HWCS) will rise to £147m. This is an increase of just over £14 million for ACS and HWCS. ACS and HWCS will account for 75% of the total spend in 2019/2020 – three in every four pounds the Council spends.

The fourth pound covers everything else that we do

Fire and rescue, emergency planning, archaeology, archives and records, roads and transport.

As you probably aware there was a change of leadership at SCC last May and I was appointed deputy leader and cabinet member for highways, transport and rural affairs

There are many challenges - we have 4,000 miles of roads to maintain and around 3,500 miles of footpaths and frankly not enough money to do all we would like to do. Vehicle Excise duty and fuel levy – charges raised by Government on all motorists raise £35b a year – how much do you think comes back to highways authorities - £1bn. It is shared between councils and Highways England.

To qualify for Government grant we have to show evidence for what we do so we have developed what's called a Highways Matters Operational Plan (HMOP) which describes what our levels of intervention are

My view is that it is too complicated there are times when it seems that we are more concerned with meeting the HMOP than dealing with a problem. We have been running a pilot project out of the Ipswich depot to simplify the criteria for filling potholes, so we do more in one area together. The pilot has been very successful. We will now be applying it across the county so in future we will be fixing smaller, shallower potholes than previously – 200mm diameter and 40mm depth.

I know the next big problem to tackle is the way road closures are organised and managed. Signage and diversions are confusing and too often we come across signs saying Road Closed and it isn't. Too often we come across signs saying Road Closed Ahead with no indication of how far ahead. We are working with the utility companies and their traffic management sub-contractors to make improvements.

Locally, the Stour Valley Lorry Action group have supplied a huge wealth of information to Suffolk Highways in support of the experimental Traffic Regulation Order to ban HGVs on the A1092 unless they have deliveries/collections on the route. If there is any information that Cavendish PC or residents can provide do please forward it to me.

You will have seen the yellow lines have been re-instated outside the Paris Church ready for the Civil Enforcement of Parking. SCC has taken the new step of changing the county wide Traffic Regulation Order on parking to set an exception outside churches that the principal vehicle at a service – for example the Bridal Car or a Hearse will be able to park on yellow lines outside a church if there is no other suitable parking nearby. This exemption didn't exist previously.

Yours with kind regards, Mary Evans