

Minutes of Cavendish Parish Council EGM on 23rd September 2020

Meeting held via ZOOM

Attendees: Parish Councillors Malcolm Halliday, Shannon Craig, Annette Williamott, Ted Gittins, and Danny Rowe, Chris Turner (Clerk) and Sunila Osborne (Community Action Suffolk) - Apologies - Cllr Rudd

The meeting was called as decisions were needed on the two items on the agenda.

1. Discussion on the possibility of a housing survey in the village on affordable homes.

Sunila Osborne gave a presentation on the proposed survey for Exceptional Development for Affordable Housing. Cavendish is a village that is amongst others felt to perhaps need more affordable houses and we have been asked whether we were willing to partake in the survey. They have been looking at villages with a population below 3000.

The survey would be a 3-part questionnaire, with part 1 asking for the householder's details and their opinion as to whether they felt there was a need in the village for more of these properties. The survey would be anonymous. Part 2 and 3 would enquire of the housing needs of the houseowner and ask questions about people living in the house and whether you might wish to down-size, or move, or your children might wish to continue to live in the village when they leave home etc. The cost to the village for the survey is £1.75 per questionnaire posted and a further £1.75 if the reply was sent by post rather than inputted direct by the householder. Take up is expected to be around 40% with perhaps 50% of the replies being done on-line. Overall cost approx. £1000 to the Parish Council.

If we decided to proceed with the process the Parish Council will need to set up a working party of 3 or 4 councillors and they would liaise with Sunila. There would be a need for good publicity so everyone in the village knew what was happening and why. The survey would be available for about 3 weeks before it was closed and then the answers would be analysed.

There were a couple of questions about "key workers" and evidence of need which Sunila answered. It was felt that we needed to see a copy of the questionnaire, and also needed the numbers on the housing list who wanted to live in the village, to give some evidence of need, before we could decide whether or not to proceed.

Sunila then left the meeting in order that it could be discussed amongst the Councillors. There were mixed feelings and the decision, which needs to be made within the next few weeks, could only be done when the information requested above was received. We did ask about deferring our decision to perhaps next year when we could include the cost in the budget. This however could involve extra costs as currently we do not need to pay for the analysis or Sunila's time. We could have a survey for free if we appointed a housing society to do one however, they would also build the houses which may mean less "affordable" ones and more retail properties

2. It was approved unanimously that we would support Paul Bishop, Chair of Clare, to become a board member of SALC.

AOB

Cllr. Halliday will put an article on the village Facebook page about the timetable etc. for the wildflower area.

Mention was made of the new restrictions under Covid 19 and there will be new restrictions for the village hall.