

Minutes of Parish Council meeting on 8th January 2020

Meeting held at 7.30 pm in the Garrett Room, Memorial Hall

Attendees: Parish Councillors Malcolm Halliday, Shannon Craig, Annette Williamott, Danny Rowe, Ted Gittins and Trish Rudd.

District Councillor Jim Meikle, 2 Parishioners and Chris Turner - Clerk.

Cllr Halliday welcomed those present and opened the meeting. Apologies for absence received from PC Rosemary Silver, DC's Karen Richardson and Marion Rushbrooke and CC Mary Evans.

Open Forum - There were a number of issues raised. From the last meeting it was felt that the cost of "Cavendish" signs was prohibitive at £1000+. This has yet to be agreed and we are looking at alternatives. In addition, comment received, that if the lorry ban was to work it needed enforcement, this we hope will be the case. The village green was left with a number of holes following the bonfire night, this had actually been looked at and the majority filled in, we are to have another look to ensure there is no danger to users of the green. Rabbits are also a problem. Parking in the village is carried out on both sides of the main road causing a bottle neck, this does slow down the traffic but does cause problems for pedestrians if the pavements are used for parking. District Councillor Jim Meikle commented that the only way to stop the parking was double yellow lines on the High Street.

Comment made about blocked drains in Melford Road we are to remind 'Highways' that this has been outstanding for a while. The gullies are also blocked, this isn't helped by the grass cuttings being blown into the road when the grass is being cut and also straw falling from lorries. We are to see whether we can get this cleared by our street cleaner.

DC Jim Meikle's report - Jim started by saying there are to be signs placed on the greensward at the corner of Peacocks Road and Close. We have received many complaints about the parking of vehicles there and the mess left. This is not Parish land and the District Council are taking action. Those responsible will be getting a letter from Havebury Housing. The Independent group on the District Council have banded together to form the opposition on the Council which enables the group to have more Independent Councillors sitting on Committees, Jim will be on the "Overview and Scrutiny" committee.

CC Mary Evans written report - This was read out by Cllr Halliday and below is the report received:

The Clare Community Hub is now open in Clare library every Monday morning from 10am to 1pm and people can drop in to seek advice from the CAB or Haverhill Reach or they can book an appointment.

Suffolk County Council is working to create nearly 900 new places for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). Most will be in specialist units attached to mainstream schools in the county, but the programme does include building new special schools. The first tranche of nearly 200 new places will be ready for the new school year starting next September with places being added at schools across Suffolk including in Haverhill and Newmarket.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has been rated "Good" for its effectiveness, efficiency and how well it leads and manages its staff. The Service has undergone its most comprehensive, independent inspection in many years and has been rated as "Good" for its effectiveness, efficiency and how well it leads and manages its staff.

The findings by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), who inspected Suffolk's service last autumn. Inspectors reviewed every aspect of the service, from how we respond to 999 emergencies, to looking at policies and interviewing a wide range of firefighters and staff. The report praised many aspects of the service, particularly how well it collaborates with other emergency services and agencies, how it responds to fires and other emergencies, how it ensures fairness and promotes diversity, and the financially sound way the service is run.

We are proposing to increase the service's budget by £500,000 plus inflation next year. This increase of close to £1m will help contribute to delivering on the improvements identified in the report, alongside our existing plans for investment.

HMICFRS has now completed its first inspection of all 45 fire and rescue services across the country. These will continue to happen regularly, and it is proposed that Suffolk will be inspected again in 2021.

HMICFRS will also be publishing its 'State of the Nation' report summarising the findings from the inspections of all 45 fire and rescue services in England in the coming weeks.

A £3million pot has been formed to fund projects such as new speed cameras, electric charging points or new cycle lanes.

On 16 December, Suffolk County Council's Finance Cabinet Member, Gordon Jones, unveiled the Suffolk 2020 fund - a one-year fund which organisations can bid for a share of. Bids between £50,000 and £500,000 will be accepted within 100 days of the new financial year and will be for Suffolk-wide projects.

Councillor Jones said nothing is ruled out, so the fund could be used for schemes such as new cycle lanes, electric charging points, road safety schemes, automatic number plate recognition cameras, tree planting or other projects.

Meeting closed for Parish Meeting.

1. Minutes of last meeting - These were approved as a true record and duly signed by Cllr. Halliday.
2. Clerks Report - It was reported that the cemetery has now been cleared by our contractor who removed about 70 tonnes of soil from the cemetery edge nearest Greys Close. This means that hearses will be able to drive up nearer the extension. The clerk felt that the new extension should now be used for future graves to allow easier access.
3. Finance - Accounts to 31st December accepted to be in order and were duly signed by the chair. The minutes of the Finance Committees precept meeting had been circulated to all Councillors. The precept had been suggested at £26,900 net an increase of 12.86%. The reasons for the increase had been circulated and it was agreed Cllr. Williamott would pen a note to the Village Magazine informing each reader. This would mean an increase for a Parish Band D householder who paid by direct debit over 10 months of 74p per month.
4. Report by chair, Cllr. Halliday - He confirmed that we had made a response to the planning proposal SHELLA, pointing out that we felt both areas chosen for possible future development had a number of negatives. Our policy documents which had been agreed previously have now been uploaded onto the village website. The steps by the bottle bank opposite the church need to be refurbished and made deeper and perhaps a guide rail and larger slabs. Groundwork will be needed, and we will discuss with a local builder. The cost of the traffic order relating to lorries has been budgeted over a 3-year period to avoid a large rise in the Council Tax. The Memorial Hall refurbishment is continuing with the porch currently being repaired and this will be followed by the rear gable which is in need of repair. This should finish the work on the outside of the building, and we can then look at relaying the front car park. The Health and Safety aspect of the Memorial Hall has been passed over to Cllr Halliday, our thanks go to David Kirkman who has been dealing with this for a long time. 'The Greys', the property abutting the village green has access to the property, however this has become badly damaged and Cllrs Halliday and Craig have had a look at the problem with a local contractor and we have received a quote for £938 net + vat. The owner of the property has offered to pay ½ and the Parish Council will pay the balance. The meeting agreed that we should proceed and advise our contractor.
5. Reports by Councillors - Councillor Ted Gittins has been looking at who owns the 2 areas of land that was suggested we use for a wildflower area. These being Pentlow Drive and Peacocks Close/Road. No decision yet been made. He is also seeing what can be done about the village signs, perhaps only one by the bridge by Pentlow Drive. Additionally, he is in touch with West Suffolk regarding planning matters. Councillor Annette Williamott is to write an article re precept, as above and has been to look at the new cemetery gate which requires a coat of paint/hammerite. Councillor Danny Rowe reported on allotments, now all let, and cemetery,

more work required. The emptying of dog bins had been an issue, now cleared.

6. Planning issues - There have been very few planning notices since our previous meeting. One related to a tree at 'The Greys' (DC/19/2333/TCA), no objection, and a tree at Stradbroke House (DC/20/0002/TCA), no objection. There is an appeal on a refusal of planning at 'Rawhide'(AP/20/0002/HAS). We had no initial objection, but it was turned down by West Suffolk DC.

7. Tree Donation - Following the felling of a tree in the cemetery the occupier of the property who was affected by the tree has offered to pay for another tree to be planted. It was agreed that a further tree could be planted in the cemetery extension between the 2 trees currently there. We need advice of the suitability of the species to be planted, Cllr Williamott to look into.

8. Correspondence/AOB – None.

Meeting finished at 8.50

Next meeting on 11th March.

C R Turner-Clerk

Payments in period, authorised by Parish Council

13/11/19	Haven Power Adj 2/9/19		41.09
14/11/19	Haven Power	d/d	0.00
16/11/19	W Suffolk DC re Waste Hall	d/d	46.38
ditto	ditto re Allotments	d/d	23.19
13/11/19	A/c Adj		0.07
ditto	People and Design	797	57.88
ditto	C.Turner re Nov	798	456.50
ditto	D Kirkman Inv 2/3	799	226.00
27/11/19	D Kirkman Inv 4/5	800	233.56
ditto	Chubb re Hall	d/d	19.74
06/12/19	P Crawford re Cemetery	801	990.00
ditto	J Murcott Hall Cleaning	802	119.74
16/12/19	W Suffolk DC re Waste Hall	d/d	46.38
ditto	ditto re Allotments	d/d	23.19
21/12/19	Haven Power	d/d	179.09
ditto	Maestro tree Svcs re Cemetery	803	490.00
ditto	PRS/PPL Ltd re hall music	804	177.26
ditto	Water Rates Hall	805	226.52
ditto	D Kirkman Inv 6/7	806	178.60
ditto	HMRC re PAYE to 31/12	807	328.80
ditto	C Turner Dec 19	808	456.50
31/12/19	J Murcott Hall Cleaning	809	128.99
	Total		4449.48