



Cavendish Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 8th November 2023 held
at the Cavendish Memorial Hall

Councillors present: Malcolm Halliday (Chair), Nicky Welch, Edward Gittins, Nicholas Vosper, Mark Freeman, Annette Williamott and Richard Dawkins.

Also present: Chris Turner (Clerk), Kay Garner (Clerk), District Councillors Marion Rushbrook, Nick Clarke and 5 members of the public.

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from SSC Councillor Bobby Bennett and District Councillor Karen Richardson. (Reports attached)

2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensation requests. No councillors declared an interest in any items on the agenda. No dispensation requests were received.

3. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27th September 2023. It was resolved that the minutes were correct. The Chair signed them.

4. Public Session (20 minutes)

The following issues were raised:

- Flooding. The recent flooding caused damage to many properties in the village. The Chair on behalf of the Cavendish Parish Council stated they were sorry to hear how those parishioners had been badly affected by the flooding. There followed a long discussion regarding who is responsible for maintaining the water ways and land drainage. It was noted that it is not the Parish Council it is a combination of the Suffolk County Council, the Environmental Agency, landowners and water/sewage companies. Nick Clarke joined the discussion to inform them he had visited many parishioners in the area affected by flooding and would be spearheading an initiative to create positive action to try and prevent future issues. He also advised anyone that has been affected or seen any flooding to report this using the Suffolk Highways reporting tool. This was also emphasised by Bobby Bennett in an email. This will ensure that all areas affected are included in the review of any action to be taken. There has also been correspondence received from a parishioner that there is a plan to set up an Emergency Community Support Team.
- Lorry Restrictions regarding the A1092 Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO). Nick Clarke advised that despite Essex County Council not participating Suffolk may still be able to enforce theirs. He is investigating the best way forward.
- Speeding. This is an ongoing issue and no new resolutions are proposed.

5. Finance

- a) External Audit. This has not been completed despite the Clerk (Chris Turner) providing all the figures in a timely manner to them.



b) Financial Report September/October 2023

This was approved and signed by the Chair.

c) Precept 2023/2034

Additional expenditure to be considered: Refurbishment of the Memorial Hall Kitchen Floor. Replacement of the Play area equipment located on the village green. Finance Committee Meeting will be held in November. (Date to be confirmed)

d) Donation requests received from EACH (East Anglian Childrens Hospice) and CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) it was agreed to donate f100 to each.

e) Allotment fees and Cemetery Fees. These will be reviewed by the Finance committee.

6. Councillors Report

Annette Williamott read out an email from Gigaclear requesting digging up a corner of the green located near the village pond/Waver House. This was to enable the connection of fibre to The Maltings. Annette to reply asking to confirm that they would using the existing BT ducting under the road to do the necessary work due to concern for the water course to the pond. Action: Annette Williamott.

Mark Freeman reported that he is still liaising with Suffolk Highways regarding the post that is now redundant next to the new speed sign.

No other Councillors had reports in addition to comments made in these minutes.

7. Chair Report

The Chair discussed the (Monthly) Safety report regarding the Play Area. Two rotting posts need replacement/repair. There is a possible need for new play equipment. Action: Chair. This has been added to the Finance Committee Agenda (Point 5)

8. Highway Signs

Bobby Bennett had advised by email that a small amount of money was available to repair or replace damaged signs.

Action: Mark Freeman and Richard Dawkins to inspect each of the signs in the village and compile a report of any that need repairing or replacing.

9. Planning

a) DC/23/1576/HH 17 Pentlow Drive — Garage Conversion

This was carried over from previous meeting. No objections as other properties in this area have also carried out these alterations.

b) AP/23/0048/HAS - Fence

This is now an Appeal. The Parish Council concerns will be re-affirmed.

Action: Edward Gittins

c) DC/23/1773/HH & DC/23/1774/LB The Thatched Cottage

Appears to be well-designed, subordinate and acceptable but site visit is required to confirm. Action: Edward Gittins and Malcolm Halliday.

10. Flooding

This was discussed during the public session. Please see (4) above. More details are available on the website.



11. Signs on the Village Green

A request was made by the organiser of the Christmas Tree Festival being held in the Church to erect a sign in the shape of a Christmas Tree to advertise this festival. It was agreed that permission be given. Action: Chair

12. Community Orchard

A parishioner asked who was managing this. At present this is a vacant role. The council is seeking a replacement.

Edward Gittins suggested a harvest day be arranged next year for the villagers to make full use of all the available fruit. All in agreement.

13. Correspondence

A parishioner has asked to purchase and permanently site a Tommy Soldier Statue on the village green. At his cost. Councillors to individually consider this. Action: All parish councillors.

14. Any other business for noting or including on the next agenda on Wednesday 10th January 2024.

Finance: External Audit

Tommy Soldier Statue (see 13)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Signed 

(Chair) Dated... 10/1/24



Payments Made: September 1st 2023 to October 31st 2023

Date:	To Whom:	Cheque No:	Amount:
12/09/23	SALC re Audit fee	3216	313.20
ditto	Westcotec re SID	3217	4584.00
13/09/23	Premier skip hire allots	3218	258.00
ditto	Speedwatch costs	3219	11.52
19/09/23	Mem Hall TT table	3220	249.98
14/09/23	W Suffolk DC re bins	d/d	53.72
ditto	ditto	d/d	35.78
ditto	ditto	d/d	26.86
26/09/23	B Gas re electric	d/d	83.64
27/09/23	Xmas Tree Festival	3221	17.00
02/10/23	Safety Goggles	3222	12.88
ditto	Clerks Wages Sept 23	3223	538.92
04/10/23	J Munro re st cleaning etc	3224	420.00
ditto	Anglian Water re hall	3225	404.09
ditto	W Suffolk DC re Grass cutting	3226	8225.62
ditto	J Murcott Hall cleaning	3227	219.42
ditto	HMRC re PAYE to 30/9/23	3228	384.60
07/10/23	M J Maynard re hall elects	3229	141.60
ditto	JRB Enterprise re Dog Bags	3230	88.97
ditto	SALC re Payroll fee	3231	54.00
ditto	Waders for Pond	3232	29.99
15/10/23	W Suffolk DC re bins	d/d	53.72
ditto	ditto	d/d	35.78
ditto	ditto	d/d	26.86
25/10/23	B Gas re electric	d/d	93.59
27/10/23	J Munro re st cleaning etc	3234	210.00
ditto	Void Cheque	3235	0.00
ditto	VOID Cheque	3233	0.00
ditto	Warm Wednesday Costs	3236	99.99
31/10/23	Clerks Wages Oct 23	3237	538.92
ditto	Chubb F & S	d/d	19.74

M. Mulvey

16/1/24

Cavendish Parish Council
Councillor Bobby Bennett
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County Councillor for Clare Division
07813551959
Bobby.bennett@suffolk.gov.uk



**Suffolk County Council Report
October 2023**



Dear All,

Please see below for your information.

Kind regards
Bobby

[New and independent fire control centre gives the best deal for Suffolk](#)

A new fire control centre fitted with state-of-the-art communications for mobilising and managing Suffolk's firefighters would be in the best interests of the county, a report to councillors says.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) announced in June it would be withdrawing from the shared control room arrangement in place since 2011 with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire and Rescue Service, based in Huntingdon.

The report recommending approval to Suffolk County Council's Cabinet, due to sit on Tuesday September 12, says fire control would now be brought back into the county by the end of 2024.

The report says the move is necessary because a project to replace the current mobilising technology agreed by both services in 2019, is currently two years overdue.

In addition, the French company providing the new technology entered "Redressment Judiciaire" a form of financial administration which resulted in the freezing of its assets and liabilities. If the company comes out of administration, it will remain with its liabilities to pay.



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SFRS concluded the non-delivery and missed milestones by the new technology provider, together with its financial predicament, means continuing with the current IT mobilising project presents an unacceptable risk to firefighters and the public.

This risk should be mitigated as soon as possible by Suffolk having its own control room using tried and tested systems.

However, the current system continues to mobilise the emergency response effectively, keeping Suffolk

An initial capital investment of £1.588m would be required for project delivery over three years. Additional revenue service of £1.615m annually will need to be provided to support the operating cost of the control room.

[Inflation, SEND school transport and care costs contribute to council's predicted overspend](#)

Inflation, school transport for children with SEND, and looking after children in care are the main factors for SCC forecasting to spend £22.3m over its £688.1m budget for this year.

This is a similar story for many councils across the country, due to higher demand for their services, inflation remaining higher than expected for longer, and interest rates rising to levels not forecast by financial markets.

[Recent research by the County Councils Network](#) suggests that England's largest councils will need to make at least £1bn in savings to balance their current 2023/24 budgets.

A [BBC investigation](#) also reported that councils expect to be £5.2bn short of balancing budgets by April 2026, the average council facing a £33m predicted deficit by 2025-26.

Suffolk County Council projects a 4% overspend (£29.3m), to be partially offset by an additional Section 31 grant from Government, and additional income from the pooling of business rates with the district and borough councils in Suffolk, totalling £7m.

Details of the main areas of overspend are:

- **School transport** - forecast to overspend by £11.4m (39% of the overspend), with £8.3m of this being travel costs for children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). This is largely due to more children with SEND needs, transport operators being in limited supply, and rising costs from those operators who are also feeling the impacts of inflation, especially fuel costs.
- **Children in care** - forecast to overspend by £8.2m (28% of the overspend). The council has a responsibility to provide care for children and young people under the age of 18. Some of these have incredibly complex needs requiring 24-hour care from



multiple carers. There is currently an unexpectedly higher number of children requiring this support, with this costing an average of £22,700 per week, per child.

- **Adult care services** - forecast to overspend by £3.5m (12% of the overspend) for purchasing care, due to increases in demand, and staffing costs in the sector. The fees paid for residential and nursing placements remain high with 64% of new residential and nursing packages being above the published rate of £806 per week, with some specialist packages being over £1,500 per week.
- **Inflation** - inflation and interest rates have been higher than experienced in a generation, with the legacy of COVID-19 continuing to have a significant impact of on various services. As an example, there is an estimated £3.0m (10% of the overspend) pressure as pay settlements continue to be above historical norms as inflation has remained stubbornly high during 2023 so far. High interest rates mean it has been more costly than anticipated to borrow money, which the council does to help fund big projects, such as upgrading highways, maintaining schools or developing household recycling centres.

In addition to the net overspend of £22.3m from this main budget, the council is forecasting an overspend of £15.8m against its £256.5m budget from the Dedicated Schools Grant and Pupil Premium Grant. This is money from Government specifically to fund schools and services for pupils. This overspend comes solely from resources spent on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision, not including school transport. Suffolk, like many other local authorities, is seeing a continuous increase in demand which is not being met by the same level of increase in funding.

Despite these challenges, council departments continue to make savings. This year's budget identified £25.1m of savings to be made, and the latest figures show that £20m of this is projected to be achieved.

The Cabinet at Suffolk County Council discussed the Q1 2023-24 Revenue Budget paper, at its meeting on 12 September 2023. [Cabinet papers are published on the Suffolk County Council website.](#)

[Councils unite against National Grid pylon proposals](#)

In a [joint letter to National Grid](#), the leaders of the three councils address the extensive impact on landscapes and local communities that the scheme would bring.

They also highlight that an offshore solution has not been sufficiently investigated, and the opportunities that this could bring to co-ordinate with other large-scale energy projects off the region's coast.

The Norwich to Tilbury project would see 114 miles of electricity pylons weave their way through the three counties. Only a small percentage of this cabling would go underground, an issue which the councils also raise, stating that more would be needed particularly in the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and near Diss and the Waveney Valley.



National Grid held a second, non-statutory consultation, which closed on 21 August 2023. It is expected that a statutory consultation will take place in 2024.

Powerful fostering film 'Any Of Us' launched

Suffolk County Council is excited to announce the launch of "Any Of Us," a compelling fostering film that sends a universal message that anyone with the capacity to care can become a foster carer.

The film spotlights three normal people demonstrating the caring qualities essential to becoming a foster carer. Their stories intertwine with Chloe's journey into fostering, creating the narrative that any of us can foster.

Fostering with your council or children's trust means supporting your community by offering safe,

The film has been produced by Reel TwentyFive and project managed by CAN Digital/Rachel Brown. This is the sixth film produced by a growing partnership of councils and children's trusts to promote local authority fostering.

The national launch took place at Birmingham's Everyman cinema on 26 September 26.

If you are interested in becoming a foster carer request your free foster carer pack and find out about the training, support and allowances you'll receive:

[Visit the foster page](#)

Call us: 01473 264800

Email us: fosterandadopt@suffolk.gov.uk

Exciting new chapter comes with allergy danger for young people

A column by Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection.

For many young people this is the time of year when they are about to begin the exciting new chapter in their lives as they go to university or college.

Leaving home for the first time, they will be mixing and living with new people of their own age and rightly enjoying all the fun and opportunity this brings.

However, for those suffering from food allergies this can bring new challenges and I would encourage parents to talk to their children about it.

Those aged between 16 and 24 are in the most at-risk category when it comes to allergies, so please do encourage your young person to talk to their friends and housemates, to make them aware of their situation and how to spot an allergic reaction.

Most people will already know someone with an allergy and be able to support. However, occasionally housemates are just not able to understand the seriousness of the allergy and it may



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be wise to speak with the university or college welfare officer to seek alternative accommodation if the allergy relates to their environment.

Also, encourage them to carry wipes and clean down surfaces, to reduce the risk of cross contamination before eating or studying around campus.

When eating out, if it is a planned occasion, suggest they look at online menus in advance if available and use social media to find recommendations for suitable places to eat out with allergies.

In Suffolk, we regularly get complaints about allergens - 14 different allergen types must be declared in law – and while people focus on nut allergies many others are just as deadly to relevant people. Allergies are increasing and are therefore more important today.

Locally, we took just over 230 food samples last year, around half of which were tested for the presence of undeclared allergens.

Of those, approximately 25% of samples were unsatisfactory in that they were either labelled incorrectly, not declaring the correct allergens or if a meal contained an undeclared allergen.

Samples are taken either because of complaints, or due to our local knowledge/intelligence of the product/premises type.

Last year we had more than 100 complaints about specific food businesses of which three quarters were complaints about allergens.

In terms of the main product type tested in Suffolk:

- Vegan chocolate – 12 samples were taken of chocolate described as ‘vegan’ – nine of which contained traces of milk. Whilst some did contain a precautionary allergen label e.g., ‘May contain milk’ – consumers may not notice this and instead rely on the name of the food and, if they are allergic to dairy, this could be an issue.
- Take-away coffee – 17 samples of take-away coffees, from a mix of independent and high street retailers were taken. Of the nine ‘non milk’ versions (oat/almond/soya latte) – five contained traces of milk. Again, a vegan customer or someone with a dairy allergy would incorrectly assume there would be no trace of milk.
- Vegan ‘ready to eat products’ such as sausage rolls, pastries and cakes - 20 samples were taken of which five contained either milk or egg traces.
- Vegan ‘takeaway’ meals - 16 samples were taken of which six contained traces of either egg, fish or shellfish.

The Chartered Trading Standards Institute is calling for a new legal definition of vegan food to be created to ensure the rules are clear, and that any food manufacturer or restaurant flouting these rules can be held accountable.



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This would provide clarity for those with allergies, for example to milk or eggs, over whether food labelled as vegan is safe to eat.

Until that happens, consumers should not rely on the vegan description if they have a serious milk allergy.

Similarly, anyone with allergies really needs to read the label on food products properly, including any 'may contains' information.

In restaurants/cafes they should not rely on the vegan description alone - always have a conversation with the staff.

These are simple steps but can make all the difference.

***Anyone with concerns about the labelling of a food product, or wishing to report an allergy or intolerance reaction, can contact Suffolk Trading Standards via Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.**

[Ambling African Women break down barriers to accessing Suffolk countryside](#)
Suffolk County Council celebrated the launch of 'Ambling African Women' a new partnership with PHOEBE, the Ipswich-based charity advocating for black and ethnic minority women and children.

The new partnership aims to support PHOEBE members to access the countryside for its health and well-being benefits and is part of the wider work by the Green Access and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) teams to address inequalities in countryside access.

Founded by Zimbabwean women social workers in 2008, P.H.O.E.B.E (Promotion of Health, Opportunity, Equality, Benevolence and Empowerment) offers specialist domestic abuse advice, information, casework, advocacy and support and counselling services to black and ethnic minoritised women and children in Suffolk.

The Council worked with PHOEBE in 2022 to identify specific cultural barriers to countryside access. The partnership which has been developed will help inform future interventions that will be offered to other community groups facing similar barriers to visiting the countryside.

At the launch event on Tuesday 29 August, Suffolk County Council and its partners hosted a guided walk for around 30-40 women from the PHOEBE centre, who are part of the centre's new Ambling African Women walking group.

There were women of all ages and fitness levels taking part, from babies in pushchairs, up to retirement-age women, with plenty of chatting and socialising along the way. The walk took place at Snape Maltings, which is in the Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with a guided walk along the Sailors Path from Snape Maltings along the river to Snape Warren and back, followed by lunch and traditional African music.



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To keep up to date with what 'Ambling African Women' are up to, you can follow them on Twitter, here: <https://twitter.com/AmblingAfricans>.