



EARL STONHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Earl Stonham on **Monday, 4th November 2019 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors: C Woods (Chair)
J Henderson-Hamilton
S Budd
H Stanford
D Brenig-Jones
H Glasse
K Wilkinson

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
M Hicks – County Councillor
S Morley – District Councillor

ES91/19/20 – PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

ES92/19/20 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Turner and Cllr Heard.

ES93/19/20 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

ES94/19/20 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

ES95/19/20 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2nd SEPTEMBER

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2019 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

ES96/19/20 – TO RECEIVE THE POLICE REPORT

The Police were not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

ES97/19/20 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR MORLEY

Cllr Morley reported the following:

- **Election – 12th December, 2019** - A General Election had been called for Thursday, 12th December, 2019 and the Notice of Parliamentary Election would be sent out next week. Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) would be grateful if the Notice could be displayed on all parish noticeboards. The issue of the Notice of Election also triggered the pre-election period – which restricted some activities.
- **Haughley and Thurston adopt Neighbourhood Plans** - Two communities had seen their Neighbourhood Development Plans adopted as part of Mid Suffolk's Development Plan, making them the fifth and sixth areas in the district to complete their Neighbourhood Plans.

- **More free swimming for youngsters** - Following successful summer take up, Mid Suffolk District Council had extended its free swims offer during half term and would also be running the initiative over the Christmas holidays too which aimed to help promote healthier and active lifestyles in the districts.
- **Fly-tipper billed more than £1,500 for dumping waste in Stowupland** - Mr Andrew Wall, who was living in the High Street, Needham Market at the time of his offence, dumped 12 sacks of household waste in November 2018 in Stonebridge Lane, Stowupland. Sgt Brian Calver from the Suffolk's Rural Policing team found the sacks during a routine patrol. Following a guilty plea, the court fined Mr Wall £1,000, along with costs of £477.41 and a victim surcharge of £100.

Cllr Morley was asked if she had received any update on the Junction of the A140 with the A1120 (Tap Junction) to which she replied that she had not.

ES98/19/20 - TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR HICKS

Cllr Hicks reported the following:

- **Thousands of illegal cigarettes seized in Lowestoft raids** - Trading Standards had successfully targeted Lowestoft retailers in illegal tobacco raids, seizing 21,880 cigarettes and 10.9kg of rolling tobacco. The raids, which took place in October, involved officers from Trading Standards and Suffolk Police who targeted four different premises in the town. The cigarettes and tobacco failed a visual inspection as genuine products. Investigations into the seizures would continue and shop owners would face a formal interview. Members of the public could anonymously report someone for selling illicit tobacco by calling the national Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506.
- **Suffolk's gritting fleet gets personal** - On 14th October, SprEd Sheeran, Benjamin Gritten and Grit Rhys Jones joined the ranks of Suffolk's gritting service as Suffolk Highways announced its newly named gritting fleet. During the summer, Suffolk Highways asked attendees at the Suffolk Show to suggest names for its 41 gritting lorries as part of its first ever Gritter Naming Competition. The service received over 500 suggestions, the names were then judged by a panel including Councillor Mary Evans and BBC Radio Suffolk's Mark Murphy. The people who suggested the winning names were invited to Suffolk Highways' depot at Phoenix House in Ipswich for a certificate presentation and photo with some of the gritting fleet. Suffolk's gritters now had their names proudly displayed on the front and side of their cabs and were ready to grit the roads when the weather gets colder.
- **Braking Point returned to help young adults stay safe on Suffolk's roads** - The Suffolk Roadsafte board was working with 16 and 17-year-old students to encourage young people to stay safe on Suffolk's roads. The board was a partnership between Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Suffolk Constabulary, Highways England and the East of England Ambulance Service. The Road Safety Team's Braking Point project relaunched in the week of 7th October and would be visiting 20 schools across Suffolk to deliver the Braking Point play. The play, delivered by Performance in Education, was designed to encourage the safe behaviours of both drivers and passengers. Once the theatre tour ended, just before the autumn half-term, the Road Safety team would provide classroom-based follow-up sessions in schools, which would continue to run into 2020.
- **First time central heating systems for Suffolk residents** - A further 200 Suffolk homes without central heating would soon be able to have their first ever system installed. On 7th October it was reported that Suffolk's local authorities had secured an additional £760,000 of funding from the Warm Homes Fund. It would enable the installation of 204 first time central heating systems in eligible, fuel-poor households across Suffolk over the next three years. Around four million UK households were in fuel poverty, unable to affordably heat their home to the temperature needed to stay warm and healthy.

Cllr Hicks was asked if he had any further update on the signage planned for the Church Lane junction with the A1120, to which he informed members that the work had all been authorised and paid for and would be on the calendar of works. He agreed to chase the works with the Highways department.

Cllr Hicks reported that in relation to the Ipswich Northern Route all the information from the public consultation was being collated. Due to the Elections the project would need to be put on hold until the new year. He confirmed that despite what people might read the County Council's only interest at this stage for the project was to carry out the consultation.

ES99/19/20 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

i) THE CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported that she had taken over the defibrillator checks, which she would carry out on a weekly/fortnightly basis. She explained that as she had other defibrillators to check in the local area it was easier to do them all at the same time. She had informed Cllr Heard of this new arrangement, which had been agreed with Cllr Woods and had thanked Cllr Heard for carrying out the checks in the past. She asked that should anyone see or hear of any issues with the defibrillator, to inform her in the first instance.

The Clerk reported an issue in relation to the recently sought quote from MB Trees, for needed works to raise the canopies of the trees on the Village Green. She stated that it had been raised with her that the Parish Council should seek three quotes for such works. She confirmed that normal procedure was to seek three quotes, but on this occasion the contractor had carried out works to the trees the previous year, of which the Parish Council had been happy with, and the recent quote had been reasonably priced. If the work was on a larger scale and the cost considerably higher, the three necessary quotes would have been obtained.

As the majority of members were happy with the quote the contractor had been asked to proceed with the work.

ii) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk reported on the Council's current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance in the accounts on 24th October 2019 was £10,533.31.

iii) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Nov)	£241.60
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Expenses (Nov)	£40.10
Porch Builders	Portable Toilet - Picnic on the Green Event	£132.00
Vertas Group Ltd	Grass Cutting	£287.02
Mr B Heard	Bench Cover and items	£37.18
ICO	Data Protection Renewal	£40.00
MSDC	Bin Emptying (Additional charge)	£46.80
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Dec)	£241.60
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Expenses (Dec)	£20.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £1,086.30 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk. A payment of £50 to the Royal British Legion for a Remembrance Wreath also be ratified.

The following receipt was also noted:

P Birchnall	Recorder Advertisement Payment	£30.00
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Kelly Ashton (Dog Walking)	Recorder Advertisement Payment	£30.00
MSDC	Precept (2nd Instalment)	£3,200.00
MSDC	Recycling Bin Credit	£267.71
TJ Fitness	Recorder Advertisement Payment	£30.00
East Anglia Gas	Recorder Advertisement Payment	£30.00
Amy Aldis	Recorder Advertisement Payment	£30.00
Bentley Group Ltd	Recorder Advertisement Payment	£30.00

iv) **DRAFT BUDGET 2020/21**

The Clerk had circulated the Draft Budget prior to the meeting.

Cllr Glasse stated that he felt money could be saved on areas such as Street Lighting. He felt that the bulbs should be replaced with LED ones which in the long run would save money and would be more environmentally friendly. The Clerk informed members that she could look into what the cost would be to replace the bulbs and also the units as a whole.

Cllr Glasse also stated that he was concerned that money was being taken in tax from parishioners to then be spent on donations to charities and felt that the Parish Council should not be doing that. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had a statutory power to make grants/donations to charities of their choice. Cllr Glasse asked if the donations could be put onto the next Agenda for further discussion, to which other members agreed.

Cllr Glasse expressed a desire for the Precept to remain the same for 2020/21, or be reduced. The Clerk explained that due to annual rising costs such as Street Lighting and Bin Emptying, it would not be wise to reduce the Precept.

It was AGREED: That the DRAFT Budget be approved.

ES100/19/20 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/19/04932 - Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to Dwellinghouse (Class C3) and Associated Operational Development - Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Agricultural Outbuilding, Fen Barn, Fen Lane, Earl Stonham Suffolk IP6 8QE

Following a very brief discussion:

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council had no objections to the application. **Clerk to action.**

ES101/19/20 - PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decisions were noted:

Ref: DC/19/04010 – Non-Material Amendment to 3017/16 - Change in roof design from catslide to gable end - Beehive Cottage, Larters Lane, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5HB

DC/19/03482 - Notification under Schedule 2 Part 3 Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 - Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed change of Use of Agricultural Building to dwelling house (C3) and for associated Operational Development_ Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of 1No. agricultural shed to dwelling - Agricultural Outbuilding, Fen Barn, Fen Lane, Earl Stonham Suffolk IP6 8QE – **REFUSED**

Ref: DC/19/03928 - Planning Application - Erection of detached annexe for use as living accommodation by - dependent family members - Holly Bank House, Broad Green Road, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5HU - **GRANTED**

ES102/19/20 – CAROLS ON THE GREEN

The date for the 'Carols on the Green' had been confirmed as Monday, 16th December. Cllr Stanford offered to do a reading.

Help was needed to set up for the event such as tables, electrics, refreshments.

ES1031/19/20 – CHRISTMAS TREE

Cllr Wilkinson informed members that a resident had a large Christmas Tree in his garden that he wished to be removed. He was happy to donate it to the Village Green.

Cllr Glasse confirmed he was happy to provide the electricity again this year.

ES104/19/20 - A1120 TRAFFIC CALMING

This item had been discussed earlier in the meeting with Cllr Hicks.

ES105/19/20 – TRUSTEES

Cllr Woods terms of office with the Trustees had expired and therefore needed to be re-appointed.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Woods be re-appointed as a member of the Trustees.

ES106/19/20 - FOOTPATHS

It was reported that a footpath sign was in the ditch on footpath 80, just left of the Beechwood Farm property. **Clerk to report.**

It was also reported that there was a large amount of dog fouling on footpaths at the end of School Lane and the field around Mollands Hall.

Cllr Henderson-Hamilton informed members that the footway between Wicks Lane and Blacksmiths Lane continued to be partially overgrown by weeds and brambles.

The Clerk stated that she had liaised with Vertas over the strimming of the footway but they had been reluctant to carry out the work stating it would be too expensive.

Cllr Budd stated that she would speak with her family to see if they could assist with their machinery.

It was AGREED: That another reminder notice about dog fouling needed to be added into the next edition of the Recorder.

ES107/19/20 - ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Woods informed members that at the recent allotment inspection all allotments were found to be in good condition and continued to be maintained as per the tenancy agreements. The overgrown allotment recently taken on by a new tenant, had started to be cleared.

The Clerk informed members that she had sent out invoices and new tenancy agreements, which she had started to receive completed along with payments due.

ES108/19/20 – VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Budd reported that the Abba Evening had to be postponed until January due to low numbers.

ES109/19/20 – WEBSITE

Cllr Henderson-Hamilton read out the report of the website host, Chris Hamilton, which stated that he had been transferring the domain earlstonham.org.uk and website to its new Account "Earl Stonham Parish Council". It had been more difficult than he had expected, but was nearly completed. He was waiting for the work to go "live" which could take up to 48 hours.

He also reported that the Blog hadn't really taken off and so he had ended that project and also the Recorder On Line project which was really too big.

ES110/19/20 – GRASS CUTTING ON PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk reported that Cllr Heard continued to monitor the situation with the playing field and would report back to her on a fortnightly basis.

ES111/19/20 – JUNCTION OF A140/A1120 (TAP JUNCTION)

This had been discussed previously with Cllr Morley.

The Clerk reported that she had not received any update as yet.

Cllr Stanford asked that the Enforcement Team/Legal Team be chased again. **Clerk to action.**

ES112/19/20 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- Remembrance – Service at Earl Stonham Church at 10.45am – Cllr Woods will lay the wreath
- Christingle Service – 14th December at 4pm
- Stonham Theatre Guild put on a successful show at the 'Picnic on the Green' and had spent £100 in doing so. A contribution of £50 from the Parish Council would be much appreciated.

ES113/19/20 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 6th January 2020 at 7.30pm

The meeting finished at 8.45pm.

Chairman: Dated: