



Earl Stonham Annual Parish Meeting

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall, Earl Stonham, at 7pm on Monday, 14th May 2018

PRESENT:

Cllr C Woods - *Chairman*

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs J Blackburn - *Clerk*

7 members of the Parish Council, 7 members of the public / invited representatives.

APOLOGIES:

Cllr D Turner, Suffolk Police, Lindsey Stone (WI), Kate Bryant (Bowls Club) and Tony Turner (Village Hall).

ES007/18/19 - CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman of Earl Stonham Parish Council, Cllr Colin Woods, welcomed those present.

ES008/18/19 - APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr D Turner, the Police, the WI, the Bowls Club and the Village Hall Management Committee.

ES009/18/19 - MINUTES 18th MAY 2017

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting, held on 18th May 2017, were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

ES010/18/19 - REPORTS RELATING TO THE PARISH

Representatives of the following organisations were invited to speak and, where received, their reports are attached to the Minutes.

- a) **Earl Stonham Parish Council** – *Cllr Colin Woods*
(Full report attached to these Minutes).
- b) **Suffolk County Council** - *Cllr Matthew Hicks*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)
- c) **Mid-Suffolk District Council** – *Cllr Suzie Morley*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)
- d) **Suffolk Police**
The Police were not present at the meeting and had not submitted a report.
- e) **Village Hall Management Committee** – *Tony Turner*
(Full report attached to these minutes)

Mr Turner was not present at the meeting but a report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- f) **WI** – *Lindsey Stone*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

The WI were not present at the meeting, but a report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- g) **Earl Stonham Trustees** – *Jennie Griffiths*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mrs Griffiths was present and went through her report. She wished to thank S Wilson who had looked after the accounts for many years and was due to retire.

Mrs Griffiths also reported that the Trustees held reserves which were earmarked to restore Guildhall Cottage as there were ongoing repair costs. Just the windows alone would be approximately £2,000 each as it was a Listed Building.

Cllr Heard asked if any Big Lottery or BIFFA funding had been applied for, to which Mrs Griffiths stated that as the Trustees were a charity they were not permitted to apply.

- h) **Cricket Club** – *Simon Edgar*

Mr Edgar was not present at the meeting and a report had not been submitted.

- i) **Bowls Club** – *Kate Bryant*
(Full Report attached to these Minutes)

The Bowls Club were not present at the meeting and a report had not been submitted.

- j) **Over 60's Club** – *Joan Rice*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mrs Rice was present at the meeting and went through her report.

- k) **Parochial Church Council** – *Cllr Henry Stanford*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Stanford was present at the meeting and his report was made available for those present.

ES011/18/19 - PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Sarsby explained to those present the current position with the website. He reported that the website had attracted approximately 200 hits per month from people all over the world for various reasons.

He had hosted the Earl Stonham website for many years and explained that he had 'retired' from the role. The village website was now hosted by Mr Henderson-Hamilton and should anyone have anything they would like to have on the website please let him know.

Cllr Stanford thanked Mr Sarsby for all his involvement with the website over the years.

ES012/18/19 – Guest Speaker, Brian Heard – “Hong Kong and The Triads”

Cllr Heard gave an excellent presentation and relayed many comical stories of working in Hong Kong.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Chairman Date

Chairman's Report – May 2018 - Cllr Colin Woods

After a wet and cold spring, things are at last warming up. The beast from the east has long gone and I would like to thank all the farmers and helpers for the great job done in trying to keep roads clear under very trying conditions.

The defibrillator on the wall of the Village Hall is now up and running, many thanks to the Big Lottery Fund for funding this worthwhile piece of equipment.

This year's Hullabaloo will be held on the 16th June. Please come along and give your support.

At the moment, all allotments are let out and these give the Parish Council an extra income.

I would also like to thank fellow Councillors for their help and support over the last year and to Jennie, our Clerk for all the hard work done on our behalf.

Cllr Matthew Hicks 2018 Annual Report for the Thredling Division

SCC Children's Services continue to improve following Ofsted pilot inspection

Suffolk County Council was a pilot for the new Ofsted inspection framework. All areas are now judged to be 'Good'. This puts SCC in the top 25% of all Local Authorities. Inspectors were positive about every part of Children's Services, the quality of work with children, and the passion and commitment of everyone they met. Their report highlights that: "The local authority's commitment to children and families is clear and unambiguous... Staff know children well and are passionate about changing their lives." Key points made by Ofsted in the report recognise the work of the authority in the following areas: **Early Help:** Early help is making a positive difference to the lives of children and families Children and families benefit from a good range of early help services. **Social Care & Safeguarding:** The children and adult Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is well established. It is appropriately resourced and well managed. Thresholds are applied consistently. Information is shared appropriately. Decision-making is timely. The way in which the local authority has rolled out its preferred social work model across all children and young people's services is extremely impressive. The model is encouraging social workers and other staff to work more effectively with families. **Children in Care:** The local authority makes good use of its legal powers and acts decisively to protect children who are unable to continue to live at home safely. Social workers clearly understand the importance of achieving permanence for children in care. The emphasis is always on finding the right long-term solution for each child. **Strong Leadership:** Senior managers lead by example. They want the best for children, young people and families. They set and expect high standards of themselves and others. They understand the importance of getting the basics right but are not afraid to innovate. **Partnership working:** Partnership working, particularly with the police and with health services, is strong. This is evident in the way in which the MASH has developed. It is also apparent in the role played by health partners in early help. Working closely with other agencies, the local authority has strengthened its response to missing children and child sexual exploitation.

Deborah Cadman leaves and Nicola Beach arrives

Suffolk County Council's Chief Executive, Deborah Cadman OBE left us last year to take up a new role as the first permanent Chief Executive of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). She joined Suffolk County Council in 2011 and since then has overseen a dramatic improvement in education attainment levels in Suffolk, improved staff morale and led the careful implementation of over £200million of savings made necessary by reductions in funding from government. In March 2018, Nicola Beach was appointed as Suffolk County Council's new Chief Executive. Nicola, who is currently Executive Director of Infrastructure and Environment at Essex County Council, will take up her new role this summer. She was appointed due to the wealth of experience she has in local government, having been Chief Executive at Braintree District Council before joining Essex County Council, and having held various other roles in authorities across the East of England.

Revised GCSE and A Level results reflect progress of Suffolk students

The Department for Education published revised GCSE and A Level results on 25 January 2018. The validated figures confirm that 3% more students in Suffolk are achieving the expected standards in English and Maths at GCSE compared with last year. 63.1% of students in the county are achieving the expected standard in English and Maths and Suffolk has closed the gap to national to less than 1%. Suffolk has also risen by 26 places in national league tables for this measure, to 83rd out of 151 authorities. The county has risen 5 places in national rankings for the percentage of students achieving

the English Baccalaureate. The Revised A Level figures confirm that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the General Applied entry and Tech Level entries remaining above the national average figures. Since the launch of the council's Raising the Bar programme in 2012, Suffolk has risen 59 places in national rankings for GCSE attainment in English and Maths. 87% of schools in Suffolk are judged by Ofsted to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

Fully funded first-time central heating systems for Suffolk residents

Suffolk's local authorities are now able to provide fully funded central heating systems subject to survey to 514 fuel poor households across Suffolk over the next three years. Around 4 million UK households are in fuel poverty, unable to affordably heat their home to the temperature needed to stay warm and healthy. As well as being on low incomes many of these households are also faced with the additional burden of relying on heating systems that are inefficient and expensive to run. The local authorities in Suffolk have a long track record of securing funding to support our most vulnerable residents. This project will enable us to make a practical, long lasting difference to improve their living conditions and make their homes more affordable to heat. Anyone who does not have a central heating system and finds it a challenge to afford their energy bills should contact Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People on 03456 037686 quoting the Warm Homes Fund. It will fund the installation of affordable heating solutions in fuel poor households which don't use mains gas as their primary source of heat.

Reminder to check white good

People in Suffolk are being urged to check their white goods and to not use them unattended in an attempt to reduce the risk of fires starting in the home. Fire services up and down the country are recommending people register their appliances in case of recalls, but to also be aware that incidents can occur when a product isn't on a recall list. Damage and severity of a fire, should one occur, is dramatically reduced if they are not left running while everyone is asleep or out of the house. People are also being urged to check their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and making sure they know how they will exit their home if a fire does occur. In 2015/16, more than 15,000 accidental fires in the home were caused by cookers and white goods across the UK. In 2016/17 in Suffolk, there were 29 incidents caused by white goods – to date in 2017/18, there have been 11. Suffolk Trading Standards are also informing people of the campaign, reminding them to regularly check the recalled list of domestic appliances, and to follow their weekly product recall campaign, #CheckItTuesday on Twitter. We would urge people to register their appliances at www.registermyappliance.org.uk This online safety initiative, which is supported by fire services and government represents nearly 90% of white goods brands and allows people to register appliances new and up to 12 years old so if there's a safety recall they can be contacted.

Suffolk Highways goes to war on potholes

Suffolk Highways has declared war on the potholes which are opening on the county's roads, following one of the worst winters in recent years. Since the start of 2018, Suffolk Highways has received in excess of 11,000 customer reports, which compares with approximately 6,000 reports in the same period last year. This demonstrates the impact the bad weather Suffolk has experienced since November has had on the county's road surface.

Suffolk Highways has put in place the following measures with immediate effect to help cope with the demand:

- Deploying additional gangs to undertake pothole and road repairs across the county.
- Switching to a different temporary material to repair emergency potholes which, although slightly more expensive, provides a longer-lasting repair in damp conditions.
- Considering for large areas of intervention-level pothole defects whether 'making safe' (through organising traffic management and temporary road closures) is required in advance of making extensive repairs.

- Bringing in extra resource to undertake larger-scale patching works as part of a planned programme for dealing with sites on which traffic management or road closures have been arranged or areas where small-scale repairs will not sufficiently address the road deterioration.
- Moving internal resources from other teams to support the inspection of customer reports, particularly from staff with previous experience of dealing with customer reports and inspections.

This extra push to repair the high volume of potholes in the county is being assisted by the extra £21 million funding which has been borrowed to resurface a quarter of all roads managed by Suffolk Highways, by 2021.

Suffolk to use drone technology to help manage blue light service incidents

15 February 2018 marked the official launch of the use of two Small Unmanned Surveillance Aircrafts in Suffolk. The technology, commonly referred to as drones have been developed and funded by Suffolk Resilience Forum for use across the county. As part of a multi-agency Air Support Unit, the drones will be used by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue and Norfolk & Suffolk 4x4 Response. The drones will provide a range of aerial surveillance options to support emergency services and voluntary organisations across a wide range of incidents. They will also help to reduce risks to the public and emergency service workers. The drones and camera equipment cost around £42,500 and they are based at Woodbridge Fire and Police station, have 24/7 emergency response capability and can be used by 17 specially trained remote pilots. The drones will provide important visual information which will be used alongside experienced operational commanders to complete the decision-making picture and help resolve incidents as quickly and safely as possible. The drones have already been used a number of times, most recently at the fire at Saxmundham train station to not only provide pictures of fire spreading and possible collapse in areas that may not have been possible for firefighters to access or see.

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division

Tel : 01728 628176 Mob : 07824474741 E-mail : matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk

Mid Suffolk District Council

Report for The Stonhams Ward – Annual Report

Merger

As you no doubt have heard the merger with Babergh has been put on hold. One of the major reasons was because the County Council have decided to consider unitary government. The County Council have engaged Respublica consultants to investigate the way unitary government might work in Suffolk. The review is also to consider how an enhanced two-tier system might work.

Move to Endeavour House

This was successfully completed in October/November and staff are well settled in now with the options of working from home, at the office or at any of the access points in Stowmarket and Subury. Most of the staff appear to be happy with these arrangements. We have also moved to having one phone number and one email as contact which, after a few teething problems, appear to be working very well. If anyone is having problems with this new system, then please let me know.

Needham Market HQ Site

There were two evenings held in Needham for anyone to go along and see what we have planned for the site. Two options have been considered for the site, consisting of a 100% residential development, or a mixed residential and retail development, each striking a different balance, with associated masterplans drawn up.

The proposals the Council are considering would see much of the existing offices – the non-listed buildings in particular – demolished and a new development built in their place and on the former office car park.

The Needham Market School Site

This consultation was held in conjunction with the HQ site consultation and most people who commented were for the change of use for housing although there were worries regarding the access.

Locality Budget

This year all District Councillors were given £6,500 to spend as their Locality budget. £250 from all Councillor's (Total of £10,000) went towards the purchase of a new vehicle for the Rural Coffee Caravan (<http://ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk/>) which was stolen. The rest of my locality Budget went to:

- **Creting St. Mary** ○ Antique Parish Map
Digitisation - £350 ○ Recreation Ground -
£1000
- **Earl Stonham** ○ Hedgehog Creche - £500
○ Village Green Fence Posts - £350
- **Stonham Aspal**
○ Village Hall - £1000
○ Debenham 1st Responders CPR Kit for Stonham Aspal - £500 ○ Recreation Ground -
£1000

- **Stonham Parva** ○ Recreation Ground - £1650

I hope all those people have found the money useful.

New Council Homes

MSDC has built 29 new council homes this year, 23 in Great Blakenham a mixture of 1 bed flats and 2 or 3 bed houses, 11 of these being shared ownership, and 6 in Laxfield were opened in March, they consist of 2 x 2 bed

District Councillor Suzie Morley, The Stonhams Ward – 01449 711306 / 07976 927226



houses and 4 x 1 bed flats. These homes are lovely and spacious. There are more in the pipeline to be completed this year.

Ex National Westminster Bank Site (Stowmarket)

We have just completed the purchase of this building and we are market testing on its future use. However, we have made a commitment to the John Peel Centre to provide them with access to the High Street. A consultation has been arranged with the Stowmarket Society to gather views from the local community as to their suggestions.

Regal Theatre, Stowmarket

In February it was decided to invest some money along with the Stowmarket Town Council in the redevelopment of the Regal Theatre. This decision demonstrates we are committed to Stowmarket as our key town within the district, builds on the cultural and creative offer that already exists in Stowmarket and will enable the town to establish a more vibrant and sustainable town centre. The development is also anticipated to have a number of economic benefits for the town.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being your District Councillor again this year and I would like to thank the Parish Council's for their help and support throughout this year. If you have anything you think I should be aware of or anything I can help you with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Earl Stonham Village Hall Annual Report – 2017-18

Another year in the life of the hall – now approaching its 70th birthday!

After several years of a fairly static level of hall bookings that required additional funding just to cover the running costs, this last year has seen a large increase in usage – up by nearly 50%. A large part of this can be attributed to how comfortable users find the new club room but even main hall bookings have increased. Increased bookings are very welcome as they mean we can afford to keep the hall in better repair but it does mean that a few people have been surprised when they have tried to book the hall and found it already in use. The increased usage looks set to continue so if you are considering using the hall it is definitely worth booking early!

The Village Hall Committee have continued to run a number of fundraising events throughout the year, headlined by the Hullabaloo. For the 2017 event, the weather gods smiled on us for a change and the weather was absolutely superb so for once we did not have to worry about whether we would sell all the ice creams! In the Autumn we held a ‘Vinyl Evening’ where everyone was invited to bring their favourite vinyl records and DJ Mike played a selection. What it certainly proved was what a wide range of tastes we have in the village. With the sad closure of the Shepherd and Dog, the regular quiz evenings were moved to the hall and thanks to quizmaster Norman, have continued to be very popular, with money raised for a number of good causes. We have also held a number of ‘pub’ evenings which have proved a real hit and we plan to continue these on a monthly basis.

Unfortunately we have not been able to progress the main hall refurbishment this year as it has become increasingly clear that we need to replace the floor as part of this which increases the costs dramatically and makes it far harder to raise the necessary funds. We are continuing to look at various options, and hopefully will be able to move this forward during the coming year. We have however, undertaken a range of other improvements and thanks to a £1000 grant from Matthew Hicks and donations from the WI, Golden Circle and the PCC, we now have a commercial dishwasher in the kitchen together with a new energy efficient water heater, extractor fan and water softener. Also, thanks to a very generous donation, the small tables used in the club room have been replaced with ‘Gopak’ lightweight ones and given how successful these have proved, the hall used some of the money raised from fundraising to replace the main hall tables as well.

You may have noticed the large yellow box now attached next to the front door of the hall which contains a defibrillator. This has been procured by the Parish Council and they will be providing further information about its use in due course.

Tony Turner

Chairman - Earl Stonham Village Hall Management Committee

For the recorder I will also include a section on ‘upcoming events’

Earl Stonham WI Report 2018

Earl Stonham WI now has 28 members with Diane Hurt as our President. Members come not just from Earl Stonham and Little Stonham but also from Stowupland, Needham Market and Brockford.

During the year we have had speakers on various subjects including The Remarkable Women of Ipswich, Art of Fine Woodcarving, Life with Horses, History of the River Gipping, The Statue of Liberty and the Ottomans and their Empire. We also had fun making Flower Brooches out of Ribbons and our summer outing was a guided tour of Norwich.

Members have enjoyed taking part in Needlework Classes and we continue to meet monthly for our Mahjong sessions which are open to non -members. We also held a Treasure Hunt last September in a member's garden which was great fun.

Friends and husbands joined us when we visited Haughley House under the "Invitation to View" scheme and this year we are doing a similar tour of Otley Hall.

In December we went to Stoke White Horse for our Christmas meal and served refreshments after the Carols on the Green raising £150 for the Coffee Caravan.

We have joined in with the village to provide Library Lunches and serving homemade cakes and teas at the Hullabaloo.

Our major fundraising still comes from our catering - we have provided four funeral teas since the last Annual Parish meeting, including one for a former member. We also catered for a 70th birthday party.

Members meet up with other Institutes at the two Group Meetings during the year - this year speakers have talked on "May Savage Moves House" and "The Kitchen Chemist".

Future meetings include talks on The Story of Silk, Nursing Round the World, JIn Shin Jyutsu (Japanese Ancient Healing Art) and Joan of Arc.

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Clubroom of the Village Hall. For more details please contact Diane on 711879 or Lindsey on 711602.

EARL STONHAM GOLDEN CIRCLE CLUB

14th May 2018.

The Golden Circle Club has had several new members this year.

Our programme has been very varied with Mr Walters from the Salvation Army taking our Harvest Festival last year, then at the start of this year we had Lisa Harris from the East Anglian Museum with an armchair journey round the museum. February Mr Brian Heard came and talked about his time in Hong Kong and the tribes there. March we had Julie Rice from Itchiban come and show some slides and small video's of the factory, which was very interesting as we all live so near to the factory and our last speaker this year was Mr Marshall on The Art of Fine Woodcarving.

For the outings we went to the Dad's Army Museum at Thetford, Clacton-on-Sea a trip on The Bure Valley Railway from Aylsham and a river trip on the Broads from Wroxham. We went at the beginning of this month to have lunch at The Flora Tea Rooms at Dunwich and then went on to Leiston to the Long Shop Museum.

December we went to a Pantomime at Felixstowe and saw "Aladdin, had our Christmas Party at the Claydon Best Weston Hotel and the birthday party was held here in the Village Hall.

Our outings for the coming months include a trip to Geoff Hamilton's Garden at Barnsdale then on to a river cruise on Rutland Water, August we go and look round Duxford Museum and September to Houghton Hall in Norfolk. We normally have seats to spare if anyone would like to join with us.

If you are over 60, we would love to have you join with us. As you can see we have a very varied programme. Membership is still only £5.00 a year, what else can you get for that amount these days. We are a very friendly group who would make you feel very welcome.

If you need to know more please get in touch with Joan on 711294.