



EARL STONHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Earl Stonham on **Monday, 2nd September 2019 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors: C Woods (Chair)
 D Turner
 J Henderson-Hamilton
 B Heard
 S Budd
 H Stanford
 D Brenig-Jones

In Attendance J Blackburn - Clerk

ES66/19/20 – PUBLIC FORUM

There were four members of the public present.

ES67/19/20 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Wilkinson and Cllr Morley.

ES68/19/20 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

ES69/19/20 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

ES70/19/20 – CO-OPTION

It was AGREED: That Henry Glasse be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

ES71/19/20 - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 1st JULY and 19th AUGUST 2019

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 1st July and 19th August 2019 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

ES72/19/20 – TO RECEIVE THE POLICE REPORT

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

ES73/19/20 – TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR HICKS

Cllr Hicks reported the following:

- **Schools in Suffolk** - saw an improvement in results across a range of subjects at GCSE level. Self-reported results from Suffolk schools, released on 22nd August, indicated an increase in students achieving higher grades. It included a 4% increase in pupils achieving at least a grade 5 in all elements of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and a 7% increase in the number of students achieving a grade 4, when compared with the previous year.

More than 6,500 pupils in Suffolk were entered for GCSE exams, according to self-reported results collated from around 70% of schools. Some schools had done particularly well: Debenham High School reported 71% of pupils achieving a grade 5 in English and Maths and 80% achieving a grade 4 in English and Maths. Debenham High School and Thomas Mills High School had reported the highest percentage of pupils achieving a grade 5 in EBacc this year.

- **The Hold - preserving Suffolk's history for many years to come** - Building work on The Hold, the new home of the Suffolk record office, is now well underway. Whilst The Hold was primarily a record storing facility, it had so much more to offer. It would be a completely accessible space - once through its front doors there was no need for visitors to use steps or lifts. There would be a dedicated exhibition space which would host four specially curated exhibitions per year, to encourage both young and old to interact with Suffolk's culture and history.
- **Suffolk bucks the national trend for vaccine rates as the UK loses its 'measles free' status**
 - On 21st August it was revealed that national rates for the second MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine had fallen to just 87.2 %. This was thought to have led to the large increase in measles cases in England and Wales in 2018 (991 compared to only 278 the previous year). However, as a result of the hard work of local healthcare professionals and the engagement of parents, Suffolk continued to buck this trend. Vaccination rates in Suffolk at the end of March 2019 reached 94.5% for the first MMR dose (by 24 months of age) and 90.3% for the second booster dose (by 5 years of age). Following the introduction of a targeted, multi-agency campaign launched in December 2018, vaccination rates in Suffolk for both MMR doses improved between the first quarter and last quarter of 2018/19, by 2.4% for dose one and 3.5% for dose two. This is particularly encouraging at a time when there has been a decrease nationally, with the UK failing to meet the World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommended target of 95% for the second MMR vaccine.
- **Unsafe goods totalling £23 million detained at the Port of Felixstowe** - On 19th August, it was reported that nearly one million unsafe items had been prevented from entering the UK consumer market in the last year. That was thanks to the work of SCC Trading Standards Imports Team at the Port of Felixstowe. Figures for 2018/19 showed that 996,143 items across 670 product lines were targeted, assessed and detained, with an estimated value of over £23 million.

Cllr Hicks also reported that he had spent £1,500 of his budget for signage to be installed on A1120 near to the junction with Church Lane. The works would take 6-8 weeks to complete.

ES74/19/20 – FEN LANE

Members of the public present, residents of Fen Lane, shared their concerns with the Parish Council over the use of Fen Lane, by motorists as a 'Rat Run'. As the lane was narrow it was becoming more dangerous to travel and especially walking along it. Passing places were few and far between and motorists were not taking care when driving around the blind bends.

Cllr Hicks understood and sympathised with the issues raised and confirmed that he would ask Highways to look at the lane to see if they could suggest any traffic calming measures to help. He stated that the only possible help would be signage that would emphasise to motorists the turns in the road and the possible presence of pedestrians.

ES75/19/20 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR MORLEY

Cllr Morley was not present at the meeting but had circulated a report prior to the meeting, which was available to view on the website.

ES76/19/20 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

i) **THE CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk had nothing extra to report, other than the items on the Agenda.

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 23rd August 2019 was £8,640.17.

iii) **TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS**

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jul)	£241.60
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Aug)	£241.60
	Clerk's Office Allowance/Expenses	
Jennie Blackburn	(Aug)	£20.00
MSDC	Bin Emptying	£276.00
Vertas Group Ltd	Grass Cutting	£287.03
	Donation (previous cheque lost in transit)	
Homestart		£50.00
MSDC	Parish Council Election (Uncontested)	£107.78
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Sept)	£241.60
	Clerk's Office Allowance/Expenses	
Jennie Blackburn	(Sept)	£20.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Oct)	£241.60
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Expenses (Oct)	£20.00
ESVH	Half of Recycling Credit	£133.85
D Turner	Reimbursement of Recorder Printing	£177.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £2,058.06 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk. Also, that a payment for £375 for the Cricket Club, and a payment of £240.24 for the insurance renewal be ratified.

The following receipt was also noted:

Kevin Hollings Quality Kitchens	Recorder Advertisement	30.00
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iv) **TO RECEIVE BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was AGREED: That the Bank Reconciliation be noted.

ES77/19/20 – JOINT LOCAL PLAN

A resident of the village, and retired Planning Officer, talked through the report she had written in relation to the Joint Local Plan. She encouraged the Parish Council to submit their comments and concerns by the closing date of 30th September.

The following points were agreed to be included:

- The amount of housing planned
- Lack of facilities and services, such as Doctors Surgeries following building works
- Car Parking
- Clarification of the definition of 'Clusters'
- Care Homes should be included

It was AGREED: That Members forward on their comments to the Clerk in order for her to compile a submission as part of the Consultation.

ES78/19/20 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

ES79/19/20 - PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decisions were noted:

Ref: DC/19/03110 - Application for Prior Notification of Agricultural Development - Erection of a grain store - Rookery Farm, Fen Lane, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5EF – **NOT REQUIRED**

Ref: - Appeal **Ref: APP/W3520/W/18/3216279** - Cherry Tree Farmhouse, Blacksmiths Lane, Forward Green, Stowmarket, IP14 5ET – **DISMISSED**

Ref: DC/19/02780 - Householder Planning Application- Erection of two storey side and rear extensions, single storey rear extension and front porch following demolition of existing garage, shower room and entrance porch - Long Acre, Debenham Road, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5HG – **GRANTED**

Ref: DC/19/03261 - Planning Application - Erection of a biomass building (retention of) - Stonham Farm, Fen Lane, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5EF – **GRANTED**

Ref: DC/19/03566 - Full Planning Application - Change use of site as commercial livery and training stables and the retention of two stable buildings and a horse walker - Beechwood Farm, Forward Green, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5EQ - **GRANTED**

The Clerk reported that following on from the letter received from the applicant of Planning Ref: DC/19/03482, in relation to comments made on that application, she needed to compile a reply.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk put together a reply and share it with Members for approval before sending.

ES80/19/20 – CAROLS ON THE GREEN

It was AGREED: That the date for 'Carols on the Green' would be Monday, 16th December 2019 at 7pm.

ES81/19/20 – A1120 TRAFFIC CALMING

Cllr Woods reported that he had received an email from a resident asking if the village could have a permanent speed sign.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk look into costs for a speed sign and report back to the next meeting.

ES82/19/20 – FOOTPATHS

There was nothing to report.

ES83/19/20 - ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that she had heard from three interested parties in the free garden allotment at Broad Green. A resident within the village had now taken on the tenancy and contact details for the remaining two parties had been held on file.

It was confirmed that the hedge around the perimeter of the garden allotments was the responsibility of the tenants and should be maintained as stated in the Tenancy Agreements.

ES84/19/20 – VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Turner reported that the Picnic on the Green had been well attended. She also reported that the Bowls Club had approached the Village Hall Management Committee who had asked if the village hall could house the various trophies won by the club. Options to do this were being looked into.

ES85/19/20 – WEBSITE

A report had been received from the website host prior to the meeting so there was nothing further to report.

ES86/19/20 – GRASS CUTTING ON PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Heard confirmed that he had been checking the grass around the play area, including the mound on a fortnightly basis. He stated that the mound had become particularly overgrown with thistles which needed immediate attention.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk contact the Cricket Club to ask them to regularly cut the mound and remove the thistles.

ES87/19/20 – JUNCTION OF A140/A1120 (TAP JUNCTION)

The Clerk confirmed with members the emails she had received, and circulated, from Planning Enforcement, which had given updates on the position with the junction. The latest email received stated that an inspection of the site was going to take place and the Parish Council would receive a further update once that inspection had been carried out.

ES88/19/20 – CHURCH LANE SIGNAGE

There was nothing further to report.

ES89/19/20 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- Posts along the Green – a couple more needed to be replaced
- Wreath for Remembrance
- Police found Cannabis Farm on the A140 within the Parish
- FP sign had now been replaced opposite Larters Lane
- Mirror had emerged opposite Larters Lane, which was dangerous – unsure of who had installed it

ES90/19/20 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 4TH November 2019 at 7.30pm

The meeting finished at 9.20pm.

Chairman: Dated: