



## **EARL STONHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Earl Stonham on **Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present:**

Councillors: M Gillett (Chair)  
D Turner  
K Wilkinson  
M Mann  
S Budd  
H Stanford

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk  
County Cllr M Hicks

### **ES30/21/22 – PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

### **ES31/21/22 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from the Police.

### **ES32/21/22 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None had been received.

### **ES33/21/22 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **ES34/21/22 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021**

**It was AGREED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **ES35/21/22 – TO RECEIVE THE POLICE REPORT**

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

### **ES36/21/22 – TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR HICKS**

Cllr Hicks' report was circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

He briefly went through his report as follows:

- A multi-agency team from Lincolnshire would carry out an independent review into SEND provision. The review would be carried out by a senior professional with no links to, or direct involvement with, Suffolk's provision and would focus on the processes, communication protocols and family-facing elements of SEND services within SCC. The report, with any recommendations, would be published on County Council's website, shared with those who contributed to it and also scrutinised, in public, by the council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. The review team from Lincolnshire would consist of two senior officers from Lincolnshire County Council, performance analysts and the chair of the county's

parent carer network. Lincolnshire had excellent SEND provision and the team had kindly agreed to review certain elements of the service and would make recommendations based on their findings.

- 'The Hold' a large archives building on the Waterfront in Ipswich had opened for all to visit.
- £10 million had been funded for highways drainage in the county which would help to maintain road liable to flood plus the edge of roadsides that could not cope with excessive water leading to potholes forming.

Cllr Hicks reported in relation to the problems experienced by speeding vehicles through the village. He stated that a speed sign (VAS) would be beneficial and grants could be obtained to fund that.

He also suggested the setting up of a Community Speedwatch Team which could also be effective.

Members explained that the Speed Van from the Police was present at times in the village but it hadn't been there at the busiest times when the problems occurred.

Cllr Turner asked Cllr Hicks about the number of roadworks and road closures that had occurred recently with no prior warning.

Cllr Hicks stated that any emergency works could take place without warning and the company had the right to close the road to carry out such works. He added that there should be a sign with contact details on for anyone to ring them about the works.

Cllr Hicks also explained that diversion were not set for cars but for vehicles over a certain size. Their intention is to keep the larger vehicles on a main route rather than using smaller roads whereas it would be assumed that car owners would know a more direct route or local shortcuts.

He reported that when road closures were carried out Suffolk County Council (SCC) now charge the company for a permit in order to try to shorten the closure timescale.

**It was AGREED:** That the Clerk liaise with Stefan Henriksen re the speed van being in the village at the busiest times of the day.

That volunteers be sought, through advertisement in the Recorder, for a Community Speedwatch Team.

#### **ES37/21/22 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR MORLEY**

Cllr Morley was not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

#### **ES38/21/22 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

The Annual Governance Statement was completed by the Council and signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

b) **END OF YEAR 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Statement of Accounts was presented for approval. **Decision** – approved and signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

c) **EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE**

The Exemption Certificate was approved and completed by the Council and signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

d) **INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The Internal Auditor's Report was received and the following recommendation was noted:

*The Council should clarify the status of the Multi-Court and determine whether it should be included in the Asset Register, possibly at a nominal community value, and confirm that it is included in the Council's current insurance cover.*

e) **TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that she had started to receive interest in the vacancies on the Parish Council. Members felt that as restrictions were slowly being lifted with Covid and new people moving into the village it would be best to fully advertise the vacancies in the Recorder and on the Facebook page to gather as much interest as possible. Then later in the year appointments could be made.

The Clerk reported on the Bank Accounts of the Parish Council and confirmed she had mandate forms for completion by Cllr Gillett and Cllr Turner in order for them to become signatories.

f) **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 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 was £9,281.67.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jun)	£248.23
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jun)	£33.92
Suffolk Cloud	Website Host / Mailbox (x 2) Host	£177.00
D Turner	Recorder Printing reimbursement	£165.00
MSDC	Bin Emptying for 2021/22	£342.42
Trevor Brown	Internal Audit - 2020/21	£103.80
D Turner	Recorder Expenses	£20.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jul)	£248.23
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jul)	£26.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Aug)	£248.23
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Aug)	£26.00

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £1,638.83 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

The following receipts were also noted:

Great Bricett PC	Ink Cartridge Contribution	£115.79
HMRC	VAT Reclaim for 2020/21	£1,066.54
Creting St Mary PC	Ink Cartridge Contribution	£115.79
Creting St Peter PC	Ink Cartridge Contribution	£115.79
Masquerade	Recorder Advert Fee	£30.00

h) **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

**It was AGREED:** that the Budget Monitoring report be noted.

## **ES39/21/22 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Ref: DC/21/02373** - Householder Planning Application - Erection of Outbuilding - The Rectory, Fen Lane, Earl Stonham

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

**Ref: DC/21/03470** - Full Planning Application - Conversion of garage to form 1No dwelling - The Laurels, Forward Green, Earl Stonham

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

It was brought to the attention of members that a house in the village was erecting a large roof structure with planning permission being questioned.

**It was AGREED:** That the Clerk liaise with the Planning Department.

## **ES40/21/22 - PLANNING DECISIONS**

The following decisions were noted:

**Ref: DC/21/01878** - Application for Listed Building Consent - Internal and external works as described in Design & Access Statement - Cherry Tree Farmhouse, Blacksmiths Lane, Earl Stonham - **Granted**

**Ref: DC/21/01537** - Householder Application - Erection of first floor side extension - 1 Pembroke Cottage, Stowmarket Road, Earl Stonham – **Granted**

**Ref: DC/21/01258** - Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No Dwelling with garage and alterations to existing access onto Wicks Lane - **Granted**

## **ES40/21/22 – FOOTPATHS**

Members noted that it was the time of year when all footpaths were becoming very overgrown.

The pathway along the A1120 from Wicks Lane to Blacksmiths Lane had become difficult to walk down due to the long grass, nettles and other vegetation on either side.

Some villagers had complained about the problem and the Clerk confirmed that she had spoken with Suffolk Highways who confirmed they would cut the verges sometime this week, although it was unsure as to whether this particular footpath was included in SCCs remit.

Members felt that perhaps the best way to address this issue each year would be for a working party to cut/trim this and other areas to ensure easy access along the pathway.

**It was AGREED:** That Cllr Turner put an article in the next Recorder asking for volunteers to form such a Working Party.

## **ES41/21/22 – ALLOTMENTS**

The Clerk confirmed that she had sent out letters to all tenants informing them of an increase in rent as from October 2021 in line with the Consumer Price Index as agreed at the last meeting.

#### **ES42/21/22 – VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Turner reported that bookings were starting to return to the village hall with many waiting to return after July when it was hoped that further restrictions were lifted in relation to Covid.

She added that seating and trees were planned for the rear of the hall, a pub night was planned for July.

Members agreed that the recent Open Day at the hall had been a huge success.

#### **ES43/21/22 – MULTICOURT**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that the License for the Multicourt was due to expire in October 2021 so the Parish Council needed to decide if they were happy to continue with the Multicourt.

He also reported that at a recent meeting of the Trustees the signage of the whole recreation area, car park and Multicourt was discussed. It was felt that improved signage would be beneficial especially a large sign which stated the use of the Multicourt and what it could not be used for.

He explained that he had witnessed a BBQ taking place on the Multicourt recently, which was not acceptable.

Cllr Gillett suggested whether Cllr Wilkinson could draft some wording for a sign and circulate it for members' approval to which Cllr Wilkinson agreed to do.

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council continue the license for the Multicourt.  
That Cllr Wilkinson draft some wording for a sign and circulate to all members for approval.

#### **ES44/21/22 - SPEEDING THROUGH THE VILLAGE**

This had been dealt with earlier in the meeting with County Cllr Hicks.

#### **ES45/21/22 – FESTIVAL OF SUFFOLK 2022**

Cllr Gillett reported to members that a letter had been received from the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk in relation to a Festival of Suffolk to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year and how communities could become involved.

He explained that a nominated *Festival Community Champion* was being sought to join the county wide network that would "*help to make 2022 an exciting and historic celebration*".

During a general discussion it was noted that Tony Turner had already been making plans for the occasion at the village hall and whilst it was not assumed that he could be the nominated person, it was agreed that the original email be forwarded to Cllr Turner to share with Tony.

**It was AGREED:** That the Clerk share the email with Cllr Turner.  
That information about the Festival of Suffolk be shared via the Village Email List.

#### **ES46/21/22 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL**

- Resident suggested the Play Area should be improved – Clerk to put on next Agenda
- Recent Defibrillator incident when a couple walking their dogs interfered with the device which resulted in it falling to the ground and being left. Following checks it was found to be intact and in full working order. Will be monitored.

**ES47/21/22 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30pm**

The meeting finished at 9.15pm.

Chairman: ..... Dated: .....

Draft