



## **EARL STONHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Earl Stonham on **Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present:**

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

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk  
C Henderson-Hamilton (Website Host)

Apologies K Wilkinson and M Hicks

### **ES37/18/19 – PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public were present.

### **ES38/18/19 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllr K Wilkinson and Cllr Hicks.

### **ES39/18/19 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **ES40/18/19 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **ES41/18/19 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018**

**It was AGREED:** That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **ES42/18/19 – POLICE REPORT**

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

### **ES43/18/19 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR M HICKS**

County Councillor Hicks was not present at the meeting but his report was circulated prior to the meeting.

### **ES44/18/19 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR S MORLEY**

Cllr Morley circulated her report prior to the meeting. She reported the following points:

- **Nominate your Stars of Mid Suffolk** - The search is on to find the Stars of Mid Suffolk! This new award scheme was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 by Mid Suffolk District Councils at the Oaksmere Hotel in Eye. There were 17 categories, split between community awards and business accolades including five business awards, five community awards, seven Individual Community Awards. People from across the districts were encouraged to make nominations and the media partner, Archant, would feature some of the stories of the nominees in the East Anglian Daily Times and the Ipswich Star.
- **Proposals for the future of the former council offices** - now online.
- **Residents invited to comment on the future of Needham Market Middle School** - A public consultation on proposals for the future of the former Middle School site in Needham Market was being held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July.

## **ES45/18/19 – WEBSITE**

Mr Henderson-Hamilton reported that he had carried out some housekeeping of the new website in order to improve the consistency of record names, etc. He had also discovered how to use the revised Photo Album feature and had added pictures from recent village events.

He had initiated the "Stats" package which provided information about who used the site and how. It had revealed some interesting information, particularly around the publication of the 'Hullabaloo' photographs on 21<sup>st</sup> June. In the four days of April the website had 71 visitors, in May it rose to 372 visitors, both, probably from renewed interest following the announcement about re-publication. By 21<sup>st</sup> June it had had 333 visits, but by the end of June, that figure had risen to 506 unique visitors for the month. The number of hits went up from 4029 in the month to the 21<sup>st</sup> June, to over 11,000 by the end of the month. That increase was most notable for 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June, coinciding with an email advertising the publishing of the photographs. Most of the increase was to look at images.

The renewed interest was also reflected in the number of views of "Resources" documents, (minutes and reports) rising from 44 in April to 92 in May and 108 in June.

On a wider view, figures for April and May were desktop based, i.e. Windows and Mac. By the end of June, the figure for IOS (mobile devices) had risen to second place accounting for about 30% of the total. Clearly, we now need to redesign the site to be mobile friendly, and he was currently looking for a suitable design to use.

There was also a move by Google to downgrade sites that do not have a security certificate. That would discourage visitors who were overly security conscious and compliance with GDPR probably required that we should install encryption anyway. He had looked at the options, and the Hosting Provider wanted to upgrade the package for an extra £70.00. He had opted, instead, for a free encryption service offered by an outfit called Cloudflare. That was now installed and we would see the website listed as <https://www.earlstonham.org.uk> from now on, or with the little padlock.

## **ES46/18/19 - CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **a) CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk confirmed to members that the TSB continued to have problems with their systems and so some payments would need to be made via cheque until further notice.

### **b) CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET MONITORING 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 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 was £9,358.02.

c) **PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Salary (July)	£213.58
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Expenses (July)	£20.00
Creeting St Peter Parish Council	1/5 of lockable cupboard	£55.20
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Salary (August)	£213.58
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Expenses (August)	£20.00
Vertas Ltd	Grass Cutting	257.22

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £779.58 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk. It was also noted that payments of £195.54 (website set-up/hosting) be paid to C Henderson-Hamilton, £170.00 (reimbursement of Recorder printing) to D Turner and £6.96 (reimbursement of stamps) to the Clerk be ratified.

The following receipts were also noted:

HMRC	VAT Reclaim 2017-18	£1,102.16
PlusNet	Account refund	£2.60
Stonham Interiors	Recorder Advert	£30.00

d) **DORMANT ACCOUNT OF THE YOUTH CLUB**

The Clerk reminded members that a previous signatory for the dormant Youth Club Account had found where the account was held and was in the process of reclaiming the money. The exact amount was unknown. It was ratified that the money should go to the Village Hall.

**ES47/18/19 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

No planning applications had been received.

**ES48/18/19 – PLANNING DECISIONS**

**It was AGREED:** That the following decisions be noted.

**Ref: DC/18/01400** - Outline Planning Application - Erection of 1 no. detached dwelling Cherry Tree Farmhouse, Blacksmiths Lane, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5ET – **REFUSED**

**Ref: DC/18/01851** - Erection of a two-bay timber-framed cartlodge with one closed bay and one open bay - Venns Farm, Debenham Road, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5HF - **GRANTED**

**ES49/18/19 – DEFIBRILLATOR**

The Clerk reported that a training date was still to be confirmed by the Community Heartbeat Trust. She also confirmed that the Rota for checking the Defibrillator and Cabinet was now in use.

**ES50/18/19 – ALLOTMENTS**

Cllr Woods reported that all allotments continued to have tenants and were all being kept in good order. He stated that a few Councillors should meet and have a walk around the allotments in the near future in order to monitor them.

### **ES51/18/19 – VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Turner reported that the Hullabaloo had been a huge success and had raised over £2,000. Particular highlights for the children were the sheep and hedgehogs.

Cllr Henderson-Hamilton reported that the Birds of Prey had also been a highlight and the owner had stated that he had had a lot of interest in the birds on the day.

Cllr Stanford asked Cllr Turner to pass on his thanks to Mr Turner for organising the event.

### **ES52/18/19 – WAR MEMORIAL**

The Clerk confirmed that she had received the second quote for the refurbishment of the war memorial which had come in at £684 (inc. VAT). She had now added the quote to the grants application and would send it off via email.

**It was AGREED:** That the quote from Saxon Monumental Craft would be accepted and the Clerk ask the company to progress with the work.

### **ES53/18/19 – WOODEN POSTS FOR VILLAGE GREEN**

The Clerk reported that additional quotes for the provision and installation of the wooden posts had not been forthcoming. Cllr Heard stated he would be happy to install the posts once they had been purchased. Cllr Budd asked that the Clerk email through any quotes received to her as she may well be able to get a discount.

### **ES54/18/19 – A1120 AT CHURCH LANE**

Cllr Stanford reported that the entrance to and from Church Lane was increasingly becoming more dangerous. Many residents had spoken to him about the issue to see if anything could be done about it. Suggestions such as lowering the speed limit at the part of the A1120, or signage to try to alleviate the issue.

**It was AGREED:** That the Clerk write a letter to Suffolk Highways to ask if they could help with the problem and if so what would they suggest.

### **ES55/18/19 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL**

- Cllr Heard reported that the large hole near to the Ichiban site was now being dealt with.
- Cllr Heard reported that the path that goes from the end of Wicks Lane to the field owned by Spong Farm, which continues across the field then right along the verge to Blacksmiths Lane, had not been burnt off this year. Cllr Heard had strimmed the part of the path from the end of Wicks Lane to the field, but beyond that the crops belong to Spong Farm. And seeing that they had now ripened spraying would not clear the path, it needed to be strimmed by the landowner.
- Cllr Budd reported that a lot of the footpaths had been cleared as she had seen the men with their machinery in action. The footpath at Pear Tree Farm was in a bad state with the hedge having fallen over.
- Cllr Stanford reported that a way-marker sign was missing at Fen Lane between footpath 69 and 67.
- Cllr Henderson-Hamilton reported that she had seen cars parked on the Green again.
- Cllr Stanford reported that the Gallaghers were moving and a leaving service will be held for them at the Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> September in the afternoon. They would be greatly missed.
- Cllr Challinor was pleased to say that she had seen a Barn Owl around her property recently.

**ES56/18/19 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was AGREED:** That the next meeting be held at the Village Hall on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 at 7.30pm

The meeting finished at 8.45pm.

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