



EARL STONHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Earl Stonham on **Monday, 3rd September 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
K Wilkinson

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

ES57/18/19 – PUBLIC FORUM

There were two members of the public present.

ES358/18/19 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from the Police.

ES59/18/19 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Turner and Cllr Wilkinson declared an interest in Item 10 on the Agenda. Cllr Stanford declared an interest in Item 16 on the Agenda.

ES60/18/19 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

ES61/18/19 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2nd JULY 2018

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd July 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

ES62/18/19 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/18/03573 - Full Planning Application - Change of use of land from agricultural to residential - Avondale Hall, Balls Way, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5HX

Members were concerned that the land in question would, at some stage in the future, be used for residential development. Despite that they were aware that what was being asked of them, at that stage, was the change of use from agricultural to residential (garden).

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

ES63/18/19 - PLANNING DECISIONS

It was AGREED: That the following decisions be noted.

Ref: DC/17/04745 - Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act - Removal of Condition 2 (Agricultural Occupancy) relating to W/9265/1 - Pear Tree Farm, Fen Lane, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5EG – **GRANTED**

Ref: DC/18/02681 - Application for Listed Building Consent - Re-roofing works, including replacement of 3no. roof lights - Chapel Farm, Fen Lane, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5EF – **GRANTED**

Ref: DC/18/02345 - Planning Application - Erection of self-contained annexe and double garage - Holly Bank House, Broad Green Road, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5HU - **REFUSED**

ES64/18/19 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – CLLR M HICKS

Cllr Hicks reported the following:

- **Suffolk students celebrate improved GCSE achievements** - Self-reported statistics from Suffolk schools, released on 23 August, showed that more students in Suffolk had achieved expected levels of GCSE attainment in English and Maths this year with Debenham High School receiving the best results.
- **Another year of outstanding results for Suffolk students** - Self-reported A-level figures, released on 16 August, showed that Suffolk pupils had once again performed well with the number of A*-E grades awarded above the national average.
- **Suffolk’s tourist trade booming as economy hits £2bn mark** - Suffolk’s tourism trade had seen its biggest boom for a decade – with the visitor economy reaching the £2 billion mark for the first time. Interim figures released on 8 August by Visit Suffolk showed that tourism grew by at least five per cent in 2017, more than double the year before. Overnight visits and lengths of stay for tourists were also up by more than 4%.
- **Superfast broadband coverage continued to grow** - On 24 August 2018, it was confirmed that 98% superfast broadband coverage would be achieved in 2020.

Cllr Challinor stated that it was a great shame that all the Tourist Information Centres across the county were closing, to which Cllr Hicks stated that the general public used the internet by way of researching information on visiting areas and places of interest.

ES65/18/19 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – CLLR S MORLEY

Cllr Morley reported the following:

- **One Million Square Feet of New Business Space for Stowmarket** - Gateway 14 Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mid Suffolk District Council, had purchased 100 acres of land to the East of Stowmarket, directly adjacent to junction 50 of the A14 trunk road. Known as ‘Gateway 14’, the site was ideally situated to provide vital links to the Port of Felixstowe in the East, to the Midlands and the UK motorway network beyond. With outline planning consent establishing the principle for employment development, there was the potential to accommodate over 1 million sq. ft. of logistics, warehousing, advanced manufacturing and business space. It was envisaged that the site would be developed over the next 10 years to deliver high quality sustainable buildings for local and national businesses. It would also create a range of opportunities for local businesses to be involved in the construction, servicing and running of

the Business Park, and would generate employment opportunities for Stowmarket and the surrounding area. The site benefited from both an Enterprise Zone and a Food Enterprise Zone designation offering further benefits to businesses locating to the site.

- Foyer Scheme to Open Doubling Homelessness Provision - A restored facility at The Foyer in Stowmarket was set to more than double the Council's provision of accommodation for families and vulnerable people in the Mid Suffolk District that found themselves without a home when it opens on 10 September. The Foyer, previously owned by Flagship Housing, had been unused for over a year. Mid Suffolk District Council had now purchased the building and carried out repairs to bring the building back into use. The new scheme would provide housing for 17 vulnerable families and individuals while the Council investigated their housing needs and requirements.
- Councils Demonstrate Housing Land Supply - Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils had demonstrated a Housing Land Supply of greater than five years, meeting their obligation under the National Planning Policy Framework. A Five-Year Housing Land Supply was a demonstration that a local authority was seeing enough homes built to meet housing need over the next five years. With the publication of the updated 5-year land supply position planning officers would now be reviewing all current application and pre-application enquiries on which that had had a bearing. That included all applications for which formal planning permission had not yet been issued
- Funding for Shop Fronts Unveiled - Businesses in Mid Suffolk's Market Towns were being invited to apply for funding to make improvements to their shopfronts and make their businesses more accessible under two new grant schemes launched Friday 31st August. Businesses in Stowmarket, Needham Market, Eye and the surrounding villages could apply for grants to both make their buildings more attractive on the high street and help create a better experience for visitors. The improvements could be funded under a Shop front Grant or an Accessibility Fund grant, both of which were available to shop owners. Information could be found in the Shop Front Scheme leaflet.
- Nominate your Stars of Mid Suffolk - The search was on to find the Stars of Mid Suffolk! The new award scheme was launched on 1st 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.

Cllr Turner asked Cllr Morley about the junction of the A140 and A1120 where Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) house some machinery amongst other items. Members felt that junction was fast becoming an eye sore and as it was the entrance to the village felt that it needed to be dealt with.

Cllr Morley stated she would look into it.

Cllr Turner asked Cllr Morley about whether MSDC had any plans to provide Post Offices, locally, that were easily accessible, following the closure of the Stowupland Post Office.

Cllr Wilkinson continued that instead of the District Council providing funding for shop fronts in local towns to be better improved, in order to bring more interest into the town centres, shouldn't that be better achieved by reducing business rates in order to enable shop owners to improve their fronts and entice new businesses into the towns?

Cllr Morley explained the 'Community Infrastructure Levi' (CiL), money that was given to parishes as part of new builds within the parish. She stated that CiL money could be used on such things as post offices and other such services. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had not received any CiL money as yet so it was not an option for the Parish Council.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk look into whether the Parish Council should be receiving any CiL monies.

ES66/18/19 - POLICE REPORT

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

ES67/18/19 – CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk reported that she had received the results of the Boundary Review. Earl Stonham would remain within the Stonhams Ward and the Councillor for that ward would be elected in the 2019 Elections.

The Clerk reported that following the previous meeting she had contacted the Highways Department in relation to the junction of Church Lane with the A1120 regarding the dangers of entering and exiting the Lane. She had received confirmation from Highways that the letter had been forwarded to the Road Safety Department.

The Clerk reported that she had received a telephone call from a lady who was due to move into the village. The property she was buying, in Forward Green, had a name that she wanted to change and she asked whether the Parish Council had any issues with that. The Clerk explained to her that she did not need to inform the Parish Council. The procedure that needed to be followed concerned the Post Office and District Council.

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 29th August 2018 was £7,777.75.

c) PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Salary (Sept)	£213.58
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Expenses (Sept)	£28.00
B Heard	Fixtures for Finger post	£12.93
D Turner	Reimbursement of Recorder Printing	£170.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Salary (Oct)	£213.58
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Expenses (Oct)	£20.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £658.09 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk. It was also agreed that a payment of £1,050 be made, as a donation, to the Church towards a replacement mower. The payment was proposed by Cllr Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Heard.

The following receipts were also noted:

09.07.18	Mr & Mrs Hyde	Recorder Payment	£30.00
18.07.18	R J Nunn	Allotment Rent	£492.45

ES68/18/19 – DEFIBRILLATOR

The Clerk reported that all was well with the Defibrillator and she thanked Cllr Heard for the weekly checks he carried out.

She explained that at the recent defibrillator training residents in the village had agreed with the possibility of a volunteer list, which would be held by the Ambulance Service, where during any occasions that the defibrillator was needed within the parish, the nearest registered volunteer would be called and asked to take the defibrillator to that location. The Clerk informed members that she had asked for more information about the service from the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) and would report back to a future meeting.

ES69/18/19 – ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Woods reported that the recent introduction of a Cockerel to one of the allotments had caused problems to neighbouring properties. Complaints had been received which had resulted in the tenant being spoken to in order to alleviate the problem. The tenant had agreed to move the Cockerel further away from the properties but it had been made clear, by a member of the public present at the meeting, that the issue remained a problem. Environmental Health had been informed but they had stated that a site visit would be necessary.

Cllr Woods confirmed to members that there were no restrictions on the Allotments as to what livestock could be housed on them, but that he would speak with the Tenant again.

Cllr Woods also reported that the rental rates for the Allotments were due to be reviewed at the end of September and he therefore felt that a site visit by all members would be beneficial. Tuesday, 18th September at 6pm was agreed.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk write to all the tenants to inform them of the visit.

ES70/18/19 – VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Turner reported that the Pub Nights and Quiz Nights continued to be a success with them both being well attended. She also mentioned the possibility of holding another event on the Village Green. Cllr Turner also asked members for any suggestions as to what the piece of land behind the Cricket Club's land at the rear of the hall and what it could be used for.

ES71/18/19 – WAR MEMORIAL

The Clerk reported that funding had been secured from the 'War Memorials Trust' to go towards refurbishment of the village War Memorial. She explained that she had advised the contractor to commence with the works and they had confirmed that works could be undertaken during October.

ES72/18/19 – WOODEN POSTS FOR VILLAGE GREEN

Cllr Budd reported that she could get a discount for the posts for the village green. Cllr Heard confirmed that he would be happy to install them.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Budd order the posts.

ES73/18/19 – CHURCHYARD MOWER

Cllr Stanford reported that the church mower needed to be replaced with a new one costing £4,425. £750 would be received as part exchange for the old mower, donations had been received totaling £1,250. Currently the Parochial Church Council (PCC) had a total of £490 within their account which left a shortfall of £1,935.

Members suggested the PCC seek funding from the Trustees.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council would donate £1,050 to the church towards the new mower. Cllr Wilkinson proposed and Cllr Heard seconded.

ES74/18/19 – REMEMBRANCE / 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The Clerk informed members that she had received a query from a resident about whether the Parish Council had signed up to purchase a 6ft ‘Tommy’ as part of the Centenary celebrations. She had replied to the resident to state that, as a mark of respect, the Parish Council were going to refurbish the war memorial. Cllr Budd confirmed she would arrange for the usual wreath.

Cllr Stanford reported that 10 silhouettes had been ordered for the Church.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk inform the resident of the church’s intentions.

ES75/18/19 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- The three noticeboards needed cleaning as they showed signs of mould.
- Street Light near to ‘Perfect Perennials’ was still not working and now had cables hanging from it.
- Suffolk Police Choir were due to perform on 20th October 2018.
- Village Welcome Pack – the person who used to print the packs has had to stop and so another volunteer would need to be found.

ES76/18/19 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting be held at the Village Hall on Monday, 5th November 2018 at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9.25pm.

Chairman: Dated: