



## **EARL STONHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Earl Stonham on  
**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present:**

Councillors: C Woods (Chair)  
D Turner  
J Henderson-Hamilton  
K Wilkinson  
H Stanford  
B Heard  
H Glasse

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk  
S Morley – District Councillor

### **ES114/19/20 – PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

### **ES115/19/20 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from County Cllr Hicks, Cllr Brenig-Jones and Cllr Budd.

### **ES116/19/20 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None had been received.

### **ES117/19/20 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **ES118/19/20 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

**It was AGREED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **ES119/19/20 – TO RECEIVE THE POLICE REPORT**

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

### **ES120/19/20 - TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR HICKS**

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

### **ES121/19/20 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR MORLEY**

Cllr Morley reported the following:

- **Mid Suffolk Budget for 2020/21** - The first draft of Mid Suffolk District Council's budget for 2020/21 was set to be considered which included a 1.66% increase in its share of Council Tax, adding £2.76 a year to the bill of a Band D Property.
- **Councils to consider move to clamp down on Council Tax fraud – while helping those in need** - Penalties may be introduced in Babergh and Mid Suffolk to tackle council tax fraud, alongside a new Citizens Advice council tax protocol to help those in genuine need, following cabinet discussions this month.
- **Needham Lake Visitor Centre** - the next phase in development of Needham Lake visitor centre and café agreed - Plans for a £600,000 visitor centre/café at Needham Lake had been approved and a local operator selected to run it - supporting local youth work and boosting tourism to the town.

Cllr Stanford asked Cllr Morley if there had been any progress with the issues at Tap Junction. Cllr Morley stated that the case was still with the legal team.

The Clerk reported that she had spoken with Planning Enforcement as she had not heard from them since September. They informed her that they had sent a letter to the owners of the site which stated that they needed to clear the site of all machinery within two months. Following the two-month timescale the owner had not done what was asked and so the Enforcement Team were drafting an Enforcement Notice to serve upon them. They would keep the Clerk updated.

## **ES122/19/20 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **i) THE CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk reported that any grants/donations needed to be agreed to enable payment before the end of the financial year.

Following a brief description:

**It was AGREED:** That the following recipients receive donations:

Homestart - £50  
 Forward Africa - £100  
 Livability - £50  
 Stowmarket Food Bank - £50  
 Citizens Advice Bureau - £125  
 Village Hall - £500

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 was £10,369.26.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jan)	£241.60
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Expenses (Jan)	£20.00
MB Trees	Crown raised all trees on Green	£504.00
D Turner	Recorder printing reimbursement	£175.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Feb)	£241.60

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £1,202.20 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk. Also, that a payment for £30 to Earl Stonham Church be made as a donation for the Christmas Tree given for the Green be ratified.

The following receipt was also noted:

Sdays	Recorder advert	£10.00
Mace Decorating	Recorder advert	30.00
Mr Perkins	Allotment Rent	£7.50
Mr Beckett	Allotment Rent	£148.00
Miss Seaman	Allotment Rent	£15.00
Mr Coward	Allotment Rent	£7.50
Mr Stiff	Allotment Rent	£15.00
Porch Farms	Allotment Rent	£371.28
Mr Nunn	Allotment Rent	£1,327.40

iv) **FINAL BUDGET 2020/21**

The Clerk had circulated the Draft Budget prior to the meeting.

**It was AGREED:** That the Final Budget be approved.

v) **PRECEPT 2020/21**

**It was AGREED:** That the Precept of £6556 be approved. **Clerk to Action.**

**ES123/19/20 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Ref: DC/19/05922** - Full Planning Application - Conversion of agricultural building following Class Q Approval (DC/19/04932 dated 03.12.2019) including alterations to plans and Elevations - Fen Barn, Fen Lane, Earl Stonham, Ipswich Suffolk IP6 8QE

During a brief discussion the Parish Council shared concerns over the slowly continuing development of the site. Their past concerns remained as such in relation to insufficient infrastructure to warrant another dwelling and the danger of the narrow lane to access/exit the dwelling.

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council object to the application in view of the above concerns. **Clerk to action.**

**ES124/19/20 - PLANNING DECISIONS**

The following decisions were noted:

**Ref: DC/19/04092** - Application for Listed Building Consent - Installation of door and windows to rear elevation following removal of existing door and window - Weylands Farmhouse, Forward Green, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5EW - **GRANTED**

**ES125/19/20 – WAR MEMORIAL UPDATE**

The Clerk reported that despite many attempts to contact with the contractor who refurbished the war memorial they had not been forthcoming with any refund. The Clerk therefore took advice from SALC and also Legal advice from the Parish Council's Insurers. She stated that she had drafted a letter which she would share with the Chair and Vice-Chair before sending to the contractor.

### **ES1261/19/20 – TRAFFIC CALMING**

Warning signage for the Church Lane junction on the A1120 was still to be installed.

The Clerk presented quotes to members for speed signs for the A1120. The quotes ranged between £1,800 and £2,500. Members felt at the current time they could not afford to purchase a speed sign, but would file the information received should it be revisited.

### **ES127/19/20 - FOOTPATHS**

Cllr Henderson-Hamilton reported that the fingerpost was down at the junction of Spong Lane and the A1120. **Clerk to action.**

### **ES128/19/20 - ALLOTMENTS**

There was nothing to report.

### **ES129/19/20 – VILLAGE HALL**

There was nothing to report.

### **ES130/19/20 – WEBSITE**

There was nothing to report.

### **ES131/19/20 – PLAY AREA / MULTI-COURT**

Cllr Woods reported that the annual inspection had been carried out on the play area and multicourt. It had been noted that the inspection report stated that there was a risk of young children, if not supervised, could get their heads stuck through the bars. Because it was stated as a 'very low risk' no action was needed.

In relation to the grass on the mound Cllr Heard suggested that artificial grass be laid in order to combat the weeds/thistle problems recently experienced. Other members felt though that artificial grass could actually be more of a risk for harm than weeds.

Cllr Woods confirmed that he would mention the issues surrounding the mound at the next Trustees meeting.

### **ES132/19/20 – JUNCTION OF A140/A1120 (TAP JUNCTION)**

This had been discussed earlier in the meeting with Cllr Morley.

### **ES134/19/20 – 'PICNIC ON THE GREEN' – THEATRE GUILD'S PROPOSAL**

Cllr Turner reported that the Theatre Guild would like to put on another show at this year's 'Picnic on the Green' event as they did last year. They hoped that the Parish Council would again support them.

Members were happy for this to go ahead and full support would be given.

### **ES133/19/20 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL**

- At the next AGM a speaker from Ichiban be sought.
- Cllr Heard would continue to replace rotten posts around the Green once the warmer weather arrives.
- Donation of £30 to the church be made for the Christmas Tree.
- Signage needed 'no HGVs' on Blacksmiths Lane.

- £196 was raised at the 'Carols on the Green' event and the WI added to it to make it £200 for charity.

**ES134/19/20 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 at 7.30pm**

The meeting finished at 8.40pm.

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