

MINUTES OF THE WHATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WHATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 20th January 2021 Via Zoom

Present

Mr. P. Whittle	Chairman
Mr. D. Cross	Vice Chairman
Mr. D. Dray	Parish Councillor
Mr. G. Smith	Parish Councillor
Mr S Clifford	Parish Councillor
Mr R, Searle	Parish Councillor
Mr. R Lindsay	County Councillor
Mr. L. Jameson	District Councillor
Mrs. L. King	Parish Clerk

1, Apologies for Absence

Mrs C. Curtis	Parish Councillor
Mrs J. Green	Tree Warden

2. Matters arising from Minutes of meeting held 2nd December 2020 Minutes of 2nd December 2020 meeting were accepted and signed. . Prop David Cross Sec: Roy Searle Unanimous

3. Correspondence We have had confirmation from Babergh that they have received our Precept Form and the first payment will be the 1st April. The Chairman asked that the PC sends a happy retirement letter to Lynn (the outgoing Headmistress of the School and to Julia Shaw the new headmistress welcoming her to Whatfield. Unanimous.

4. County Councillor's Report – County considering raising precept 4%

The county council is preparing to raise the precept on the council tax for 20/21 for the general budget by 1.99% - the maximum allowed – and by 2% for social care (below the 3% allowed). The council is assuming about £41m extra spending over the previous year and so is taking £23m from “risk reserves” to balance the budget. The Government may make up some or all of this.

Green budget amendments for county council 2021-22 budget

The county is currently preparing its budget for 2021-22 and my political group – LDGI - is planning a few amendments. We have chosen three key priorities for our budget amendment: Warm homes, Supporting community groups and charities through the pandemic, and Income generation & the climate emergency. We will be proposing multiple projects and policy decisions around these three key themes.

County - Biodiversity motion unanimously approved

This was passed at full Council on the 3rd December, enhancing the measures already pledged by Babergh and other district councils around Suffolk. Suffolk owns all the rural verges and much county farm land so there is potential for far greater positive impact. The actions in the motion are

- Delivery of a biodiversity strategy.
- Assessment of how SCC can lead partner organisations in this field.
- Adoption of biodiverse land management options on Suffolk council's own land.
- A letter to the Secretary of State calling for a clear and ambitious national biodiversity strategy.

Views wanted on the new Suffolk Streets Guide

The county is currently running a consultation on its proposed Streets Guide, which will assist with the design of new housing estates showing how best to create road layouts that promote walking and cycling. A new Street Guide has been commissioned to update guidance for residential streets. Comments on the draft guide are welcomed and there is a survey to complete. The consultation closes at 5pm on 10th February 2021.

Link: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/planning-and-development-advice/suffolk-design-streets-guide/>

Consultation on the Suffolk Climate Change Action Plan

In November and December SCC ran a series of six online workshops for invitees from the six sectors on the Suffolk Climate Action Plan. They were each video recorded and can be viewed online <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/initiatives/pledge-to-climate-emergency-declaration/>

The public are being asked to give their own feedback on online forms to each sector.

- Sustainable Buildings
- Large Industrial & Commercial Energy Users
- Transport & Air Quality
- Small Industrial & Commercial Energy Users
- Energy & Planning
- Community Action & Schemes
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4. ***District Councillor's Report*** Car Parking Charges

The Cabinet were due to decide on the implementation of Car Parking charges across the district on the 7th January. Following public outcry and the submission of a valid petition, this matter has now been deferred until the February Cabinet meeting. This allowed Overview and Scrutiny to debate the proposals on Monday. The recommendations that came out of the meeting were generally in favour although they did recommend that the free parking period be extended from 30mins to 1Hour and that the implementation date be pushed back to September.

Full Council debated the petition from Hadleigh residents last night asking for parking in Hadleigh to remain free and that any future decision be made only after full consultation. This was approved by Chairman's casting vote.

The main charges causing concern are –

Sudbury Main car parks	
30mins	Free
1Hour	50p
2hours	£1
3hours	£2
Hadleigh Main Car Parks	
30mins	Free
3hours	£1

Vehicle Fleet

Cabinet have agreed to move to using HVO as a replacement for conventional diesel in the Council vehicle fleet. This is a cleaner, less polluting fuel and results in reducing the councils CO2 emissions by 900 tonnes a year. This represents 26% reduction of the Councils total emissions.

The Council will now procure a supplier for the provision of HVO fuel and the supply and installation of a fuel tank at Chilton Depot, Sudbury. The storage tank will cost the Council approx. £50K but will be the only expense. HVO is an alternative way to produce high-quality bio-type diesel fuels without altering the vehicles themselves. These fuels are colloquially referred to as "renewable diesel fuels" instead of "biodiesel".

Garden waste (brown bin) collections

The garden waste (brown bin) collections were suspended from Monday 11 January 2021 until further notice. This is to allow crews to prioritise essential waste collections, such as the collection of refuse, recycling, and clinical waste.

Unfortunately, the Serco crews have been affected by Covid and are either off work or isolating. Suspending collections allows the waste team to free up available crew members to work on priority collections. Future invoices will be adjusted to compensate for this period of non-collection.

Precept Survey

Last year the government gave PCCs the ability to raise the policing element of the precept by up to £15 per annum for a Band D property for the next financial year.

Suffolk's PCC, Tim Passmore, is proposing to use this maximum increase. If the plans go ahead, it is said that this extra funding will provide in the region of 70 additional police officers recruited to the force in the next financial year. A survey to gauge the public response to his proposal opened on the 5th January and closes on the 28th.

Fees and Charges 2021/22

The 2021/22 schedule for fees and charges was agreed at Cabinet on the 7th. Fees and charges are an important source of income to the Council, enabling important services to be sustained and provided. In 2021/22 Babergh's fees and charges are budgeted at £4.0m, which is 12% of the Councils gross expenditure.

In addition to the proposed parking charges mentioned above other key changes/increases relate to licensing, the green environment (bins and dog bins) and household waste.

5 Reports

i) Footpaths Wet, Muddy, Horrible.

ii) Tree Warden (Wet weather)

December and January have been very wet, it is rather difficult to walk in local woodlands at the moment and the conservation woodland path is very wet at moment, however let hope spring arrives early this year as lot more local people out for walks in these lockdown times we are in.

(Education)

I have been learning about what trees in our local area are poisonous to farm animals.

(1Cattle) Oak, Ivy, red maple laburnum, yew and cherry, is not recommend, either.

(Pigs) Oak acorn are fine for pigs, red maple and ivy, laburnum, you are poisonous too them.

(Goats) yew, pine trees ivy, cherry trees, laburnum.

Most animals would not eat these trees anyway as they have leaves that have bitter taste.

Next month I will be leaning about plants, that are poisonous to farm animals and which are beneficial to their heath, one's that kill worms.

(Local tree issues)

I do not have any problems to report at present.

Questions from the Public – None

6. Action Updates

Allotments .We have now got all of our allotments taken and we have a small waiting list.

Playground .Nothing to report. The playground is exceptionally well used.

7. Neighbourhood Plan .The final consultation is now online and ends on the 05\03\2021. Moving steadily towards March and then the examination stage will commence. The final stage should be completed by approximately June/August.

8. Planning - We have had two planning proposals. 11. The Street Whatfield (Loft Extension) and Silver Leys a Single Storey Rear Extension. Both are awaiting approval.

9. Health & Safety –None

10. Accounts and Payments . As of the 10th January 2021 we have a bank balance of £12, 626.73 with no outstanding invoices

24th March 2021 at 7.45 pm via Zoom

Meeting closed at 8.49pm

Signed Date.....