

MINUTES OF THE WHATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WHATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 29th June 2022

Present

Mr. D. Cross	Vice Chairman
Mr. G. Smith	Parish Councillor
Mr S Clifford	Parish Councillor
Mr. D. Dray	Parish Councillor
Mr R, Searl	Parish Councillor
Mrs Jilly. Harris	Parish Councillor
Mr. L. Jameson	District Councillor
Sarah Eastman	Conservation Warden
Mrs. L. King	Parish Clerk

The Vice Chairman welcomed Jilly Harris as our new Parish Councillor.

1, Apologies for Absence

Mr. P. Whittle	Chairman
Mr. R Lindsay	County Councillor
Mrs J. Green	Tree Warden

2. Matters arising from Minutes of meeting held 23rd March 2022 Minutes of 23rd March 2022 meeting were accepted and signed. Prop Simon Clifford Sec: David Dray Unanimous

3. Correspondence We now have 2 Dog Bins that are in need of repair and it is our responsibility to do this. Graham Smith has offered to repair these for the Parish Council. A letter of thanks was sent to Dairy Farm for the farm tractor ride.

4. County Councillor's Report No report

5. District Councillor's Report

Church Farm Place Open space

Babergh are still seeking evidence that the collapsed culvert is not part of the land that they are taking on. Landex solicitors say that they have written confirmation that the collapse is on the land of Church Farm and is nothing to do with the land they are handing over. However, despite being asked several times Landex have still not produced this evidence. Babergh are reluctant to take it on without proof as repairs could use up a large chunk of the commuted sum Landex are paying for ongoing maintenance costs.

Quarry traffic

I have recently received an email from Jonathan Ralph, Chairman of Aldham Parish council advising that they are now seeing increasing numbers of Lorries travelling through Aldham. Unfortunately, SCC have so far failed to show any interest in this and appear to be dragging their feet with other planning enforcement issues relating to the quarry.

Cost of Living Plan

Cabinet members at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have considered a five-point action plan to support residents and staff through the cost-of-living crisis, bringing together work already underway with new initiatives, under five key headings:

Cost of Living:

- 1) Co-coordinating Government support – getting help to those who need it.
- 2) Exercising discretion providing welfare support and advice to support those facing challenging times.
- 3) Maximizing partnership working and established systems to provide targeted support where there is a particular trend and need.

Preventing Crisis:

- 4) Maintaining good health – such as referrals for mental health support, use of council gyms, community-led “wellbeing” initiatives

- 5) Ensuring access to food and nutrition – such as healthy eating exercises/initiatives, community gardens and larders, or extra support for local food banks.

The plan brings together a suite of measures that focus on providing advice and support, maintaining people's health, and building on work already underway since the launch of the councils' Communities and Wellbeing strategies.

This includes support and funding for local Citizens' Advice centres and local community organisations; specialist support for council tenants struggling to pay their rent; a wide range of discretionary payments, grants, and reductions for those facing financial hardship; and the Holiday Activity and Food programme to combat holiday hunger for families who are struggling through the school breaks.

Corks Lane, Hadleigh

Significant inflationary pressures in the construction industry have resulted in a shortening of tender validity periods- to a period of a few weeks and sometimes only days, compared with several weeks, or months previously.

This has put Babergh in a difficult position as the contractor's price for phase 1 of the HQ redevelopment was only valid until 10th June 2022 and the Council needed to decide before this date to enable Babergh Growth to determine whether they can award the contract or not. Babergh Growth could not award the contract until they had secured the increased funding. Further delay to the award of contract in the current market would have resulted in price increases.

On June 8th, the Babergh Cabinet therefore agreed to increase the peak funding threshold for Babergh Growth Ltd to £7m for use to deliver the redevelopment of the former HQ site in Hadleigh

Energy Infrastructure

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are calling for an urgent government review of the number and scale of 'potentially divesting' energy infrastructure projects for local communities.

The leaders of both councils have written to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, calling for a wider review of the strategic planning of energy infrastructure including developments such as solar farms and battery storage, for which the districts are seeing a substantial number of applications.

Their call follows both councils' recent objections to National Grid's non-statutory consultation on proposals for the East Anglia GREEN project of overhead lines between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury. Instead, the councils are calling for greater clarity about options for a co-ordinated offshore solution.

While transportation of the power generated from offshore Wind Farms is critical to ensure that the country is not reliant on fossil fuel, we at Babergh Green Party are in full agreement that the offshore solution would be preferable.

6. Reports

i) **Footpaths** Footpath's are generally good, there is still a problem with footpath 3, farm traffic, also issue with hedgerows encroaching footpaths, some have been cut back but others remain, maybe they will be cut later on in the year.

ii) **Tree Wardens** Tree pollen It lovely to see summer has arrived, unfortunately the tree pollen is very high at the moment, it not good if you suffer with asthma or hay-fever.

Suffolk's highest award

I like to say congratulations to our local landowners James Buckle for winning a Suffolk highest award for his community foundation work as chairman which has deliver support for many Suffolk projects and community charity. Also for the stewardship on his land for planting 250,000 tree's and 35km of hedgerows this is a wonderful achievement and will go long way of making Suffolk a very biodiversity green area. This also help with more employment in countryside in management of these tree's and hedgerow for young people leaning land management skills.

Health and Safety I have noticed in a photo of "Ruth Lucas" has taken on Facebook, that the "Ash tree" which hangs over Rectory road near the glebe meadow next to council play equipment had not come into leaf few weeks ago. It looks as if the tree is in decline it has now sprouted some leaves. After conversation with Sarah about it, she said she keep the Ash tree under observation.

Tree warden training events The local Suffolk tree warden are now attending many different training events, which are been in arranged by other more experienced tree warden.

Tree warden on Facebook I still post on Facebook each month about different type of tree in our Whatfield area, also giving little bit of information about the wildlife and wildflowers that can be found on the conservation area this seem be working quite well.

I had no complaints from parishioners about any tree's issues.

iii) **Conservation Report** . All the conservation areas are looking good despite long periods of dry weather. There have been a plentiful amount of pyramidal orchids in Buckles meadow this year. They appear to be increasing and particularly visible on the right hand side entering from rectory road. The meadow has just been cut and the smell of fresh hay was lovely. It was drying well but we have had several rain showers today and although we badly needed rain the timing was unfortunate. I know a complaint has been received from a village resident regarding cutting it whilst the orchids are still in bloom. We need the grass cleared and they were beginning to die off, having been in bloom for two weeks. Colin Goodchild is aware that we have orchids in the meadow but he also has the weather conditions and his other work pressures to consider. In past years the timing of cutting has varied and although seed is lost the plants will increase below ground. We do have an ongoing problem of dog mess and signs reminding owners of the problem were quickly removed so it is hard to know what else can be done, this also reflects the price that can be achieved for the hay finally the kestrel in the buckles meadow box has raised four chicks which have now fledged

Questions from the Public – None

6. Action Updates

Allotments All allotments are fine.
Playground It was proposed that we need two new signs for the Playground in aluminium. Prop: David Cross
Sec: Roy Searl.

7. Planning - 2 Church Farm Place planning has been granted. James Lawson presented a proposed plan for the development of the land behind the Horseshoes. It was agreed that Roy Searl and Charlie would compile a list of comments/suggestions to be agreed on and sent to Mr. Lawson and a meeting would be arranged to discuss going forward.

8. Health & Safety –None

9. Accounts and Payments As of the 1st June 2022 we have a bank balance of £11,041.03, with no outstanding invoices. We have received the Annual Invoice from Babergh for Little and Dog Bins for £350.05. It was agreed and proposed that the Clerks wages should be increased to £11.05 per hour (SP09) and also the hours per week increased from 2 to 3 hours per week and back dated to the 1st April 2022. Prop Paul Whittle Sec David Cross

10. Donations It was agreed that a donation of £200 would be given to Colin Goodchild and that Richard Mowers increased to £250.00 and Graham Smith to £150.00 due to the increase in costs. : Prop: Simon Clifford Sec: Jilly Harris

Next meeting 21st September 2022 at 7.45pm

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed Date.....