

MINUTES OF THE WHATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WHATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 12th July 2018

The meeting opened at 7.45pm.

Present

Mr. P. Whittle	Chairman
Mr. D. Cross	Vice Chairman
Mr. D. Dray	Parish Councillor
Mr. G. Smith	Parish Councillor
Mrs. H. Landon	Parish Councillor
Mr S Clifford	Parish Councillor
Mrs. Lynn King	Parish Clerk
Mr. R Lindsay	County Councillor
Mr. A. Ferguson	District Councillor
Mrs. M Eastman	Conservation Warden

1, Apologies for Absence

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

2. Matters arising from Minutes of meeting held 21st March 2018 Minutes of 21st March 2018 meeting were accepted and signed. Prop Helen Landon: Sec: David Cross Unanimous.

3. Correspondence - We had a letter inviting the village to take part in the annual tractor ride on the 25th of July. Approximately 30 people attended this and a letter of thanks has been sent. The broken bollards outside the bungalows have been reported to the Highway Agency.

4. County Councillor's Report - School bus cuts approved by scrutiny committee, policy to go ahead

Since your last meeting, the cabinet decided to go ahead with these changes (free bus to nearest school rather than to catchment school) but our group successfully "called in" this decision, largely on the basis that they had not shown that it would save any money. Scrutiny committee had to then consider the policy. They decided it was all fine and nodded the policy through. So it will come into effect, phased in for several years beginning with those with children who start school in Sept 2019.

New broom at county

Colin Noble, the leader of Suffolk Conservative group and hence of the county council, was voted out recently by Conservative councillors and replaced by Cllr Matthew Hicks. He has replaced some of the cabinet. The biggest change is that the cabinet member for highways Jane Storey (who was deputy leader) has been replaced by Mary Evans, new deputy leader.

Cllr Evans has launched a major review of the way highways in Suffolk are maintained.

Areas due to be reviewed include:

* Existing policy which determines how resources are deployed, known as the Suffolk Highway Maintenance Operational Plan (HMOP);

* How the location of potholes on the road is considered alongside the width and depth, recognising the impact they can have on cyclists and motorcyclists;

* **How utility companies coordinate roadworks and are held to account for their actions**

* **How residents, councillors and businesses are informed about road repairs and how they can access information;**

* Financial control and contract management;

* How town and parish councils can work closer with Suffolk Highways to make the best use of their local knowledge, skills, money and time.

Motion for council on cycling

I am proposing a motion to the next full county council next Thursday which asks the council to commit to spending a minimum of 5% of its annual transport budget on cycling infrastructure. I hope it will win the Conservative administration's support since they had pledged to build cycle paths in their manifesto.

5. District Councillor's Report - Introduction

It's been a relatively quiet period since we last met and you will be pleased to know that this update will be short.

Public Access

Other than it has been agreed that there will be a support facility of some sort put into Hadleigh I am unable to give you any further details what this will look like or where it will be located.

Boundary Commission

Just a reminder that the Boundary Commission is still expected to submit their final recommendations next month for implementation at the next local elections in May 2019. The new Ward will probably comprise the parishes of – Aldham, Elmsett, Whatfield, Nedging & Naughton, Kersey, Semer, Chelsworth, Lindsey and Wattisham under the title of South East Cosford (9 parishes).

I have gone through the Conservative Central Office interview/selection procedure to approve candidates for the District Council elections in 2019 and been adopted as the Conservative candidate for the new Ward.

Private Sector Housing

The absence of a 5-year land supply remains a serious issue for Babergh DC but we are now planning on reviewing it every 6 months rather than every year. However, because this has proved so damaging, I am now reluctantly recommending that villages group together to write a Neighbourhood Plan.

UPDATE:

Yesterday, 11th July 18, Babergh DC informed the world that we now have a **6.7 year land supply**. Excellent news that should (repeat should) allow the Planning Committee to be much more selective when considering applications.

Disposal of Corks Lane Buildings

This is expected to go to the full Planning Committee in September 18. 50+ private flats and houses.

Angel Court, Hadleigh

After 2 years silence (and large green boards), Babergh DC has recently announced that there will, be a "drop in" presentation on Wednesday 11th July 18 (3pm – 8pm) at the Guildhall, Hadleigh to explain and seek comment on the future of Angel Court.. The plan is for 21 affordable homes.

Parking Charges

You may have seen reference to a common car parking policy for Babergh/MS. I have made it clear that, at the moment, I will not support the introduction the introduction of car parking charges in Babergh DC. Damage to town centre shopping which is already struggling. Partridges up for sale.

Allowances

For your information, I voted against the new allowance being backdated to 2018. I agree with the new rates, but I believe that 2019 (after the next local elections) would have been more appropriate timing. Then nobody can be assured of an appointment because we don't know who will & who won't be elected as Councillors. No accusations of "snouts in the trough".

6. Reports –

i) **Footpaths** - Footpath are in a good condition but we still have a poo problem.

ii) **Tree Warden** – No Report

iii) **Conservation - Buckles Meadow** - Colin has cut, baled and cleared the meadow. I had a complaint from Mr Rice that the orchids had been cut but I considered that they had been on flower for over a fortnight so I was quite happy about the cutting. The weather was favourable so it only took a few days to complete.

The Drift. - The trees are flourishing and the footpath walkable.

Huntys Vale - Richard has continued to cut the paths and there is a lot of butterfly activity. The buckthorn has survived well so we can look forward to brimstone butterflies in the future.

Richard led a walk through the conservation areas which was very successful. A lot of people came and Richard had put in a great deal of preparation on the history and the wild flowers

Questions from the public:

Mandy Squirrel informed that she had placed anti dog fouling signs within the village and some areas have improved. We have a major problem with one villager who keeps removing the sign (9 times) from the telegraph post outside the school, we have the schools permission to place this sign there. It was agreed that the sign should be placed on a separate post to see if that works. The neighbours opposite the sign are willing to photograph this when it happens and are happy to speak to the local community police officer and then we can ask CPO to speak to the villager on our behalf.

7. Action Updates

Telephone Box	Will be started soon
Standing Orders	Postponed
Traffic Calming	Robert Lindsay will speak to Paul Gant to nudge him into action.

8. Planning - Thisledome The Street has submitted planning to convert the existing Conservatory and change to a porch/Sun Room. 4 Church Farm Place has been granted for the roll up garage door on the 12th July 2018.

9. Health & Safety – The Playground has passed its annual health and safety inspection with only a minor fault and Helen will sort this.

10. Accounts and Payments – As of our last statement from TSB we have a balance of £8159.71 with no outstanding cheques. We have not received our precept from Babergh on the 1st April. As although I filled in the change of bank details on the precept form Babergh put this money into our Barclays account. I am dealing with Babergh so that they can get this money into the correct account but having little success at the moment. All the paperwork for our annual accounts have been sent.

11. Donations – It was proposed that the annual donations to Richard Mower and Graham Smith be given for all their hard work in keeping Whatfield clean and tidy. Also the donation to St. Margaret’s Church Graveyard Fund. Prop: Simon Clifford Sec: David Dray unanimous

12. Neighbourhood Plan – Helen was concerned that Whatfield was leaving itself open to more potential building within Whatfield. It was agreed that the Clerk should submit the Neighbourhood Registration on behalf of Whatfield. Prop: Helen Landon Sec: David Cross unanimous

13. Village Camera – The purchase of a village camera would be so we could record and download such things as traffic problems, crime, movement day/night, wildlife within the village and dog fouling. The cost should be around £250.00 for a high quality camera. Helen asked if a second sim card could be purchased. It was Proposed: David Dray Sec: Simon unanimous.

Next Meeting

3rd October 2018 at 7.45 pm Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed Date.....