

MINUTES

TATTINGSTONE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Monday 20 March 2023, 6.30pm held at Tattingstone Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr D Wood, S Keys (Clerk) and 9 members of the public

CHAIRPERSON: Cllr D Wood

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from District Councillor Jane Gould, Jane Kirk (Village Recorder) and Jane Connell-Smith (Tattingstone Primary School & WI)

2. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Cllr Wood welcomed all present to the meeting.

3. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Since my last report we have seen two of our councillors resign for various reasons, my thanks to Sheila and Sue for their various contributions during their service.

In June we witnessed the Women's Cycle Tour of Great Britain pass through the village, an impressive turnout of school children and residents took to the streets to witness this event, which was quite impressive albeit very quick.

Also in June the Parish Council joined forces with the Village Hall Committee to celebrate our late Queens Platinum Jubilee. This involved a screening of the Jubilee Concert on the Saturday evening, thanks to Peninsula Pics for their help and support. On the Sunday we hosted a cream tea in the village hall an event that was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended. Thanks to Paddy and Sarah who generously sponsored these events.

During the course of the year the council has adopted a new code of conduct policy, a grant award policy and is in the process of adopting a community action plan. Just a reminder that all of the Parish Council's policies can be viewed on our website.

The Village Hall also celebrated its centenary albeit two years late due to covid restrictions, I was able to join in the afternoon celebrations and from what I gather a great time was had by all at the evening celebrations. The Parish Council continues to support the Hall whenever possible.

Over the course of the last year the council has dealt with various planning applications; nothing that contentious I am pleased to say. Although we have had correspondence from a village resident concerning the state of one of the villages listed properties with is now in the hands of Babergh District Council who are in conversation with the owner. Hopefully this will be resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

A warm grant has been received and has been passed on to the Drop In that is held every Thursday in the Hall.

At present the provision of new equipment in the play area on the village playing field is being looked into and should benefit from a grant from Babergh as well as benefitting from a grant from the Community Infrastructure Levy Funds held by the Parish Council.

In August we finally resolved the issue of the disappearing dog litter bin along Church Road. This has finally found a new resting place and is being emptied on a regular basis.

The bi-monthly magazine “Tattler” continues to prove very popular with the residents of Tattlingstone. Thanks to all of those who contribute articles and to Denise for editing it. A special thanks to the anonymous donor for their kind donation of £600 towards production costs.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan is progressing well and thanks to all those concerned.

Finally a bit thanks to our clerk Sarah who ensures that everything runs smoothly at council level and manages to keep us all in order. Also a thank you to my fellow councillors for their interest and participation in the smooth running of the council.

Just a gentle reminder to one and all the council is up for re-election this coming May so if anyone is interested in becoming a member of the council please get in touch with our clerk for further details.

Cllr Dave Wood
Chairman
Tattlingstone Parish Council

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Harley highlighted points from the following report provided by email:

Ukraine: One Year Anniversary

A year has passed since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. It was on the 24th March that Councillors cross-party shared a single motion in support of Ukraine. Our Group recommended the motion, condemning the actions of Putin, as well as committed to support and welcome refugees to become a part of Suffolk communities.

The ‘Homes for Ukraine’ programme continues to provide hosts for refugees, but is in need of more households to come forward and offer temporary accommodation. If you think you can still help, please visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/Ukraine. Hosts are entitled to £350 per month, which increases to £500 after 12 months.

Full Council: Successful Motions and Conservative Pushback

In 2022, our Group submit 6 motions – one for each Full Council meeting. The largest group have voted against many of our ambitious policy ideas.

In July, we asked Council to declare a cost-of-living emergency in the county of Suffolk. Rising inflationary pressures, food shortages, and stagnant wages have meant so many more households have fallen below the poverty line. With Winter looming, we believed more emphasis was needed on providing emergency support to the most vulnerable households. This was voted down.

In December, we ask the Council to commit further to Community Transport, as well as investigate further into why the Conservatives failed in their Bus Back Better bid. Rural bus services have been frequently cut, and the council’s failed bid meant millions for investment in restoring the bus network was lost. The Conservatives voted the motion down. We put forward a motion that was passed through the Council to promote cleaner rivers in Suffolk. We believe every community should have access to safe waters. The motion committed the Council to investigate further into what further work can be done to protect biodiversity and address polluting run-off in rivers, as well as working with farmers to encourage better practice.

Carbon Budget – SCC is Not on Track

At the beginning of 2023, the Scrutiny Committee met to discuss the Carbon Budget. This is a document that aims to calculate the amount of carbon SCC emits through its services. More importantly, it shows the Council’s progress towards achieving Net Zero by 2030 – a declaration made by SCC in 2019.

This year's carbon budget shows that SCC is not on track to reach Net Zero by 2030. Current forecasts show that SCC will still be producing 10,000 tonnes of CO2 in 2030 – that's still half of what we are emitting now. In addition, the Council's calculations are not accurate enough to develop the full assessment of carbon impact our services have on the environment.

As SCC has had 31 new Cllrs since the original declaration, our Group will be asking Cllrs to redeclare their commitment to Net Zero by 2030.

2023/24 Budget Meeting: GLI Amendments Declined

At the beginning of February 2023, the Council's budget for 2023/24 was voted in. The budget will now increase tax by 3.99% - broken down into a 2% rise in the Social Care Precept and a 1.99% increase in general tax.

Council services have faced a gruelling year of demand and additional cost pressures. In addition, the Council is not on track to achieve Net Zero by 2030, as they have promised to do so. Therefore, we proposed an additional 0.89% increase (19p weekly increase) to ensure vital services were protected from cutting support to residents, and that more direct action is taken to reduce carbon emissions.

Our Group proposed to invest in a Carbon Budget Officer, to help develop a stronger pathway towards Net Zero. In addition, we proposed to facilitate a review into Suffolk's speed limits, in the hope to provide residents with a clearer path to more appropriate travel in their communities.

We proposed using £1m to actively recruit, retain and reward frontline staff in adult social care, as well as providing more for Suffolk Libraries to help maintain services through the cost-of-living crisis. In addition, we wanted to invest £1m in providing wider capacity of community transport to be used to help achieve Net Zero through EV vehicle usage. Report into SEND Provision: Review & Recommendations

Back in 2021, Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into its Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision. The report found severe failings in the delivery of Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plans for children, serious issues in communicating with parent/guardians, as well as an inefficient work environment within the service revealing high absenteeism. Recommendations were given, in which SCC have worked to implement them. In January 2023, our Group were briefed on the subject and have been informed that all recommendations outlined in the review are now fully completed. Their priorities moving forward continue to be the timeliness of EHC plans, the number of school exclusions, availability of provision, and the ongoing rise in demand for SEND services.

Suffolk Devolution: Big Deal?

In 2022, the Government published its White Paper on Levelling-Up, within which it has agreed that Suffolk will be one of nine initial 'County Deals' up for negotiation to devolve powers. In December 2022, government met with SCC to sign an initial county deal. A public consultation will now follow, asking residents if this is what communities want.

Our Group have questioned whether this is the 'big win' that the Conservatives are portraying this as. £16m a year to deliver 'long-term' transformation is less than what the Conservatives have cut from the council's annual budget over the decades. Other agreements include:

- £5.8m for housing on brownfield sites
- Devolved Adult Education budget (amount undisclosed)
- Transport settlement starting in 24/25 (amount undisclosed)
- £3m to improve energy efficiency in houses

In addition, the deal will look to install a directly elected leader, commonly known as a Mayor – when the Conservatives have said that this wouldn't be the case. Politically, there is a real risk of a stalemate in politics. Not enough information has been given to show how to prevent a gridlock if a Mayor from a minority party is elected.

Overall, our Group will always welcome devolving more power to local authorities. However, this deal is being wrongfully lauded as the all-encompassing answer, when currently it is not. The public will now need to decide whether this is something they want.

Failed Conservative Bids

Despite the Suffolk devolution deal aiming to bring us closer to Government, the Conservatives have suffered a plethora of failing bids this year.

The Department for Transport confirmed in May 2022 that SCC will receive no funding for their Bus Back Better bid. The strategy aimed to improve and expand bus services in Suffolk, connecting rural areas to local and important towns. Government confirmed that the bid was unambitious, something that our Group criticised the strategy on frequently before its submission.

In addition, the Suffolk bids for the Levelling-up fund were unsuccessful. In comparison, Norfolk received £24m, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough received £48m, and Essex received £40m.

Sizewell C: Where are we now?

In November 2022, the Autumn Statement confirmed they would be pushing ahead with Sizewell C and was fully backed by Government. In November, Government confirmed a £700m investment into Sizewell C, becoming a 50% shareholder with EDF – this verifying that the Government bought out the state-owned Chinese business' stake in the project.

Our Group has consistently questioned this project, arguing the environmental and socio-economic impacts on local communities are far too great – as well as the compensation for economic impact being not enough. The Group continue to argue that wind and solar provides a quicker and cheaper route to net zero, and that building on eroding coastal land is unsafe for the public and biodiversity.

Experts forecast that project to take 15 years to build – 17 years under gloomier predictions – costing up to £30bn, with an expectation of producing 7% of the country's energy needs.

Cllr Ash Lever: Newest GLI Addition!

It was with regret that we sadly saw Cllr Peggy McGregor leave our Group – we wish her all the best in her endeavours. In November 2022, the triggering of the Beccles by-election resulted in the Green candidate, Cllr Ash Lever, winning 70% of the vote.

Follow us on:

Twitter - Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group (@SuffolkGLI) / Twitter

Instagram (New!) - https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/

Website - Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council (suffolkgli.wordpress.com)

Annual Report to Peninsula Division from Simon Harley (SCC Councillor)

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

District Councillor Gould provided the following report by email:

6. REPORTS FROM LOCAL GROUPS

6.1 CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT FROM ST MARY'S TATTINGSTONE TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This was my sixth year as Churchwarden of St Mary the Virgin, Tattingstone.

Church Fabric:

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We had a quinquennial inspection from Nick Jacob in 2019 and he has made recommendations as to repairs needed and these have been out to tender. The tender was accepted by the PCC from Bakers of Danbury but we don't have sufficient funds to carry out all the repairs at present. Fortunately none are urgent. The Church is weathertight although the South Vestry door needs replacing and this was part of the tender though could be replaced as part of another project instead. There have been no losses of church property in this year.

Churchyard:

The graveyard has been kept in good condition over the last year with the help of Jim Applegate. Hedges have been trimmed, the beech hedge and tress close to the road have also been reduced and cut back. Swifts nested in the boxes in the Tower for the first time this year and hopefully they will return.

Fundraising and future plans:

Following the failure of the "shop project" last year we have looked at other options for improving the facilities in the Church. It was decided that a kitchenette and toilet are essential to enable more flexible use of the Church and make it more attractive to use for events such as concerts and other fundraising activities.

A working Group arranged designs and these options look very attractive but there will need to be significant fund raising to realise these and also complete the Quinquennial repairs. I am very grateful to those who are taking this process forward.

Interregnum, Services and Reorganisation of the Benefice:

Following the departure of Rev Shannon in September 2022 we have been able to provide monthly communion services on the second Sunday of the month with Don and Tony officiating. We have also had family services some months and have been pleased to support the "Lightwave" fresh expressions project. There have been other additional services such as Remembrance and Carol Services which have been successful and the Church was crammed with around 170 people of all ages for the Christmas Eve service. This was especially pleasing after 2 years of cancelled services due to Covid.

I am planning to run a BCP evening prayer service one Sunday evening a month as the weather is improving.

Following meetings with the Arch Deacon and other Benefices it has been decided after discussion and a majority vote to join with Bentley, East Bergholt and Brantham to form a new Benefice as the old North Samford Benefice was not sustainable in its current form. Meetings are ongoing regarding this process and the advertising and appointment of a new vicar to this Benefice.

Simon Harley, Church Warden

6.2 VILLAGE RECORDER'S REPORT

Jane Kirk provided the following report by email:

I've contributed to every Tattler in 2022. I attended the Annual Recorders Conference in April and I submitted a report for 2022 to the SLHC scheme. I've provided some input on history and heritage for the Neighbourhood Plan. And I contributed a few photographs to the village hall 100 years exhibition.

I'd like to take the opportunity to enquire if there is anyone in the village who would like to take on the role of recorder leaving me to concentrate more on historical research and writing.

Jane Kirk, Village Recorder

6.3 TATTINGSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We cannot believe how quickly this year has gone and the school is planning for Easter already! They have had a very busy and productive start to the school year. Pupils took part in Spirituality Day at the beginning of October. Many parents were in church to join the school for their Harvest festival recently. KS1 and EYFS enjoyed a mock baptism in the church. This added greatly to their understanding of its significance. On the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the children

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wrote many beautiful prayers in tribute to her; these were displayed in the church. We so enjoy seeing examples of children's work displayed in the church; it emphasises the link between the church and the school well.

Mrs Derrett continues as stand in Head Teacher at St Marks Catholic Primary School in Ipswich as they were unable to appoint a permanent headteacher after their initial advertisement. Both schools have agreed that Mrs Derrett continues there, splitting her time between the two schools, until the end of the spring term, by which time St Marks do hope to have appointed a permanent head teacher. This arrangement has advantages for both schools as it brings in welcome additional finance to Tattingsstone, Tattingsstone teachers are gaining valuable experiences in management, and St Marks are benefitting from Mrs Derrett's wealth of knowledge.

I attended a National Anglican Schools Teams meeting on SIAMS [Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools] as the format of this is changing in September 2023. There will be more emphasis on the impact of being a church school on the understanding of Christianity and the philosophy of students, rather than on the methods used. Training from the Diocese on this is already arranged for both staff and governors in the near future.

There was an Open Day at school on Friday 11th November for prospective parents. The numbers were down slightly this year and we hope, now there are no Covid restrictions, that the school can attract more pupils from within and out of our catchment area.

Sheila Tweedy and Jane Connell-Smith as Foundation Governors continue to visit the school on a regular basis. We regularly report back to the PCC who appointed us. We feel part of the school and are always made welcome by the children and staff. Our thanks and blessings go to them all.

Foundation Governors, Tattingsstone CEVC Primary School. March 2023

6.4 ALTON BELLES REPORT 2022-23 (WI)

Alton Belles is an active Women's Institute with around 25 members. Members come from village around Alton Water including Holbrook. We are a registered charity affiliated to the Nation Federation and our local East Suffolk Federation of Wis. The WI is now over 100 years old and has always been a campaigning organisation on behalf of women's rights, from Suffragettes to Diagnosis of ADHD in females.

We managed to continue meetings via Zoom during the Covid shut down but we now meet in person every third Thursday at 7.30pm in Tattingsstone Village Hall.

Alton Belles has had another successful year. We have enjoyed an excellent and varied programme, covering all manner of subjects from Dad's Army to Defibrillator training, from 40's and 50's Fashion to Teaching Ralph Fines how to talk Suffolk. Congratulations to the programme committee. Forthcoming meetings include evenings about Land Girls, the Suffolk Punch and life in Scouting and Guiding. The Photographic Club continues to meet and take some fabulous photographs, some of which have been used in the SEFWI calendar for next year.

This has been my first year as the President and it has been a steep learning curve. I would not have been able to do it without the fantastic committee. On behalf of myself and everyone, I would like to thank our committee for their hard work and support. Also they were such a support after my stroke at the end of November when then stepped in to chair meetings while I was out of action.

We thank Holbrook Parsi Council for allowing us to plant a tree on the playing fields.

We always welcome new members or visitors. If you would like to learn more about our friendly group, please give me a ring on 07798 752147 or mjanecs@yahoo.co.uk.

Jane Connell-Smith
President Alton Belles WI

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6.5 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE REPORT

The Playing Field Committee this year lost its Treasurer of 17 years. The Committee has now welcomed Brian Stennett to this role.

The Committee is working on sourcing quotes for new play equipment to be installed the village play area.

6.6 VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Village Hall Committee is currently working on a project to replace the roof of the hall and install solar panels. This project has been passed to an external company who is managing planning applications etc on behalf of the VH Committee. All of the building work and bid writing will be completed and managed by this company.

The VH Committee will be hosting a summer fete on 24 June 2023.

The Committee successfully sourced a grant for Warm Space funding this year and has been opening the doors to those who need a warm space.

6.7 Tattingstone Good Neighbour Scheme

The Tattingstone Good Neighbour Scheme was set up in 2006 but the functions of the group have recently changed due to the pandemic and the rise in electricity costs.

During the pandemic period the group recruited an additional 15 volunteers due to an anticipated increase in demand. However, the group actually received less requests during this time probably due to neighbours getting involved and an increase in online shopping.

The group is now focussing on new activities such as keep fit, art classes and the “Water Walkers” group around Alton Water.

The increase in energy costs has affected residents and so the group has adapted its weekly drop-in. A grant was received from the Co-op to enable them to offer these sessions free to local people. This was publicised on Anglia Television. The warm room initiative will end in April 2023 although the sessions will continue with a small charge.

The group welcomes donations through [EasyFundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

Thanks were extended to Tricia Connolly for all of the organising that she does for this group.

6.8 Neighbourhood Plan

Andrea Mendel reported that 2 drop in events have now been held. 74 residents attended the last drop in session. The full display from that event is now available to view on the village website. It is hoped that the plan will be complete by the end of the year.

6.9 Tattingstone Cricket Club

The following update was received by email:

SPCC finished the 2022 summer season in good fashion, winning another Wheatsheaf Cup, The Peter Crick Shield, and finishing runners up in the Sunday league, and the Suffolk T20 cup.

2022 marked our 10th anniversary as a club, and our 7th playing at Tattingstone. One of the greatest achievements to date for the club is that we are predominantly filled with members from the peninsula and what’s more is that where I was the only Tattingstone resident on our membership books when we moved the club to Green Lane in 2016, we now have 11 Tattingstone residents in our squad, ranging in age from 13 to 67.

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In our time in Tattlingstone, we have been supported incredibly well by both The Wheatsheaf, and The White Horse who have kindly sponsored us this year.

Our fixtures our out for the 2023 summer, which have been shared with David Wood for the Tattler, and the playing field committee. Please come along and enjoy a sunny Sunday afternoon with us, where the cucumber sandwiches are always good!

7. QUESTIONS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

None received.

8. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed

Meeting closed at 7.02pm