

# Tattingstone Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 8.00pm in Tattingstone Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr. Wood [chair], Cllr. Tweedy, Cllr. Hawes, Cllr Mendel, D. Cllr. McCraw, D. Cllr. Steer.

3 members of the public were present.

**1. Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr. Gipps, Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Clark

**2. Declaration of interest:**

Cllr. Wood declared an interest in item 15 as he was related by marriage to the applicant.

Cllr. Wood declared an interest in item 19 as he was chair of the local committee.

**3. To consider requests for dispensations**

Dispensation was granted as no monetary interest.

**4. To approve minutes of meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

The amendment put forward by Cllr Clarke to item 6 on the minutes was rejected as Council agreed that minutes were not a verbatim report but a summary of the key decisions and the minutes fully reflected what had occurred. The minutes were agreed and then signed as a correct record by Cllr. Wood.

Proposed: Cllr. Hawes

Seconded: Cllr. Tweedy

Passed unanimously

**5. Clerk's Report**

- The clerk asked councillors to complete register of interest forms for the updated central register.
- The clerk asked councillors to sign they agreed that their names, telephone numbers and email addresses could be published on the village web site and that the clerk held contact details.

**6. Matters arising from the minutes**

- The clerk had reported overhanging trees on Lemon's Hill again.

- The clerk had written to owner of car on Church Road about parking. This seems to be resolved.
- The clerk had written to Anglian Water about the dog faeces on its paths.
- Planning DC/17/06963 - Homeleigh, approved by Babergh DC
- Planning DC/18/00615 - The Wheatsheaf, approved by Babergh DC

## **7. Open Forum for members of the public**

- Hedges/trees on the road up from Lemon's Hill Bridge are now dangerous to high sided and wide vehicles. The public complained that nothing had been done even though many complaints had been raised by the Parish council and by individuals. Cllr. Wood said Suffolk CC aware but not a priority. He hoped that in the new financial year, monies would become available for this to be cut back.
- Concern was raised about the petty vandalism that had occurred in the village on several occasions. The police had been informed but members of the public feel that this is pointless as the police have no longer the resources to respond. Cllr. Wood is attending the local Police Forum shortly and will raise the issue. Other neighbouring villages have also been targeted.
- Grave concern was raised by a local farmer about the finding of butchering equipment near grazing sheep. There have been instances of sheep being killed and butchered in local villages. The police had been informed and they were taking immediate action.

## **8. Reports from District and County Councillors**

The reports are attached to the minutes.

C.Cllr Wood added is using a substantial amount of money to commission a report into the formation of a unitary council as in other counties.

## **9. Planning**

- **DC/17/06250**

Sommercourt, The Heath, Tattingstone, IP9 2LX

Demolition of existing building and garage, erection of 4 dwellings and vehicular access, associated garages, landscaping etc. [amendment]

As far as could be seen the amendment was not substantial enough to change the original decision of the Council [item 9 minutes 8.2.18].

The clerk had contacted Babergh Planning department to seek an extension but this was denied. D.Cllr. Mc Craw had asked for this to go

to committee. The clerk will contact Babergh Planning dept. again with the Councils decision to not recommend.

Application not recommended.

Proposed: Cllr. Hawes

Seconded: Cllr. Wood

Carried unanimously

- **DC/18/01188**

Chestnuts, Church Road, Tattingsstone IP9 2NA

Notification of work to trees protected under Tree Preservation Order BT19

T1 sycamore fell [dead branches], T4 [sweet chestnut] reduce overhanging branches, T5 sycamore fell.

The village tree warden had been informed and he had no objection to the application, especially as a replacement tree is to be planted.

Application recommended.

Proposed: Cllr. Mendel

Seconded: Cllr. Wood

Carried unanimously

Councillors and clerk raised concerns about the Planning Department's online facility and the difficulties involved in accessing plans etc.

DCllrs McCraw and Steer left the meeting. 8.50pm

#### **10. Correspondence requiring immediate discussion at the discretion of the Chairman.**

- The monthly AONB report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.
- The Cricket club has been given a grant of £1000 to help improve facilities.
- Clearway on Lemon's Hill Bridge and adjacent roads now confirmed.
- Letter from James Cartlidge MP regarding a meeting about Neighbourhood Plans. Cllr. Gipps and Mendel will attend.
- A letter has been received from the Village Hall trustees informing the Parish Council it is responsible for the maintenance of the defibrillator fixed to the external wall of the village hall. The clerk will write to Mr. B Self and ask for all relevant paperwork to be forwarded to her so that maintenance could be expedited.
- A letter of resignation from the Parish Council had been received from Mrs. J Stanger. Cllr. Wood would write a letter of thanks for her services.
- Cllr. Wood would attend the next meeting of Police forum 11.4.18

**11. Finance: report from R.F.O. Finance: to consider and approve.**

- Bank Balances: Current Account: £7255.94  
Savings Account: £3167.54 [includes £2.14 interest]
- To approve for payment:
  - Clerk's wages and expenses: £263.12
  - H.M.R.C.: £169.20
  - Mrs. S Gipps [ sticky labels]: £7.83
  - Mrs J Stanger [ refreshments]: £50.00
  - Mrs D Hawes [domain name]: £55.88
  - SALC [April invoice - subscription]: £250.16

Approved and signed

Proposed: Cllr. Mendel

Seconded: Cllr. Tweedy

Carried unanimously.

- The summary of income and expenditure for period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 was presented.
- The accounts for year 2017/2018 were nearly completed and would be presented for approval at AGM of Parish Council in May
- Internal audit has been arranged with SALC for week beginning 4.6.18
- The first trench of the precept for 2018/2019 of £4997.50 has been received. [not shown in these figures]
- Cllr. Wood agreed and signed the bank reconciliation.

**12. Report from Playing Field representative.**

See attached.

**13. To consider and comment on administration of Tattingsstone News**

Cllr. Hawes has taken on the editorship of the Tattingsstone News and has been liaising with Mr B Plumley over advertising. However, to date, she is not aware how much advertising space is needed in the next edition or how much money is available for printing. There appears to be confusion over access to bank statements and details. The Council expressed its grave concern over this. Cllr. Wood will contact Mr Plumley to clarify and resolve financial position as monies have been given by both the Parish Council and Suffolk County Council [locality fund] to support the paper's publication.

In the meantime, Cllr. Hawes will contact existing advertisers.

**14. To review response to Village Survey**

About 40 surveys had been returned to date. Reminders are to be put again on village GB page.

A villager had come forward and volunteered, as a data analyst, to help the Council with analysing the results. This would begin towards the end of this month.

**15. To consider applications for Parish Councillor**

An application has been received from Mr R Dearing who owns land on Church Road, Tattlingstone where his family home is being built. He addressed the Council and told of his reasons for wishing to be a Councillor.

This Parish Council wishes to formally co-opt Mr Rupert Dearing as Parish Councillor.

Proposed: Cllr. Mendel

Seconded: Cllr Tweedy

Carried unanimously

**16. To initiate the co-option of a Parish Councillor.**

Because of the resignation of Cllr. Stanger, the clerk will initiate this and place notices in Tattlingstone News and on Parish Notice boards. Cllr Wood will write a letter of thanks to Mrs J Stanger thanking her for her services as Parish Councillor for over 10 years.

**17. To consider and formulate Parish Council response to Boundary review.**

Proposal put forward is for a 3-member Berners Ward to cover Shotley and all villages on the peninsula including Tattlingstone and Belstead. A separate 1-member ward to cover Brantham. Discussion by the Councillors centred on whether Berners Ward was too big and having 3 Councillors would find it difficult to work together for the good of the ward especially if they were from different political parties. Small villages often have different attitudes to larger semi urban areas like Shotley and Belstead. The council would support 3 smaller wards for the area. Cllr. Wood and the Clerk will send Council response.

Proposed: Cllr. Mendel

Seconded: Cllr. Hawes

Carried unanimously

**18. To consider and formulate Parish Council response to merger of Babergh and Mid-Suffolk District Councils.**

This merger appears to have been halted in the last few days.

**19. To consider and formulate the Parish Council response to the proposed extension of the AONB.**

Cllr. Gipps and Cllr Tweedy attended a meeting regarding this. Both felt the proposed extension would offer the village some protection from development especially by Shotley Holdings Ltd.

Cllrs Gipps and Tweedy will get together to formulate supportive response for the Council.

Proposed: Cllr. Tweedy

Seconded: Cllr. Mendel

Carried unanimously

**20. To set date and style of the Annual Parish Meeting.**

The date was set as Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May. It was decided to follow the style of last year where after formal reports, village organisations were asked if they would like a table to promote their organisation to the general village public. The clerk will invite local organisations. If they wished a short report from their organisation can be included on the Parish Council website. The DropIn would be approached to supply light refreshments.

It is proposed that the new village website be launched at the meeting.

**21. To consider and approve the new Parish Council website.**

Cllr. Hawes and the Clerk have worked on setting up a new website for the Parish Council. This would be controlled by the Parish Council so would be more secure than the present village site. The councillors were able to look at the website as proposed. It is much easier to keep up to date. It was agreed that this was to go live at the Annual Parish meeting. Cllr Hawes was congratulated and thanked for all her hard work.

**22. Any other urgent village matters**

Cllr. Mendel mentioned the death of a long-standing allotment holder, Elizabeth Sole. The other allotment holders will consider whether a small memorial to her could be placed on the allotments.

DONM 14<sup>th</sup> May AGM of Parish council at 7.00pm followed by May Parish Council meeting

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

## Items for next Agenda

Co-option New Parish councillor

Battles Over

Tattingstone News

## Parish Report April 2018

### Councillor

*David Wood*

Triangle

Ipswich Road



### **Conservatives deny councillors the chance to debate final school transport proposals**

On 22 March, the Conservative majority at Suffolk County Council voted against a motion that would have allowed all councillors the chance to vote on the final school transport proposals, before the Cabinet makes a decision in June.

The cross-party motion, proposed by Labour and seconded by the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group, called for an extraordinary Council meeting to debate and hold a non-binding vote on the final proposals. This would have given councillors who represent the most affected areas, from across the political spectrum, the chance to have their say and raise their concerns.

I am deeply disappointed that this motion did not receive the support of the council. It is very strange that Conservative councillors have denied themselves the opportunity to fully represent those who elected them.

From the very beginning, the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group has fought against these proposals. We are deeply concerned that a change in school transport policy will not achieve any significant savings, whilst causing untold harm to thousands of rural families.

We know that many other councillors share our concerns. They, and their constituents, deserve the right to have a say. It is a shame they did not have the courage to speak up and support this motion.

### **New Chief Executive announced**

Suffolk County Council has appointed a new chief executive, Nicola Beach, following a unanimous recommendation by the authority's Staff Appointments Committee and decision by the full council.

Nicola, who is currently executive director of infrastructure and environment at Essex County Council, will join SCC this summer. Sue Cook will continue in her role as Interim Chief Executive until this time, when she will return to her role as corporate director of health, wellbeing and children's services.

## **Respublica commissioned to examine options for public sector reform in Suffolk**

Cllr Noble, Leader of Suffolk County Council, announced that he has commissioned Respublica to look at public sector reform in Suffolk. The think-tank will examine the current arrangements for public service delivery in Suffolk and will report back on the merits of making a bid to the government for a reformed system. The review will look once again at the possibility of a unitary county council in Suffolk. However, Cllr Noble has also insisted that other options will be considered, such as East and West Suffolk unitaries, an option including a Greater Ipswich unitary council, or enhancing the existing two-tier system.

County and district/borough councillors were not consulted, and the announcement has not been well-received by the leaders of Ipswich Borough Council and Waveney District Council. The review is expected to cost £68,000.

## **Potholes - funding boost and rise in insurance claims**

Potholes continue to be a key issue for councillors and residents alike. There are two significant updates this month:

### Suffolk County Council receives cash boost to deal with potholes

Following the bad weather in February and March, Suffolk County Council has received £2.5m of additional funding from the Government to help with road repairs.

Suffolk Highways are encouraging residents to report potholes using the reporting tool (available at [highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk](http://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk)) and have already received over 11,000 reports in 2018. However, concerns have been raised by some councillors and residents who have been informed by the online tool that a pothole has been repaired, when in fact the work has not been carried out. If you experience this, please let me know so that I can inform the Cabinet Member for Highways of the problem.

### Rise in insurance claims against Suffolk County Council

Insurance claims against Suffolk County Council due to "carriageway surface defects", such as potholes, have risen in recent years, from 363 in 2013 to 647 in 2017. A total of 2239 claims were made in this five-year period, but 84.7% of these were successfully defended by the council. Despite this, between 2013 and 2017, Suffolk County Council paid out £226,432 in compensation and legal fees.

## **Suffolk County Council's gender pay gap remains significant**

Suffolk County Council's pay report revealed that, although the Council employs nearly three times as many women as men, there is still a significant gender pay gap in favour of men.



The County Council's mean gender pay gap is 14.8%, whilst the median pay gap is 18.6%. In other words, although Suffolk County Council employs relatively few men, they are overrepresented in the better paid sectors and underrepresented in the less well-paid sectors. All the statistics refer to the average hourly pay rates of employees.

When discussing the report during Council on 22 March, the Conservative Deputy Leader commented "we employ women [in low paid roles] because that is probably better suited to their characteristics... Most women are naturally caring". This response is concerning. Reverting to "nature" and so-called essential differences between men and women as an explanation for the gender pay gap obscures the real problem and makes it much more difficult to resolve: we need to be confronting these gender stereotypes, not reinforcing them.

## **Suffolk Waste Partnership awarded £10,000**

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has been awarded £10,000 from the Government's Litter Innovation Fund, to run innovative local projects aimed at reducing litter.

The SWP plans to use the funding to:

- Trial new style litter bins at key layby locations and improve labelling and signage of litter bins along the A11, A12 and A14 in Suffolk.
- Trial new remote monitoring technology to help councils coordinate litter bin emptying more efficiently and effectively.
- Ensure that any person taken to court and convicted for a littering offence anywhere in Suffolk is named and shamed publicly.
- Run an awareness campaign to remind residents and visitors alike about the issues and the consequences of littering.
- Educate residents and businesses about how to prevent their waste inadvertently escaping their control and ending up as litter.

## **Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Boundary Review**

A reminder that the Suffolk AONB boundary review consultation will run until 20 April 2018. I would encourage you all to respond to the consultation.

More information is available at:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-england/suffolk-coast-and-heaths-aonb/>

### **Report from D. Cllr. A McCraw**

- Babergh/Mid Suffolk Merger discussion on pause: With SCC leaders commission of a study into Unitary options for Suffolk, BMSDC's leaders will not be proceeding with the expected presentation and discussion of a Business Plan followed by a summer 'local poll'. This does not mean that it disappears from a future agenda. Unitary discussions are starting, but at a very early stage.
- The Brantham Maintenance Yard has seemingly been seriously affected by questions over the Manningtree Rail Crossing, although that's not the only factor. A final decision is expected shortly, but it doesn't look likely to happen for the foreseeable future.
- The Joint Local Plan consultation responses have been collated and we've just finished examining them with a view to forming the actual policies based upon them. In principle, we are looking at options for policies that do not just rely upon National Policy as in the NPPF. A further Consultation will take place later this year with more meat on the bones.
- The AONB response was being prepared. As the local member for the Ward most affected, since your meeting I have asked for some more positive modifications to be made to the

Council response and have been given the right of final review of said response by the Cabinet.

- The Local Government Boundary Review. I've previously reported to you that the best Shotley Peninsula solution I can find is for single member wards for Brantham and Shotley with Erwarnton. A two member ward, centred on Holbrook would then cover from Tattingstone & Stutton to Harkstead & Chelmondiston and Wherstead & Belstead. This all falls within the parameters for representation. (I have looked at possible splits within that 2 member ward, but they produce other problems of size and ease of communication within the ward)
- The Hadleigh HQ proposals are the subject of 2 public exhibitions in Hadleigh, this Wednesday and next. Details are also available online.
- The Summercourt application: My provisional call in to committee is subject to a panel review by the Chair, Vice Chair and Head of Planning. This will take place shortly.
- I mentioned possible changes at Babergh Cabinet. The day after your meeting, it was announced that Derek Davis (Berners Ward, IND) has been appointed with the Organisational Delivery portfolio. (Interaction with the public by all means).

### **Playing field report**

Anne Allen raised the matter of the gates to the playing field. The suggestion that the gates could be left open so that parents wishing to bring children after school could park was discussed. It was stated that this was not possible as only certain people had keys to the bollards and usually there was sufficient parking close by.

The old store hut has been re-roofed and was now weathertight and secure.

The boundary hedge between the churchyard and the playing field was discussed. The representative from the church asked for help in the cost of cutting same. I was asked if I would bring this request to the Parish Council's attention. A sum of £200 was mentioned.

Lee Mandley reported that he had emailed members the fixture list for the coming season. The square was being prepared and although a bit late would be ready for the first match on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Daid Edevane reported that due to weather only one game had been played since February. Currently the football team were 3<sup>rd</sup> in division 3. Janet Ward had nothing to report re the Tennis Club.

Sheila Tweedy