

Tattingstone Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1st April 2019 at 7.30pm in Tattingstone Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Wood, Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Clark, Cllr. Tweedy, Cllr. Johnson, Cllr. Dearing,

Cllr. Mendel.

Members of public: 2

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. Gipps, Cllr. Hawes, D. Cllr. McCraw

2. Declaration of interest.

None

3. To consider requests for dispensation.

N/A

4. To approve, as accurate, minutes of meeting held on 4th March 2019

Although these has been sent out by the clerk, several councillors had not viewed them. These will be sent out again and agreed by email and signed by the chairman in absentia.

5. To receive Clerk's Report.

- The clerk had attended a SALC Networking event – these are now free to members. All councils, whether big like Bungay or very small like Charsfield, have similar problems: speeding, state of roads, antisocial behaviour and of course not enough money to do anything. Most councils have put their precepts up substantially.
- New SALC website. Much easier to navigate.

- Nomination papers, that had been received for the Parish Council elections, were taken to returning officer. All were correct and we were complemented on this! Any one still wishing to put in a nomination must hand it in at Endeavour House by 4.00pm on 3rd April. Lists of candidates will be sent out on 4th April and then we will know if we are to have a poll or if it will be an uncontested election.
- Rural bulletins, AONB reports etc were circulated to councillors
- Hedge on Lemon's Hill has now been hacked back however it had the very high part had not been done. This is still a hazard as both double decker buses and farm machinery have to pass in the middle of the road. The clerk will report this again to Suffolk C.C.

6. To consider Matters arising from the minutes.

- Bus stop demolition charges and the litter bin were claimed from our insurance and a cheque has been received today unfortunately too late to be included in figures for this financial year.
- A notice board for the bus shelter has been bought and Mr Connell-Smith has put it in place. The council expressed its thanks.
- The pot holes were reported and many had been filled. However some did not meet the strict criteria for repair, these will be monitored. The hole outside The White House, Church Road will be reported.

7. Open Forum for members of the public.

Concerns were raised by a villager about 2 problems relating to Alton Water both covered by their by-laws.

The first involves groups of cyclists riding at night or in the early hours along the footpath (not a cycle path) to the west of Lemons Hill Bridge from the south car park. These cyclists are then crossing farm land by a footpath (not a bridle way) towards A137. The Parish Council wondered if a stile at this point might deter cyclists.

The second problem involves fish, in fairly large numbers, being taken away from the reservoir, presumably for consumption. When approached, the instigators failed to understand the by-laws. This was again happening at the car parks at Lemons Hill Bridge. The Clerk will alert the reservoir warden to both these problems.

There was a discussion about the safety of school children crossing both Church Road and School Road. See agenda item 13.

8. To receive Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Wood read the report from D. Cllr. McCraw and it is attached to the minutes.

Report from C.Cllr. Wood is attached to these minutes. He expressed his pleasure that both Sizewell C and the new windfarm off the Suffolk coast had been criticised heavily by the County Council.

9. To consider Planning Applications:

DC/19/01170

Apple cottage, Tattingstone Park, Tattingstone IP9 2NF

Notification of works to trees protected by Preservation Order [BT79/G2] fell 1 Holme Oak.

This had been discussed with the village tree warden and as Holme oak is not an indigenous species this should be recommended.

Application recommended

DC/19/1073

The Cedars, The Heath, Tattingstone, IP9 2LX

Notification of works to trees protected under Tree Preservation Order 289 – Crown reduction to 1 oak.

Application Recommended

This has already been given consent [29th March]

Updates

Consent granted on trees at Chestnuts DC/19/01027

Consent granted to extension and integral garage at Yew Tree House,
Church Rd, DC/19/00117

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

- Speedwatch update received. See attached.
- A letter has been received from the village Recorder about the sale of Tattingsstone Remembers -it is hoped to hand over the cheque for this to the Royal British Legion at the Annual Parish Meeting on 20th May.
- There is Joint Area Parking Plan out for consultation. A small working group of Cllr. Clark and Cllr Wood will consider this and respond. Group clerked.
- AONB report

11. Finance: to consider and approve.

- **Bank Balances:** Not received prior to meeting.

- **To approve payment :**
 - Clerk's wages and expenses: £326.61 - £245.18 salary + £81.43 [includes purchase of paper and notice board]
 - Tattingsstone Village Hall [hire]: £208.00
 - HMRC: £184.00

- Suffolk County Council [photocopying]: £2.94
- Babergh District Council [bin emptying]: £198.19
- TGC [Playing field maintenance]: £675.00

These were agreed and signed.

Expenditure to date 2018/19

Audit Arrangements 2018/19

This year, as last year, the council agreed that as the expenditure and income of Tattingstone Parish Council fell below the limit of £25,000, exemption from the Limited Assurance Review under section 9 Of Local Audit [Smaller Authorities] Regulations 2015 be sought.

This was proposed and seconded and passed unanimously. The necessary Annual Governance and Accountability Return[AGAR] form was signed by the RFO and by the Chairman. This will be forwarded to PKF Littlejohn

The Council will be audited again by SALC, who were commended for their thoroughness in previous years.

12.To receive Report from Playing Field Representative.

A report was received from Cllr. Tweedy. The football club had had a good season and the cricket club were pleased with the condition of the crease and the season would start shortly. The lawn mower had now been sold. The new benches were now in situ.

13. To discuss Road Signage around Tattingstone CEVC School.

There was a short discussion about the requirements for signage but it was agreed to adjourn this to the May meeting when the new Parish Council would be in place.

14. To discuss support of a rural strategy.

A small working group of Cllr. Johnson and Cllr Mendel will consider this and respond. Group clerked.

15. To confirm arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting would take place on 20th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. It was agreed that results of the village survey would be shown, and possible further plans for producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the village be discussed. Unfortunately, our MP is unable to attend but it is hoped that a future meeting can be set up.

16.To comment on Bus Shelter at White Horse.

See Matters Arising – item 6

17. To discuss how Parish Council could be involved in Great British Spring Clean

Cllr. Mendel will organise a village Litter Pick and tidy up in May. This will be done in 30mph area throughout the village.

18. Any other important Village Matters.

- Signage for the 30mph speed area along A137 was discussed. It was agreed to adjourn this to the May meeting.

18. Items for next agenda.

Signage around school

Signage on A137

19.Date of next meeting

13th May at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed minutes of previous Parish Council Meetings are available for inspection by contacting the clerk

01473 327865 or email: tatt.pc@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT: APRIL 2019.
ALASTAIR McCRAW
ALTON WARD, BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

As I reported to the March meetings much of this last month has been taken up with tidying up Council Business for the end of the Councils current term, as we prepare for the May 2nd Elections.

The Council met on March 19th. We had our photo taken and dealt with the following matters:

1. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report. As Chair, I presented the report of one of the hardest working committees on the Council. This can be found on pages 27-58 of the Papers at <http://tinyurl.com/y6m5w5ud>

You may find it a useful summary of areas of some little known areas of responsibility and activity within the council and a perspective on them.

2. Community Infrastructure Levy. Expenditure Framework Review. Basically we were reviewing our procedure for dealing with bids for CIL money, and making spending decisions. It's been a very well managed and systematic approach, prepared for over the last four years.

3. Joint Communities Strategy: This was adopted. It describes, post consultation, the approaches the council will take in dealing with our communities. Although much of it may seem obvious, it had never been as formally stated. The key will be translating it into consistent action however. The new council will need to be aware of existing tensions and resentments, in my opinion.
4. Homes, Housing, Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategies: An exhaustive piece of work produced by the Councils Housing team. There is too much complexity to these issues to report fully here, but we have exceeded additional demands placed on us by Westminster and are well prepared to deal with issues likely to arise in the future. I should point out that this is only indirectly related to Planning matters. I'd particularly commend the housing team and the Cabinet Member at Babergh, Jan Osborne. I'm Independent, not blind. If something, or someone, deserves praise it, or they, should receive it.
5. Changes to the Constitution: When Babergh adopted a Leader and Cabinet model two years ago, the changes made to the constitution had clearly been rushed, with little consideration. Over the last several months a cross party working group comprising the Chairman of the Council (Conservative), an Independent, a Liberal and a Labour member undertook a line by line examination of the principal areas of the constitution. Errors, inconsistencies, terminology and language were all addressed to strengthen the governance of the council. The process was carried out in an entirely non-partisan manner.

As the Independent member of the panel I proposed that the suggested changes were adopted in full. They had been subject to expert advice from our Monitoring Officers, and otherwise what would have been the point of giving us the job. After some questioning, and further suggestion of more changes, the motion was passed. In truth, I doubt a perfect constitution is ever possible, but this is a considerable improvement and must be regularly updated by law.

6. We also adopted Unisons Violence at Work Charter. Violence against people working in the community and voluntary sector is a significant problem – and it is getting worse. We have a duty of care and must consider safeguards, as every employer.

There are always planning issues, and Brantham in particular is currently dealing with a group of major applications. I've discovered that these are best dealt with on an individual basis, rather than within these reports. I will be in

contact with officers throughout my term and speaking at each committee meeting, depending on events.

As a final point to make, there has been something of a sea change in Babergh. It's about the approach made to 'being a District Council' in the last year. Leadership is more inclined to listen and consult. Opposition members have received not only consultation, but involvement in making the Council work better. Effectively, financially it must. To do that, a collaborative approach is proving to be a great deal more productive in all areas than a purely political one. For any part I've had in these changes, I'm proud.

My thanks to all the Parish Councils in Alton. Tattingstone, Stutton and Brantham. Your tolerance of lengthy reports and too much detail is understood.

It is possible that I will attend both the Tattingstone & Stutton April meetings, but I will attend the Annual Parish Meetings to report on Babergh for 2018/19.

Alastair McCraw

Alton Ward,

Babergh District Council.

Report to Parishes from County Councillor Wood.

Councils express concern over energy projects

Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council have jointly expressed concern with two proposed energy projects in Suffolk: EDF Energy's Sizewell C, and Scottish Power Renewables' two offshore windfarm projects.

At the Cabinet meeting on 12 March, it was agreed that the councils would submit joint consultation responses on each of the projects.

With regards to Sizewell C, the councils say they are still not able to fully support the proposals because EDF Energy's plans have not evolved as much as they had hoped between consultation stages 2 and 3. The impact of the proposals on the environment and local communities would be major, and it is not yet clear exactly how EDF will mitigate these impacts. The councils say that the proposals need to be better developed and evidenced, and have requested further details from EDF.

With regards to the two off-shore windfarms, whilst the Council remains committed to the principle of offshore wind, it is concerned that the current proposals are too damaging to Suffolk. Concerns include negative impacts on the coastal landscape and AONB, the impact of onshore substations at Friston, HGV routes and traffic flows, and background noise levels. The councils wish to work with SPR to mitigate these impacts where possible, and where mitigation is not possible to seek compensation.

Suffolk County Council declares “climate emergency”

On 21 March, councillors from my group successfully proposed a motion calling on Suffolk County Council to recognise the imminent dangers of climate change and declare a climate emergency. The motion received near-unanimous support, with 60 councillors voting in favour, and only one vote against and one abstention.

As a result of this motion the Council will form a cross-party panel by September 2019, which will be tasked with developing policy ideas to help the authority cut carbon emissions on a spend to save basis. The council has also agreed the ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030, and has committed to working with partners in Suffolk to help them achieve the same goal.