

# Tattingstone Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 at 7.30pm in Tattingstone Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Wood [chair], Cllr. Mendel, Cllr. Tweedy, Cllr. Hawes, Cllr. Clark, Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Dearing, Cllr. Gipps, D.Cllr. McCraw

11 members of the public were present.

**1. Apologies for Absence:**

none

**2. Declaration of interest:**

None

**3. To consider requests for dispensations**

N/A

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

The minutes were agreed and then signed as a correct record by Cllr. Wood.

Proposed: Cllr.Gipps

Seconded: Cllr .Tweedy

Passed unanimously

**5. Clerk's Report**

- Cllrs Clark and Dearing have been booked on Councillor Course at SAIC
- Cllrs Tweedy, Hawes and myself will attend the Stour and Orwell Forum on 17<sup>th</sup> July
- Cllrs Dearing and Clark will attend Town and Parish Liaison Meeting for Babergh DC on 10<sup>th</sup> July
- The clerk continues to report defects to Suffolk Highways and receives the same answer each time.

“One of our officers has visited and assessed the defect at the location you reported. We believe at this time the defect does not warrant remedial action; however, we will continue to monitor the location as part of our routine inspections, and if the matter worsens we will take action.”

## **6. Matters arising from the minutes**

There had been no further communication from Sage Housing about the land adjacent to Chedworth Court following the letter from the Parish Council requested at last meeting.

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

- A question was raised about the money held in a restricted fund for the Village Hall. Situation was clarified by the Chairman and by the Clerk to the satisfaction of the village hall representatives.
- The state of the footpaths and verges in the village was again raised by a member of the public. They were assured that Suffolk Highways had been notified of all problems and these had also been raised by our Chairman directly to the County Councillor responsible for highways. The problem is not restricted to Tattingstone but is a problem throughout the county. The highways budget has been cut by 25%. The Parish Council will continue to report all problems but the public were also urged to report problems via the online County link.  
[www.highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk)
- A letter would be sent regarding hedge of Rose House which is overhanging the footpath.
- Cllr. Mendel urged the public to attend local Police and Parish Forums. These will in future be advertised on the village website and on the village Facebook page.
- A representative of Tattingstone News accused several members of the Council of a breach of the Code of Conduct. The meeting was adjourned while the Chairman, the District Councillor and the Clerk withdrew. Further discussion of this subject was deemed impossible as this was now a matter for the District Council if the accusation is pursued. The member of the public was advised that if he wished the matter to be taken further he was to contact the Monitoring Officer of Babergh District Council. A copy of the Code of Conduct will be sent to all councillors and to the member of the public.

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

A report from D. Cllr. McCraw is attached to these minutes.

A report from C. Cllr. Wood is attached to these minutes.

## **9.Planning**

- **DC/18/01450** Tinkers Hole, Main Road, Tattingstone IP9 2NY has been approved by Babergh District Council.

- **Babergh and Mid Suffolk Statement of Community Involvement Planning**

This is out for consultation. It is a long document and consultation ends on 30<sup>th</sup> July. A small working group comprised of Cllrs. Hawes, Mendel and Dearing and the Clerk were tasked with this. The response would be sent to all councillors before submission.

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

- Note re School Transport from Suffolk this has now been called in by the county for more discussion - see also report from County councillor.
- Major Roadworks on A12, A120 and A14 - put on village website and Facebook page
- Email from Dave Brown saying when we discussed Village Hall restricted funds. This had been discussed fully in Open Forum.
- Letter from Police headquarters asking if we like to fund a PCSO. The Clerk had responded saying although we would welcome a local police presence we had not got the funds to support one. We have not been approached by other local villages to partially fund one.
- AONB Monthly update
- Letter of introduction from PC Dave Wright, South West Community Engagement Officer. He has a Facebook page and Twitter A/C. The clerk will monitor and if anything interesting or relevant to the village, it will be shared to village FB page and village website.

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

- **Bank Balances:**  
Not received by day of meeting. But balances at end of May

Community A/C: £11,447.94

Savings A/C: £3169.68

- **To approve for payment:**
  - Clerk's wages and expenses £299.09 [expenses £34.20]
  - SALC [Internal Audit] £170.40
  - HMRC [Income Tax] £179.00

Approved and signed

Proposed: Cllr. Tweedy

Seconded: Cllr. Dearing

Carried unanimously.

- The summary of income and expenditure for period ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 was presented.
- **To review recommendations from Internal Audit**

The RFO presented the Internal Audit report from SALC. There were a couple of recommendations mainly looking at our Risk assessment document which is insufficient now. There is a template that can be used and I will fill in and present September meeting. Accounts will go to external audit in the next few days.

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

The meeting of the Playing Field and Village Hall committees had not yet met so there was no report.

#### **13. To consider applications for Parish Councillor and co-opt Councillor**

No applications had been received. Further notices to be placed to ask for applications by 31<sup>st</sup> August to be considered at 3<sup>rd</sup> September meeting.

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

Only 1 more had been received. The Council now need to start analysing these. A date will be set for some councillors and the clerk to analyse. Preliminary results will be presented to Council at the next meeting.

#### **15. To consider and comment on administration of Tattingstone News**

Cllr. Wood has now been sent a set of accounts back to 2015 These were circulated to Councillors On perusal, these look to be in order. The

Tattingstone News have now complied with the request from the Parish Council for Accounts. The Parish Council has no further jurisdiction over the Tattingstone News.. If individuals, not the Parish Council wish to publish their own village news that is for them to decide but the Parish Council cannot run it.

#### **16. To consider Council's response to amended Suffolk Mineral and Waste Management Plan**

Several Councillors went to the presentation at the Village Hall. Area has been reduced slightly especially the area behind the housing. However Suffolk C.C. did not seem to be aware of application in for housing on Rose House. Many people also worried about traffic movements and their departure route via Station Road. We were assured by Shotley Holdings that vehicles travelling south would exit on A137 to south of village so the lorries did not drive through The Heath. Lorry movements do not seem to be adhering to their operating guidelines now. A response is needed again as previous comments will not be taken into consideration.

The response will highlight:

- Over Production
- Noise and dust levels for local inhabitants
- Traffic movements and volume of traffic stressing that movements must adhere to the 7.00am - 6.00pm restrictions.

It was noted that there had been no Folly Farm Liaison Meeting this year.

Proposed: Cllr. Mendel

Seconded: Cllr. Clark

Carried Unanimously

#### **15.To consider response to Battle's Over.**

Adjourned to next meeting.

#### **16.Any other urgent village matters**

A request that the council looks into purchasing 30mph signs that could be put onto refuse bins to remind traffic about the speed limit.

Brantham Parish Council had done this and it has helped control speed.

The clerk will make inquiries.

DONM 6th August 2018 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

**Report from D. Cllr. McCraw**

1. The Statement of Community Involvement: Planning Matters. Even if not commented upon by you, it's a highly useful resource as an explanation of many aspects of the Planning process, both for Councillors and the public. Consultation closes at End of July.
2. Rural Housing Week. Not only is a meeting being held in Lavenham to look at ways of tackling rural housing issues, but the Solo Housing scheme for rental of spare rooms (Tax Free) is being promoted again.
3. National Democracy Week. Celebrating 90 years since the 1928 Franchise extension that saw women, under the age of 30, and a lot of men who had been excluded finally get the vote. We are encouraging people to stand for election in Parishes, Towns and District. The accompanying videos seem to indicate that this mostly applies to Conservative Cabinet members, but that's obviously not the case.
4. Babergh Members Remuneration or Allowances. I had spoken in favour, indeed at length, in Council on this. As one of the Cross Party members who examined the Independent Recommendations, I was not going to say one thing in that meeting and something different in Council. They are allowances in that they allow me (personally) to do more than I otherwise would be able to. They'd also be laughed at as any sort of hourly rate. The highest allowance paid (for Council leader) would barely cover the cost of the most Junior Grade of Council employee. They have been budgeted for already, so no increase in Council Tax is involved and, contrary to reports, they are taxable. We also (see Item 3) need to be able to make it possible for a more diverse range of people (without Independent Means, Retired or without Dependents) to be able to afford to give the time required.

#### **Report from C.Cllr. Wood**

### **Opposition successfully "call in" Suffolk County Council school transport cuts**

On Tuesday 19 June, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet voted to change the Home to School Transport policy so that only children travelling to their nearest school would receive free transport. The changes are due to be phased in from September 2019.

As you may be aware, I and my colleagues within the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group have been opposed to this policy change since it was announced in September 2018. There has also been very vocal opposition from schools, parents and carers across Suffolk.

Following the Cabinet meeting, opposition councillors from all parties united to “call-in” the decision. We have received confirmation from the Monitoring Officer that the concerns presented within our call-in are valid.

This means the decision has been put on hold until 9 July, when the council’s Scrutiny Committee will investigate further. If they determine that the Cabinet did not have enough information to make an appropriate and informed decision, the matter will be referred back to Cabinet to reconsider at a later date.

The “call-in” was successful on three fronts:

1. There is concern at the quality and reliability of the financial modelling;
2. Whether the Cabinet were fully informed of the role of the Consultation Institute;
3. Whether there was enough analysis of the experience of Essex County Council, who implemented a similar policy in 2013.

## **Major review of Suffolk Highways announced**

The new Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Cllr Mary 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.

## **Lake Lothing Third Crossing will require an additional £8m**

Consent has been given by the Cabinet to finalise and submit development plans for the Lake Lothing Third Crossing to the Planning Inspectorate. There are high levels of public support for the project, with a recent public consultation showed that 96% agree there is a need for the bridge.

The latest budget predictions suggest a further £8 million may be needed to complete the project, due to the rising cost of land acquisitions. Suffolk County Council have stated that the project will be managed so as to contain this upward pressure on the budget as much as possible. However, the Cabinet have acknowledged the potential additional costs to give the Planning Inspectorate comfort that the bridge will be funded in all scenarios.

The further funding of £8m will be made available by the Cabinet if needed.

## **Consultation launched on future commissioning of specialist education services**

Suffolk County Council have launched a consultation into the commissioning strategy for the development of Suffolk's specialist educational provision.

Demand for specialist education places in Suffolk for children with SEND continues to grow, and currently the county council has a much lower number of specialist education places than other similar authorities. This means that many children in Suffolk are forced to travel out of county to access the education provision they need - and often Suffolk County Council foots the bill.

At a time when the Council is attempting to reduce the amount of free home to school transport it provides over fears of escalating costs, it is vital that we begin to provide more SEND provision within Suffolk.

The 6 week consultation will look at three options for meeting the additional demand for specialist provision. More information and a link to the consultation can be found online at: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/SENDSufficiencyeducation>