

Tattingstone Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5th November 2018 at 7.30pm in Tattingstone Village Hall.

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

3 members of the public were present.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs Gipps and Hawes

2. Declaration of interest:

Cllr Dearing declared an interest in item 17 as member of the Cricket Club

3. To consider requests for dispensations

Dispensation granted as no monetary interest

4. To approve minutes of meeting held on 1st October 2018

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

Proposed: Cllr.Mendel

Seconded: Cllr.Dearing

Passed unanimously

5. Clerk's Report

- An email had been received from a resident giving his thanks to the Parish Council and Playing Field committee for the upkeep of the playing Field and for providing an excellent play area for his young son. The email was read out.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

- A meeting has been arranged for 19th November at 6.30pm in the village hall about SpeedWatch. Cllr Wood will attend.

8. Report from D. Cllr. Mc Craw [brought forward]

- The quality of reports at District Council have improved which has made it easier for the Scrutiny Committee.
- The District Council thinks it can demonstrate a 5-year land supply so that local policies and not national will be taken into consideration over planning.
- There will be an election for the District Council in May.
- The budget was being prepared.

7. Open Forum for members of the public

- The state of the verges was again raised and Cllr Wood said he spoken with Suffolk Highways but they did not think work, especially on School Road, was necessary. The clerk will contact them again and will also contact bus company to see if they could help with cutting back as high vehicles have difficulties, being forced into the middle of the road.
- Concern was also raised about the car that is parked on the opposite side to all the others on Church Road. This is making it difficult for large farm vehicles to travel along the road. The clerk will write.

8.Reports from District and County Councillors

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

9.Planning

None received

Babergh D.C. have approved the house by Mill House White Horse Hill.
DC/18/03492

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

- Increase in Charge for Dog bins and litter bins[budget implication].
- Thanks from J Kirk for her book. With special mention for the part Cllr. Hawes played in preparing the book for publication. Cllr. Wood suggested that the Parish Council fund the remaining cost of the printing as a locality grant has been agreed for £300 from the County Council. This will be an agenda item for December.
- Cost of Parish election in May 2019[budget implication]
- Land and Shore - new heritage and creative arts project that is centred on Lowestoft, Dunwich and Alton Water -the story of three lost communities. There is a meeting in the village Hall on23rd November at 1.00pm
- Letter from Holbrook Academy about to fund a prize at Presentation evening [£30]

Proposed: Cllr Tweedy.

Seconded Cllr. Mendel

Carried unanimously.

- AONB newsletter - consultation on purpose of AONB
- Appropriate Assessment Consultation - Suffolk Minerals and waste local plan . The Parish Council will reiterate its original comments.

11. To receive report from R.F.O. to consider and approve.2018

To consider and approve.

- **Bank Balances: For 31st October**

Current A/C: £13,612.23

Business Savings A/C: £3172.84

- **To approve payment :**

- Clerk's wages and expenses: £304.17

- PJ print [Tattingstone Remembers]: £514.00

- SALC [training R Dearing]: £123.60

Proposed: Cllr.Clark

Seconded: Cllr. Wood

Carried unanimously

- Expenditure to date 2018/19 - presented
- Bank reconciliation presented
- To sign cheque for £30 being donation to Holbrook Academy for prize giving [see item 10.

12. Report from Playing Field representative.

Cllr. Tweedy read her report

It is hoped to erect the fence by the children's play area shortly. £3000 had been donated by the Parish Plan for this.

It was stressed by the Parish Council that this was an amenity for the whole village and not just for one of its users.

13.To review response to the Village Survey

As Cllr Gips was not attending, this is adjourned to next month.

14. To discuss budget needs for 2019/20

The clerk reminded councillors that the budget for the next financial year 2019/20 would have to be discussed and approved at the December meeting. The clerk will prepare a budget allowing for inflation and any known additional costs but council needs to decide if any other projects or items should be included in the budget. Cllr. Wood would meet with Cllr. Dearing, Cllr. Clark and the clerk to discuss possible issues and expenditure.

15.To review progress on Commemorative Poppy Tea

Cllr. Tweedy, Cllr. Clark and the clerk have made all preparations and reminded everyone to come. It is hoped that this will be a successful and enjoyable event that will be a fitting memory to those men who gave their lives in wartime.

16.To review and make plans for the telephone box at White Horse.

Cllr. Mendel has cleaned the telephone box but it is in need of painting. The village recorder has some ideas about how the box could be used. A working group of Cllr Mendel, Cllr Hawes and the village recorder will meet and prepare a plan, with costings in the near future.

17.To consider quotes received for maintenance of the Village Playing Field for 2 years commencing 1st February 2019

Three Quotes had been received: CM contracts, TGC and Shotley Peninsula Cricket club. There was a long discussion and councillors were happy with the current contractors TGC. They were concerned that if the contract was awarded to the Cricket Club it might compromise the autonomy of the Playing Field as a village amenity for all villagers. It was proposed to accept the tender from TGC and that they be awarded the contract for the coming 2 years.

Proposed: Cllr Clarke

Seconded: Cllr. Mendel.

Carried with 1 abstention

18.To consider future action on replacing the bus shelter at the White Horse.

AC Carpentry have been contracted to do this. Work will commence shortly. As soon as invoice available it will be sent to the insurers.

19.To Consider application to become a Parish Councillor and co-opt if appropriate

An application has been received from Mrs. Kay Johnson. This was read to the Council. After a short discussion it was proposed that Mrs Johnson be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr Wood

Seconded: Cllr Mendel

Carried unanimously.

The clerk will write to Mrs Johnson and arrange that the necessary paperwork is completed and invite her to the next meeting.

20.To comment on any other urgent village matter

Cllr. Clark commented that people, not hiring the village hall, parked in the car park. This made it particularly difficult for elderly people who attended DropIn or Village Link.

DONM 3rd December 2018 at 7.30pm

Cllr. Mendel gave her apologies for the December meeting as she will be out of the Country

Meeting closed 9.00pm

Items for next agenda

Survey

Bus shelter

Budget

Draft Home strategy consultation

Report from C.Cllr. D Wood

Highways Improvement and Innovation Board - new approach to pothole repairs, coordinating road closures and working with parish councils

A Highways Improvement and Innovations Board was established in June and has met three times. The Board recently announced that Suffolk Highways will be piloting a new approach to prioritising pothole repairs over the winter, specifically for services coming out of the Ipswich Phoenix House depot. If successful, the new approach will be rolled out to other depots.

The new approach will mean more potholes in a single area will be repaired together, and potholes of 200mm width will also be included.

The pilot aims to tackle more potholes at once, rather than later returning to the same area to repair nearby potholes. It will also aim to reduce the number of temporary repairs, which also have to be returned to at a later date. This should reduce the travelling time of maintenance crews, and result in more potholes being filled.

The Board has also been looking into improving the coordination of road closures, reducing the number of roadworks which overrun, and exploring ways for Suffolk Highways to work closer with town and parish councils. A progress report from the Board is expected at Scrutiny later in the year.

Second Suffolk children's home judged "inadequate"

A children's home run by Suffolk County Council has been judged "inadequate" by Ofsted, following an inspection on 3 October 2018. This is the second council-run children's home to receive an inadequate rating in the past 2 months.

Ofsted expressed particular concern over unsafe behaviour management techniques used by staff in the home, and noted a significant increase in the number of physical interventions.

Council signs up to 100% nuclear energy deal

At the Council meeting on 18 October, members of my political group put forward a motion calling on the Council to recognise the benefits of renewable energy, commission a report into smart grids, and commit to ensuring at least 50% of the Council's energy comes from renewable sources by 2025. Unfortunately, the Conservative administration amended the motion to remove any clear actions or targets.

It was also revealed that the Council have recently signed off on a 100% nuclear energy deal for the next three years, to commence in March 2019. This represents a major step backwards for Suffolk County Council, whose current energy contract includes 18.7% renewables.

No funding to help end period poverty

The Labour Group proposed a motion to Council on 18 October, asking for a commitment of £15,000 in the budget to help tackle "period poverty". Many girls suffer and frequently miss school because they are unable to afford sanitary products. The motion therefore asked the Council to fund free sanitary products in all local authority maintained schools in Suffolk, and to encourage academies to implement similar measures.

Unfortunately, the Conservative administration once again amended the motion, removing all funding commitments. It was claimed that this was because the level of funding in the original motion was too small and unfairly favoured girls at maintained schools. However, a later amendment from my political group, which proposed increasing the funding commitment in the motion to include all schools in Suffolk, was rejected.

New Home Care operating model

At Cabinet on 9 October a new Home Care operating model was agreed. It was acknowledged that the previous model had not been a success and had caused unnecessary stress to both care providers and residents receiving home care. We were assured that “lessons had been learned” from this previous experience, and that greater care had been taken to develop the operating model in partnership with stakeholders.

A call-in of the decision was received and so the model received further scrutiny from the Council’s Scrutiny Committee. However, the majority of the Scrutiny Committee voted to proceed with the new model rather than asked Cabinet to reconsider their decision.

Budget consultation and reduction in overspend

Suffolk County Council is currently consulting on the 2019/20 budget and is asking the public to share their ideas for potential savings. The consultation runs until 5pm on Friday 16 November, and can be found at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/a-tough-call-to-make-budget-20192020/>. We will get our first look at the 2019/20 budget proposals on Thursday 22 November, when they are presented to the Scrutiny Committee.

At the end of Quarter 1 the council was predicting an overspend on the 2018/19 net budget of £8.6m. This prediction has now reduced, at the end of Quarter 2, to a £7.5m overspend. Although an improvement, it is unlikely that the overspend will be reduced completely by the end of the financial year, and the council will still need to make use of reserves to cover the funding gap.

School admissions consultation

Suffolk County Council is consulting on its school admissions policy for 2020/21, available at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/consultation-on-admissions-to-schools-in-suffolk-for-the-20202021-school-year/>. The consultation is open until 12 November 2018.

No significant changes are proposed for 2020/21. However, the council are also seeking views on potential future changes to the oversubscription criteria, in terms of the removal of catchment area priority. If they decide to progress with this change, there would be another consultation October 2019 and any changes would then apply from 2021/22.