

# Tattingstone Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at 7.30pm in Tattingstone Village Hall.

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

5 members of the public were present.

**1. Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr. D Clarke, D. Cllr. H Steer

**2. Declaration of interest:**

None

**3. To consider requests for dispensations**

N/A

**4. To approve minutes of meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018**

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

Proposed: Cllr.Gipps

Seconded: Cllr .Dearing

Passed unanimously

**5. Clerk's Report**

- Cllrs. Tweedy, Hawes and clerk attended the Stour and Orwell Forum on 17<sup>th</sup> July. There were interesting presentations on the fauna and flora of the area and also on the forthcoming celebrations for Surrender to Sanctuary at Harwich which remembers the surrender of U-Boats in Harwich harbour at the end of WW1 and the arrival of children in WW2 by Kinder Transport.
- The closure of water activities at Alton Water, including the Aqua Park, led to one of the posts on Tattingstone Village FB page going viral with over 100,000 hits and 1,000 shares!
- The Village Facebook page is monitored and if necessary posts are deleted if comments are offensive or likely to cause offense.

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

There were no matters arising.

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

A member of the public, who was worried about speeding, especially along A137, asked about the formation of a Community Speedwatch. The Parish Council had tried to instigate this in the past but no volunteers had been forthcoming from the community to help run this. The Council had also had the opportunity to share the cost with a neighbouring village. Ms. Mandy Proctor agreed to try and coordinate an appeal for volunteers and to gather more information regarding a Community Speedwatch. She will liaise with Cllr. Wood and the Clerk. If successful, funds will be considered to be included in next year's precept when budgeting.

A137 is a Constabulary Speedwatch area and is being targeted by them in a summer initiative.

## **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.

## **15. [brought forward] To review Village's response to Battle's Over.**

The Parish Council had previously rejected the idea of Perspex figures in the church.

Cllr. Hawes and Ms J Kirk, Village Recorder, had been working on a small booklet about the men from the village who had died during WW1. This was now in draft form with an introduction and contribution by Sir Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate 1999-2009, whose grandfather was one of the fallen. Ms. Kirk asked if the Parish Council could help fund the printing of this booklet. The booklet would be 50 pages [approx.] and printing would cost £348 for 100 copies. Suggested selling price £5.00.

Cllr. Wood stated that he was willing to fund 50% of printing costs provided that 50% of any profit was given to the British Legion; the other 50% profit being given to Tattlingstone Good Neighbours.

It was proposed that the Parish Council fund 50% of the printing costs which would be recouped on the sale of the booklets.

Proposed: Cllr. Gipps

Seconded: Cllr. Mendel

6 in favour, 1 abstention

The clerk to find out from the Captain of the Tower if a peal of bells would be rung on Armistice Day.

Cllr. Tweedy reiterated her idea of a simple tea party in the village hall. The village hall was erected by the village in 1920 in permanent remembrance of those who fought and died in WW1 instead of the village having a War Memorial. There is a plaque over the village hall door. Ms Kirk would erect a display in the hall to remember the village men. A small working group was set up of Cllr. Tweedy, Cllr. Clark and the clerk to put further plans in place and report back at the September meeting.

## **9.Planning**

Received on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

- **DC/18/03492**

Submission of details under Outline Planning Permission DC/17/03886

Erection of detached two storey dwelling, formation of parking area and vehicular access.

Land south west of Mill cottage, White Horse Hill, Tattingstone

The Clerk has circulated this and had also asked for an extension so this could be investigated fully. If no extension granted, Cllr. Wood and clerk will formulate response based on views of Councillors. D. Cllr. McCraw will also follow up.

- **DC/18/02136** -approved by Babergh  
Hill House, Main Road Tattingstone

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

- **JOINT HOUSING STRATEGY CONSULTATION** - small working group was set up of Cllrs. Mendel, Hawes and Dearing consultation to run 17<sup>th</sup> September to 26<sup>th</sup> October.
- **AONB monthly report:** this confirmed their objection to the Suffolk Waste and Minerals Plan.
- **Suffolk local policing changes**

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

- **Bank Balances: at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2108**  
Community A/C: £10,565.95  
Savings A/C: £3171.26
- **To approve for payment:**
  - Clerk's wages and expenses £280.46
  - Village Hall [rental 2 evenings re. survey] £32.00

Approved and signed  
Proposed: Cllr.Mendel  
Seconded: Cllr.Gipps  
Carried unanimously.

- The summary of income and expenditure for period ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 was presented.
- **To agree and sign certificate of exemption.**

The Exemption form was signed by the chairman and RFO. It is no longer necessary to have an external audit as we are less than £25,000 but the auditors just review the AGAR [Annual Governance and Accountability return]. This Parish Council are certainly not the only ones to submit the exemption form late as LP Littlejohn, the Accountants, have had to extend their cut-off date to the end of August to enable councils to get the relevant form signed.

- **To sanction order for Bin Labels [30MPH]**

Clerk gave details of the ones Brantham used. Cost £89.00 for 100 or £185 for 250. An idea was put forward that these could be distributed free, via Tattingstone News, to households on the A137. A note to be put in the Tattingstone News saying residents in other parts of the village could also request one at the cost of £1.00. the Clerk to order 100.

Proposed: Cllr. Clark

Seconded: Cllr. Tweedy

For 6     1 abstention

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

Report attached.

Cllr Wood stated that monitoring of the upkeep of the playing field was the responsibility of the Playing Field Committee and that the Parish Council paid for its maintenance. Request for quotes would go out in October.

**13.To review response to the Village Survey**

There had been two meetings to begin to tally and analyse the Village surveys. We are liaising with Mr T Bridges to formulate results in an easily accessible form. Cllr. Hawes is putting responses onto a Spreadsheet to aid analysis.

**14.To receive Council's response to the proposed Statement of Community Involvement and to consider possible ways Council could enable more community involvement in the planning procedure.**

The clerk read this out. Copy attached.

**15.To review village response to Battles Over including production of commemorative booklet**

See brought forward.

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

The bus shelter by the White Horse had been severely damaged by a vehicle which had failed to stop at the T junction. The bus shelter will have to be demolished. The clerk had submitted an insurance claim and was awaiting estimates for a like for like replacement. Cllr. Wood would arrange demolition and storage of materials in case some could be re-used.

**17.Any other urgent village matters**

- Cllr. Gipps asked for volunteers to help with the village fete on 8<sup>th</sup> September
- Palmer and Partners, estate agents, are sponsoring the Fete and will put up notices on their boards at lots of houses in the village.
- Cllr. Wood will arrange a quote for shelving to be put in the telephone box.

DONM 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Items for next agenda

Telephone box

Survey

Battle's over

Bus shelter

## Report from D. Cllr. McCraw

1. COMMUNICATIONS: A monthly report for Parish Council meetings will be issued in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each month, a little late for the Alton meetings. I'll try to anticipate.
2. 'Meet the Leader and Deputy Leader' events have been held recently, including one recently at Shotley. That doesn't appear to have been well publicised outside Shotley. The next closest to Tattingsstone will be at East Bergholt. I'll suggest that publicity is much better then.
3. ENVIRONMENT: The Suffolk Waste Partnership is working on a project to reduce food waste (along with Norfolk County Council) by 20% by 2025. The avoidable waste costs the Suffolk Tax Payer almost £4.5M in disposal costs.
4. A new approach, with some Government funding is working on solutions to roadside littering. It's a particular problem in Babergh and all rural communities. A new style and colour of bin in hot spots will be trialled, an advertising campaign at Petrol Stations (where much of this litter is purchased) and a County wide campaign is planned.
5. I forgot to mention, but will now, that Tattingsstone School won two Highly Commended awards in the councils annual Litter Awareness Poster competition. The winner from Cockfield has been presented with a special 'froggy' litter bin. Something to aim for next year, but congratulations to all those involved.
6. Food and Safety Service continues its efforts quietly in the background. There are currently two food safety prosecutions in progress, with one simple Caution administered.
7. LAW & GOVERNANCE: 92% of Babergh staff and Councillors are now trained in these regulations and their responsibilities under them. Training continues and third party suppliers contracts are being updated to ensure the same there.
8. The Electoral Review of Ward Boundaries. The Final Recommendations will be released on the 7<sup>th</sup> August (the day after this meeting). I will ensure that these results are shared with you. You will also be able to use the Shotley Peninsula News website as well as my own Alton Facebook page for full details. (NB: Final Report attached to this email). That report will be laid in Parliament, some time after the 5<sup>th</sup> September, before the Order is made.
9. PLANNING: Babergh District Council are now able to demonstrate a 5 Year Land Supply (Housing Permissions that can reasonably be projected to be completed in that period). This allows us to return to giving our own Local plan full weight as opposed to just taking NPPF guidelines. It is likely that these calculations will be challenged by developers, which is why work has been done to ensure that the figures are robust. A complication exists in that revisions to the NPPF mean that the targets will rise, but 'backlog' or shortfall effects will be reduced. The net effect is that we expect the current 6.7 year supply figure to fall closer to 5 years, but still to exceed it.
10. The Joint Local Plan is running a bit later than hoped for, but it was an optimistic time scale in the first place. After searching all the various versions and dates, I was able to report that there will be Consultation on the Preferred Options that emerged from the earlier consultation in December/January. The target for Adoption of the Final Plan is February 2020. Broadly, I believe the Options that will be presented take the line of going beyond the requirements of the NPPF.
11. CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND COMPANY (CIFCO): Although I was not in favour of making this Investment, and voted against it, the fact is that it has been made. Therefore there's a responsibility to ensure that it is financially sound. Recent Scrutiny work has been done to examine the Risk Management and Lines of Reporting that exist to ensure that ANY risk is minimised. It is currently generating a useful additional income of 1.4M p.a on 48% Investment. That is split between the two Councils. The Joint Scrutiny Committee were satisfied that it was fulfilling its function, purely as an investment vehicle, and that the proper checks and balances were in place.
12. HOUSING: A project to reduce Void times in Council Housing Stock has successfully reduced void times by 37 days to (most recently) 17 days.

## **Council agrees to draw up costed five-year cycling plan**

At the Council meeting on 19 July, councillors from the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group put forward two motions asking for a commitment to investing in Suffolk's cycling infrastructure. The first motion asked the council to set up a cross-party group tasked with drawing up a costed five-year cycling plan, whilst the second motion asked the council to commit to ring-fencing at least 5% of its annual Integrated Transport Block for cycling infrastructure.

Whilst there was unanimous support for motion 1, the administration would not support a commitment of funding for cycling infrastructure, and so unfortunately motion 2 was rejected.

Although the two motions were voted on separately, they are intrinsically linked: without a minor commitment of council funding, any future bids to the Department for Transport are likely to be unsuccessful. This has been the case for the past seven years, during which Suffolk has missed out on five opportunities to receive funding for cycling from the DfT. Currently, SCC spends approximately 10% of its Integrated Transport Block on cycling infrastructure anyway, so the motion was not asking for additional money - just a firm commitment that a minimal level of funding would be available each year.

We are awaiting further information regarding the cross-party group that will draw up a cycling plan, and will keep you updated as this progresses.

## **Final decision reached on school transport policy changes**

Following the Cabinet's decision to change Suffolk's school transport policy, my group (made up of Liberal Democrats, Greens and Independents) submitted a joint "call-in" of the decision with the Labour group.

The call-in argued that Cabinet did not have enough information to make an appropriate decision, particularly with regards to the financial modelling, the experience of Essex County Council, and the potential impact on Suffolk's Greenest County ambitions.

On Monday 9 July, the Scrutiny Committee questioned officers and the Cabinet member in response to the call-in. However, they determined that the concerns we raised were not valid and so rejected the call-in. This means that the Cabinet's decision was endorsed and the planned changes to the school transport policy will be implemented from September 2019.

## **Additional £6m borrowed to fund improvements for recycling centres**

The Cabinet has agreed to borrow an additional £6m to fund improvement works for four of Suffolk's recycling centres. The priority works have been identified as follows:

- Deliver urgent improvements to the Foxhall (estimated cost £3 million) and Haverhill (estimated cost £1 million) recycling centres; and
- Secure sites for replacement recycling centres for Ipswich (estimated cost £1 million) and Stowmarket (estimated cost £1 million).

We have highlighted to the cabinet member responsible for waste services the importance of working with local councillors and residents when attempting to improve recycling centres.

## **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>

### **Playing field report**

#### REPORT RE PLAYING FIELD

A meeting was held at the Village Hall where the progress of the cricket club football club and tennis club were discussed.

The representative of the cricket club felt that the grounds had not been cut a sufficient number of times this season and wanted to know why. I said that in view of the weather the grass appeared not to need cutting excessively. The cricket club representative disagreed and felt that there were several places mainly the outfield were not sufficiently tidy and they were not happy. I pointed out that Mr Plumley had cut the grass a number of times and in view of the weather there was not a lot more he could do.

The football club representative was happy with the state of the grass and so were the tennis club.

It was stated that the cutting of the grass would be up for renewal in September October time.

I mentioned that the cutting of the grass would be put out to tender and that there was little point in anyone submitting a silly quote because it was not always about the cheapest quote. Also it was hoped that the tender would go to a local person if the price was right.

All teams using the playing field had had a good season.

There were no members of the public present.

Sheila Tweedy

### **Tattingstone Parish Council**

#### **Response to Babergh and Mid-Suffolk Statement of Community Involvement**

Your forward is very worthy but small parish councils, like Tattingstone, do not always see these ideals translating into actuality.

This Parish Council's main concern is about the public access to planning applications and the statement does not say how these concerns will be mitigated for many of our village residents.

Our village is not unique in the District to have an aging population, who are not willing or are unable to access the District Council's online facilities. Also, public transport is limited to a couple of buses a day into Ipswich, therefore offices at Sudbury and Stowmarket are not accessible, nor is Endeavour House accessible to local residents. The one number telephone access is not always satisfactory being subject to long waiting times. Charges are made for a hard copy and when forthcoming do not include all the reports and plans are often small and writing so small that they cannot be read. In 2.2 The Council's Commitments it is purely about using electronic means to access information. Yet you clearly state: "As a consequence of these policies, and continued commitment to inclusivity through planning processes, involvement will be open to all those who want to be involved regardless of gender, race, disability, **age**, **rural isolation** and social deprivation."

The Parish Council is considering ways to make details of planning applications more accessible to local residents. We are considering Parish Surgeries once or twice a month and placing accessible computers in our village hall but both these options will rely on volunteers to enable our older more vulnerable residents to access the facilities.

To facilitate face to face consultation it would be helpful if the normal period for responses be extended to 30 days [4.3]. This would enable the clerk, who, as is often the case, works very limited hours, to let all the people, whom the planning might affect, know about the application, make access to the information available, and also so that the application can be discussed fully at the Council Meeting which only occurs once a month. We have not delegated responsibility for decision making to a planning committee.

We consider current publicity for planning applications is too limited and we frequently hear residents saying they were unaware of a proposal. The site notices are important, but the limited use of notification letters is universally criticised by residents, residents living close to a planning applications site would definitely appreciate neighbour notification letters, these should be made compulsory not discretionary.

As a Parish Council we do feel frustrated - if localism is to have a role in planning, we would like local knowledge to be given greater emphasis when considering planning decisions, something the present planning arrangements fail to harness. We feel our views, especially when not recommending an application, carry little or no weight whatsoever and then we as a village have to live with these flawed decisions.

