

Tattingstone Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8th February 2018 at 8.00pm in Tattingstone Village Hall

Present: Cllr. Wood [Chair], Cllr. Gipps, Cllr. Tweedy, Cllr. Stanger. D Cllr. Steer

6 members of the public was present.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Mendel, Cllr. D Clarke, Cllr. P Clark, Cllr. Hawes, D. Cllr. McCraw

2. Declaration of interest:

N/A

3. To consider requests for dispensations

N/A

4. To approve minutes of meeting held on 4th December 2017

The minutes were agreed after an amendment to change the wording on item16.

These were then signed as a correct record by Cllr.Wood.

Proposed: Cllr. Gipps

Seconded: Cllr. Tweedy

Passed unanimously

5. Clerk's Report

- The Clerk apologised for giving the incorrect venue on the Agenda.
- It was confirmed that the Clerk cannot legally be DPO.
- The Clerk is booked on a workshop on CIL.
- The Precept has been approved by Babergh D. C.
- Letters for allotment rents have been issued.
- All councillors will have to re-register their interests on a central site. The information they hold is out of date at present. Clerk will notify councillors when more information available.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

- Road markings and signs were reported to Suffolk Highways.
- Letters of thanks to editor of Tattingstone News and to Collins were published in Tattingstone News.

7. Open Forum for members of the public

Concern was raised about the number of planning applications on The Heath. The density of housing having increased by over 30% in recent years.

Matters relating to specific planning and the Village Survey were allowed at the appropriate time on the agenda.

8. Reports from District and County Councillors

Report from District Councillor Steer.

- The Merger of Babergh D.C. and Mid Suffolk D.C. consultation has now finished and are being analysed. If a merger happens it will not be before 2020.
- The rail depot at Brantham is now unlikely to go ahead as the problems at the level crossing at Cattawade seem unsurmountable. Support for a long term solution to the problems caused by the crossing and low bridge have been discussed by MPs, James Cartledge [South Suffolk] and Bernard Jenkins.[Tendring]
- Babergh DC Council Precept has been raised by 3.5% for next financial year.

Report from D. Cllr. McCraw

- Planning,. Provisional call in on Summercourt. Cartlodges at Homeleigh discussed with case office.
- Retaining provisional call in on Rose House.
- One Council consultation: Finished Monday. Earliest thought of possible referendum this summer? Business case still to be prepared.
- Solo Lodging scheme: I draw attention to this as an excellent idea to help prevent individual homelessness and fill empty rooms that may have attracted Bedroom tax, or just to reduce costs. Solo Housing website or 01379 640250. Babergh fully support this.
- Shotley Peninsula News and Features.com
- A news based website reporting on every village on Peninsula, updated daily. Also useable for Free Publicity of local events, Advertising of local businesses, tradespeoples cards, etc. As opposed to opinion led social media, this can apply proper journalistic standards to information and issues. Details of some of my points here can also be found.
- Stutton Neighbourhood Plan.
- Exploratory Public Meeting held on Monday was well attended. Amongst next steps considered is possible approach to neighbouring parishes.
- Council Tax.
- Based on reported figures of increase. SCC 5%. PCC 6.8%. Babergh 3.4% (£5 p.a. = Max). Parish figures around 2%, I calculate total increase at around 5.1%

Report from County Councillor Wood

See attached.

9.Planning

- **DC/17/06963**

Homeleigh, The Heath, Tattingstone, IP9 2LX

Erection of 2 cartlodges.

There were some comments from the public about the proposed size and the location in front of the new houses of these cart lodges. The plans submitted were inadequate as they did not show the new houses only the demolished bungalow and the plans were not to scale. The clerk will contact Babergh DC and ask for improved plans and an extension until after March meeting.

- **DC/17/06250**

Summercourt, The Heath, Tattingstone IP9 2LX

Demolition of existing building and erection of 4 dwellings and vehicular accesses, associated garages, landscaping etc.

Concern over access to A137. Also concerns were raised that there was no affordable housing included. For developments under 8 dwellings this is not a legal requirement. The plans show backfilling in a ribbon development which is not acceptable.

Public comments: site not large enough for 4 houses, more cars exiting onto an already very busy A137, urbanisation of The Heath.

The application was **Not recommended** .

Proposed: Cllr. Wood

Seconded: Cllr. Stanger

Carried unanimously

- **To review current practices on the Council's consideration of Planning Applications**

Three possible options available.

1. A committee with delegated powers to make decisions with open, agendaed and minuted meetings.
2. A working group who consulted locally and brought findings back to Parish Council, who made the decision.
3. Planning was discussed by the whole Parish Council who will have been advised of the application and had studied it on line prior to the

meeting. The nearest Councillors to the site will visit and talk to neighbours.

It was agreed that a 4-month trial of option 3 would take place and then be reviewed. The clerk will inform all Councillors of applications submitted.

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

- A letter asking if the village wanted to be involved in Community Speedwatch. This had been rejected previously as no volunteers came forward and there was no money in the budget to do this.
- The monthly AONB report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.
- There is a meeting about the AONB extension. Cllrs. Tweedy and Gipps will attend and report back to the next meeting.
- A request from Suffolk Highways on more involvement by parishes on keeping the roads in a satisfactory condition. A survey has been sent and a small working group will discuss this and send of the Parish Council's response.
- Notification had been received about the Alton Water triathlon which will take place on 15th July 2018.

11. To consider and respond to letter from Ian Tippet, development officer, Babergh and Mid-Suffolk District Council

Mr Tippet gave us an ultimatum that if the Council did not have a possible site for more social/affordable housing by after this meeting, the money from the sale of the thatched cottages would be used to help finance housing in Brantham. A local farmer has come forward with a proposition of land for mixed open market and affordable. This will now be followed up in camera.

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

- Bank Balances: at 30th January 2018
 - Business account: £8821.23
 - Business saving: £3168.10
- To approve for payment :
 - Clerk's wages and expenses £332.70
 - Parish Magazine Printing [village survey] £144.50

Approved and signed

Proposed: Cllr. Gipps

Seconded: Cllr. Tweedy

Carried unanimously.

- The summary of income and expenditure for period ending 31st January 2018 was presented.

13. Report from Playing Field representative.

See attached

14. To consider and comment on administration of Tattingstone News

This was deferred to March meeting

15. to review progress on Village Survey

The Village Survey had now been printed and the cost had been reduced by only having colour on front and back page. The survey would be hand delivered to every household in the village early in March. There will be collecting points for filled surveys in four locations: village hall, at Cllr Wood's home, at Cllr. Tweedy's Home and at the Wheatsheaf. Surveys can also be collected from homes if a councillor or the clerk is contacted. Notices will be placed in InTouch and in Tattingstone News. The Council expressed its thanks to Cllrs. Gipps, Mendel and Hawes for their continuing hard work on this.

16. To review and allocate the roles of Playing field representative, Coordinator for Ice and snow, defibrillator volunteer.

Playing field representative: Cllr. Tweedy

Snow and Ice: Cllr Wood

Defibrillator: Mrs N Abbott

17. To review the position of a councillor on the grounds of poor attendance at Parish Council Meetings.

The record of attendance of Cllr D. Clarke was reviewed. The council agreed that there was no need to waiver of the 6 month councillor attendance rule [section 85, Local Government act 1972]. If Cllr. Clarke fails to attend next month's meeting he will be disqualified. The clerk will write to him.

18. To initiate the co-option of a Parish councillor.

The clerk will initiate this and place notices in Tattingstone News and on Parish Notice boards. The clerk will write a letter of thanks to Mr. B Self thanking him for his services as Parish Councillor

19. Update on the poles in The Close.

The only option seems to be underground. This will cost over £30,000 for The Close to fund. There is another video conference shortly to see if funds have been raised. The clerk attended the meeting at Martlesham to take independent

notes and also took independent notes at the first video conference last week after a request from members of The Close. The notes taken by BT at the meeting at Martlesham are very biased towards their thinking and claiming that the residents were consulted and that the erection of the pole in village hall carpark was sanctioned by 2 Councillors. This was untrue and the clerk contacted BT to correct.

20. To consider the Parish Council Website.

Deferred to March meeting

21. Any other urgent village matters

Cllr. Gipps is concerned about the status of the fete committee and the Parish Plan committee. A meeting of the Parish Plan committee will be organised and the concerns may be raised there.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Items for next Agenda

New Parish councillor

Battles Over

Audit arrangements

Tattingstone News

Parish Council Website

PLAYING FIELD REPORT 15TH JANUARY 2018

12 Members present with 2 apologies.

Ian Granat said that the shower and toilet refurbishment could be applied for on through Entrust.

Treasurer reported that he had received a cheque from the football club that leaves £400 outstanding. The fees should go down with the cricket club sharing.

Cricket club reported that they were holding the AGM tomorrow (16th) and they have another mower to do the outfield which they are storing behind the pavilion.

Football club reported that since the last meeting they had won 3 and lost 1 league games putting them 3rd in Dec. They have started the New Year well with 2 wins.

Tennis club reported that it is quiet at the moment and that the Church has asked if they would help with the costs of cutting the hedge.

As requested I asked the football and cricket if they would help with the village fete.

Meeting closed 7-45pm

DONM Monday 19th Feb 2018 7-30pm

Parish Report January 2018

Councillor

David Wood

Triangle

Inswich Road



Cabinet confirms budget proposals

On 23 January, the Conservative Cabinet at Suffolk County Council confirmed the final budget proposals for 2018-19. These proposals will be debated at a Council meeting on 8 February, where all councillors will vote on them.

Along with the rest of the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group, I am very concerned by a number of the cuts proposed as part of the council's savings plan. These are outlined below:

£12m cuts to Adult Care

The adult care budget is already very stretched, predicting a £3.47m overspend on their current 2017-18 budget. Adult social care is currently facing immense pressures, including increased demographic demand, changing customer expectations and a stressed care

provider market. Despite this, the council is proposing cuts of £12m to the budget in 2018-19.

This is divided into an £11m cut from the care purchasing budget, and a £1m cut from the Sheltered Housing Grant.

£20,000 cut to Citizens Advice

Cutting the budget of the valuable Citizens Advice service is a short-sighted decision, that will likely cost the council more in the long term. An analysis of the impact of Citizens Advice services shows that, for every £1 invested in 2016/17, £1.96 in savings to government and public services were generated. By intervening in problems early on, Citizens Advice helps to reduce the need for public services such as health, housing and out-of-work benefits, whilst also improving the wellbeing, participation and productivity of the people they help.

The Council themselves acknowledge how important the Citizens Advice service in Suffolk is, stating “the return on investment for Citizens Advice is high and the service prevents demand reaching the County Council through its recognised contribution to mental health and wellbeing.”

Furthermore, our Citizens Advice services are reporting an increase in the number of people requiring advice and support. Now is clearly not the time to be cutting their funding.

£15,000 cut to Greenways Countryside Project

The Greenways Countryside Project exists to protect and enhance the countryside in and around Ipswich, and relies on volunteers to complete its valuable conservation work. Many of these volunteers gain a strong sense of purpose from being involved in the project, and the project is a valuable resource for promoting positive mental health and wellbeing.

Greenways currently receives £15,000 funding from the County Council, which accounts for over 10% of the projects total expenditure. However, this funding will be removed entirely in the 2018-19 budget.

Rural transport cuts

£15,000 will be cut from the sponsored bus services budget, which will result in a reduced number of rural bus services. I am concerned that this will target some of our most vulnerable residents and increase rural isolation. There is currently no more information on which services could be affected by this cut. However, the Council has pledged to work with local councillors on this and I will keep you updated.

Increased hourly funding rate for childcare providers

On 11 January, the Schools Forum decided that the base hourly rate for providers should increase to £4.00 (previously £3.87), whilst the amount retained by Suffolk County Council should reduce to 3.8% (6.3%).

You may remember that, back in October 2017, my group supported a motion which called on Suffolk County Council to increase the amount of funding that was passed on to providers. We also criticised the lack of transparency over how the council was spending the £2m of funding that it retained centrally.

Unfortunately, the Conservative majority refused listen to the concerns of providers, campaigners and councillors, and voted against the motion in October. They made it very clear that an increase in funding was not an option.

This change therefore is a complete U-turn by the Council, and is a step in the right direction. However, childcare providers across the county have warned us that £4.00 an hour still is not enough to keep their businesses afloat and viable in the future. More will need to be done, by Suffolk County Council and central government, to support providers if the government's "30 hour free childcare" policy is to be a success.

SCC will be borrowing £21m to pay for road resurfacing

Suffolk County Council are planning to borrow an additional £21m over the next three years, to pay for road resurfacing. The plan is to resurface 1,000 miles of roads by March 2021. However, this accounts for only 25% of the road network in Suffolk, and so will only scratch the surface.

It is also worrying to see that the Council are planning to cut the highway maintenance budget in 2018-19. In particular, they are proposing a cut of £300,000 to the winter maintenance budget by reducing the amount of gritting carried out in the winter months. There is little point in borrowing £21m to resurface Suffolk roads, if the Council are not willing to invest the necessary funding for road maintenance.

Final few weeks of school transport consultation

The school transport consultation will end on 28 February 2018, and I would urge you all to respond – the consultation can be found here: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel>. I am strongly against the proposals, and I am very concerned by the lack of financial evidence in the consultation documentation. A change in policy will harm rural families, it will increase

congestion and pollution, and it could destroy some of our county's best schools. Please make sure you take this opportunity to tell leaders at Suffolk County Council what you think.

There is also an online petition against the changes, which has received over 7500 signatures to date. It is one of the largest petitions received by the council, and it will be presented at a Council meeting on 8 February. If you have signed this petition, please also respond to the official consultation, as these are the only responses that Suffolk County Council will be analysing.

If you would like any further information, or want to discuss the implications of the new policy, please contact me by phone or email.

Planning approved for a new heritage centre in Ipswich

On 16 January, the Development Control Committee approved a scheme to build a new heritage centre near the Ipswich Waterfront. This will be known as "The Hold". It will house the bulk of Suffolk's archival collections, and will also include teaching spaces for the University of Suffolk.

The project is expected to cost £20m. Funding has been received from the county council, the University of Suffolk, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Wolfson Foundation.

However, it is not yet clear what impact this will have on the Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds Records Offices. There is concern that all records could be moved to Ipswich, preventing easy access to archives for residents in other parts of the county.