

Tattingstone Parish Council

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

Present: Cllr. Wood, Cllr. Tweedy, Cllr. Gipps, Cllr. Dearing, Cllr Hawes, Cllr. Mendel,
Cllr. Johnson

D. Cllr. Gould

Ms M Proctor [Tattingstone Speedwatch Trust]

Members of public: 5

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Clark

2. Declaration of interest.

None

3. To consider requests for dispensation.

N/A

4. To approve, as accurate, minutes of meeting held on 3rd June 2019

Proposed: Cllr. Gipps

Seconded: Cllr. Hawes

Carried unanimously

5. To receive Clerk's Report.

- Cllr. Gipps and Clerk to attend a meeting about Rural Housing Needs, Cllr. Gipps will report back at August meeting
- Unfortunately, no-one was available to attend Police Forum meeting
- New email address for Cllr. Johnson circulated.
- Bin collection day may change under new schedule from Babergh District Council. All householders will be informed.
- The clerk brought to the Council's attention the imprisonment of a clerk for four years after she stole over £200,000 from the council. This is why monetary controls are so important.

6. To consider Matters arising from the minutes.

- A letter of support for local farmer had been sent to Anglian Water regarding a dispute between them. To date there has been no response to the Council about this.
 - The project for the phone box by the White Horse is progressing and Griff Rhys Jones will be one of the voices in the audio.
 - The litter pick was a great success with a good response from villagers. The Council now has high visibility jackets and litter picks that can be used on other occasions.

7. Open Forum for members of the public.

- The road sign on A137 to Bentley, opposite Crag Pit Farm is damaged. The clerk will report.
- Concern was raised about the number of lorries from Collins S kip Hire passing along The Heath. The Council had, in the past, received assurances from them about direction of travel of the lorries to avoid The Heath. The Clerk will write to Mr. B Richmond.
- When a fence along the A137 was replaced following an accident, the grass verge had not been reinstated. Cllr. Wood would follow up.

8. To receive Reports from County and District Councillors

Report from D. Cllr. Gould is attached to these minutes.

The consultation on Babergh and Mis Suffolk Joint Local plan is out for consultation from 22nd July. A working group will be set up at August meeting.

Report from C. Cllr. Wood is attached to these minutes.

9. To consider Planning Applications: DC/19/02617

Land south of The Rose House, the heath, Tattingstone IP9 2LX

Outline planning [some matters reserved] – erection of 4 dwellings and vehicular access.

Neighbours addressed the Council with their objections.

The council was strongly opposed to this application on the following grounds:

- I. The development is outside the village envelope for a hinterland village [designated as a hamlet in the proposed new Local Plan].
- II. It is out of character with development at The Heath which is purely ribbon development.

- III. A recent village survey did not identify the need for housing of this size or type but indicated an urgent need for social or affordable housing. There is no affordable housing on this application.
- IV. For residents to access village facilities they would have to cross a the busy A137. There is no crossing.
- V. Ingress and egress onto and from the site is very dangerous. This is an accident black spot. There have been countless accidents at this spot including a fatality.

Proposed: Cllr. Wood

Seconded: Cllr. Gipps

Carried unanimously.

The Council asked for D. Cllr. Gould to ask for this to go to committee so that the council could make representation.

Approval had been received on both Birchwood House and Fredericks Close.

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

- AONB report had been circulated

11. Finance: to consider and approve.

- **Bank Balances:** not received by the time of the meeting
- **To approve payment :**
 - Clerk's wages and expenses: £261.78 [£245.18+£16.40]
 - HMRC: £183.30

Proposed: Cllr. Mendel

Seconded: Cllr. Gipps

Carried unanimously

These were agreed and cheques signed.

Expenditure to date 2018/19 presented.

Agar exemption form now on website, registration no. SF0372

Books etc. go to SALC for audit on 5th July

12. To receive Report from Playing Field Representative.

Nothing to report.

13. To discuss Road Signage around Tattingstone CEVC School.

C.Cllr. Wood has met with the head teacher of Tattingstone CEVC School to discuss this. C. Cllr. Wood will see if there are enough funds for this to be implemented, perhaps with additional fundraising. The signage might also restrict parking outside the school which was a concern. Other signage on approach to the school, both from White Horse and Wheatsheaf directions needs reviewing. Parents were reminded that they must take responsibility for the safety of their children when dropping off or collecting.

14. To discuss A137 Safety Improvement Proposal to the north of Tattingstone

Another letter had been received from the Parish Clerk at Wherstead asking for the Council's support in asking for a speed limit on A137 from Wherstead to Tattingstone turnoff to White Horse.

This had not been recommended by Highways and Tattingstone were unable to support financially.

15. To discuss progress on village Speedwatch and possible purchase of SID

Ms Proctor addressed the Council. Collins Skip Hire had donated monies to purchase the necessary signage and the speed gun, previously on loan, had now been donated. She was grateful for the donation from the Parish Council and asked if this could now be held towards a smart SID for the village. C.Cllr. Wood said he could probably be able to support with finance from his locality fund. Ms Proctor was commended and thanked for all her hard work for the village.

16. To approve and adopt the following policies:

- GDPR statement and policy
- Complaints Policy
- Staff appraisal and Salary policy
- Contributions Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

These had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed that these policies be adopted.

Proposed: Cllr. Gipps

Seconded: Cllr. Mendel

Carried unanimously

Master copy signed and these will be posted on the Council website.

17. To discuss Self Help Highways scheme and its possible use in the village including grass verges.

Of the four possibilities for this, the only one viable for Tattingstone is to use volunteers to do some maintenance around the village. All other options have a large financial obligation and the Parish Council does not have funds for this Cllr. Wood agreed to be coordinator for this and will undergo training by the County Council. The clerk will expedite this.

18. To discuss and nominate, if appropriate, individuals for Suffolk Community Awards

This was discussed as a **confidential item**.

19. To Comment on the withdrawal of subsidies on rural buses especially 94A

Route 94A is earmarked to lose its subsidy. This is the early morning bus from East Bergholt to Ipswich through Tattingstone at about 7.40am. This bus is used by commuters and school children. The Council felt that when there is such a move to encourage people to use public transport, this service is a vital link for villagers. The clerk will write to Suffolk County Council expressing their disappointment over withdrawal of subsidies that puts rural buses under threat.

20. Any other urgent village matters

- Problems are occurring with vehicles travelling up Back lane after being directed by SATNAV as a shortcut between A137 and Church Road. Many vehicles, including an ambulance have been seen. The clerk has reported this to highways.
- Consultation has begun for the Ipswich Northern By-pass. Cllr. Mendel, Wood and Hawes agreed to look at this.
- The Parish Council decided not to enter Village of the Year competition.

21. Items for next agenda.

Signage around school

Speedwatch

Northern By pass

Joint Local plan

22.Date of next meeting

5th August 2019

The meeting adjourned at 9.30 pm for confidential items.

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

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

Report of Suffolk Cllr. D Wood

Suffolk County Council announces funding cuts to subsidised bus routes

Suffolk County Council has announced that 23 subsidised bus routes will no longer receive funding from the council, in a bid to save £340,000. This means that over a third of subsidised bus routes in the county will lose their funding.

The decision to cut £340,000 from the subsidised buses budget was made in February, when the Council agreed on the budget for the current financial year. I spoke against this cut at the time, as well as other cuts that will affect bus users such as the decision to no longer print bus timetables.

More details of which routes will be affected can be found at: <http://www.suffolkonboard.com/>

The council say that they will be engaging with bus operators to determine whether the routes can continue to run without council funding. I will keep you updated if there are any further developments.

Cross-party call for independent inquiry into SEND services

On 14 June I signed a cross-party letter to the Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council, asking her to establish an independent inquiry into the provision of SEND services in Suffolk.

This follows the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission reinspection earlier this year, when Suffolk County Council's SEND services were deemed to have made insufficient improvement.

Reports that health visitor numbers will be cut

It was reported in the Guardian and Observer that Suffolk County Council is planning to dramatically reduce the number of health visitors in Suffolk in order to make savings. These plans have not been shared with councillors or the public yet, however the media claim to have seen internal SCC documents showing that the number of health visitors will be reduced by 25% through redundancies in order to save £1m. Health visitors would also have a reduced workload and only focus on the most vulnerable families, rather than all families in Suffolk. The rest of their current workload would need to be picked up by nurses or social workers.

Final Council overspend on 2018-19 budget

The final outturn figures for the 2018-19 budget have been published, showing that Suffolk County Council overspent by £4.5m (0.88% of the budget). Key areas of overspend included:

- Home to School Transport (£1.7m), due to the increasing demand for out-of-county SEND transport arrangements;
- Adult Care Purchasing Budget (£4m);
- Early Help and Specialist Services (£4.8m), due to the increasing number of children in care, especially those requiring specialist placements.

These areas of overspend were mitigated by underspends in other directorates.

SCC releases breakdown of Upper Orwell Crossing spend

The final costs of the abandoned Upper Orwell Crossings project have been released, and show that Suffolk County Council spent a total of £8.1m before deciding to not build the Crossings. Of this, over £4m was paid in fees to consultants.

More detail can be found at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/Roads-and-transport/public-transport-and-transport-planning/Upper-Orwell-Crossing-Final-Report-on-Project-Costs.pdf>

Department for Transport refuses funding for four village bypass The Department for Transport has decided to not support the proposal for a £133m four village bypass in Suffolk, also known as the Suffolk Energy Gateway. The key reasons for the government's decision were:

- It is concerned about the overall value for money of the project;
- It felt the council had not provided enough money for it and neither had EDF as part of the case to build Sizewell C;
- There are concerns about the environmental impact of the road.

SCC misses children's care plan targets in 75% of cases

The Department for Education has published figures showing that Suffolk County Council exceeded the legal time limit of 20 weeks for issuing new education, health and care plans (EHCPs) in 75% of cases in 2018. This means that hundreds of children were left waiting for the appropriate support and is a significant increase compared to 2017, when 53% of cases went beyond the legal time limit.

Suffolk County Council has admitted that there needs to be rapid improvements to this process, and in the last few months it has managed to increase the proportion of EHCPs completed within the legal time limit to 42.5%.

Report from Jane Gould, Babergh District Councillor for Tattingstone Parish

Council for meeting on 1 July 2019.

There's not a lot to report from Babergh District Council this month as the new Council are feeling their way and settling into their committee work.

The Joint Local Plan was passed at the council meeting last week and will now go forward for consultation. The consultation period starts on 22 July and will

last for ten weeks. This is a longer period than normal because of the holiday period. Parish Councils and other interested parties will need to make robust comment about anything in their areas which may give them cause for concern.

I am in contact with Derek Davis, District Councillor for Ganges ward and Alistair McCraw, District Councillor in Brantham, so that we can work together to address the issue of cuts to our bus services.

You will be given a new bin collection day within the next few weeks.