

# Tattingstone Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 8.00pm in Tattingstone Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

25 members of the public were present.

A welcome was extended to Cllr. S Clark on her first meeting as a Parish Councillor

**1. Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr. Gipps, D. Cllr. Steer

**2. Declaration of interest:**

None

**3. To consider requests for dispensations**

N/A

**4. To approve minutes of meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

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

Proposed: Cllr. Mendel

Seconded: Cllr .Hawes

Passed unanimously

**5. Clerk's Report**

- The new Parish Website [www.tattingstoneparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.tattingstoneparishcouncil.co.uk) was up and running. It is already generating email queries. Cllr Hawes and the Clerk are meeting to update and learn the intricacies of site management.
- The Openreach trial of ultra-highspeed fibre to the premises has come to an end. The engineers will be working 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June to recover any remaining equipment.
- Training dates for new councillors were circulated.

**6. Matters arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes

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

There was a vigorous discussion about the future of the Tattingstone News as the editor had resigned after the publication of only 2 editions because of the lack of transparency in sharing information regarding advertising and finance with her. An interim editor had been found and despite rumours the

Tattingstone News had not been shut down by the Parish Council. Because the publication had received monies from both the Parish Council and the County Council via a locality grant, a copy of the accounts was requested.

A number of residents of Chedworth Place and Samford Court were present and were concerned about the letter received from Sage Housing pertaining to an area of land to the rear of Church Road and accessed through the drive of Chedworth Place. It was explained that this was merely a 'fishing' letter by speculators. The Parish Council is unable to comment on any planning until a formal application is made to Babergh D.C. also any request for affordable housing had to come from one of the approved not-for-profit organisations approved by the District Council.

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

D. Cllr McCraw said that as his last report was only a couple of weeks ago, he had little to report. He added that a Statement of Community Engagement about planning will go out for consultation shortly.

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

## **9. Planning**

- **DC/17/06250**  
Sommercourt, The Heath, Tattingstone, IP9 2LX  
Demolition of existing building and garage, erection of 4 dwellings and vehicular access, associated garages, landscaping etc. [amendment]  
This application has now been approved by Babergh D.C. Thanks were given to D.Cllr. McCraw for supporting our concerns about this development.
- **DC/18/02195**  
Birchwood House, Cox Hall Lane, Tattingstone IP9 2NS  
Conversion of existing tractor shed to 1 dwelling and replacement of adjoining grain store with 2 units of tourist accommodation with garages and storage for main dwelling.  
The units are on the same footprint as existing buildings. There have been some concerns from Natural England because of the sensitivity of the area. It was stressed that this must only be for short term holiday accommodation and safeguards need to be put in place to ensure it is only available for short term lets.  
The application was **recommended** for approval.  
Proposed: Cllr. Wood  
Seconded: Cllr. Dearing  
Carried with 2 abstentions

- **DC/18/02136**

Hill House, Main Road, Tattlingstone IP9 2NT

Change of use of land for the positioning of 1x20ft shipping container, 3 x5m bell tents and 2 wooden shower/toilet huts along with 2 horsebox trailers [shower/toilet and kitchen facilities] to be used as tourist accommodation for short term holiday breaks.

Concerns were raised over the adjacent campsite already operating at the White Horse. Access is along a privately-owned road which is unsurfaced and is a designated bridleway. It was suggested that users of the campsite might come by public transport but the bus service is poor and does not cover the nearest railway station. The village has no shop. A member of the public voiced her concern about the increased traffic usage of the road which has to be maintained at their own expense. A previous application on this land had been refused because of poor access and lack of village facilities.

The application was **not recommended** for approval

Proposed: Cllr. Mendel

Seconded: Cllr. Clarke

Carried unanimously

- **Consider a letter re affordable housing proposition from Sage Housing on land adjacent to Chedworth Place.**

This had been discussed fully in Open forum but it was reiterated that the Parish Council were unable to comment on this proposition or attend a pre-application meeting unless a formal application had been submitted to Babergh D.C. Also, first talks about affordable housing must come from one of Babergh's approved housing Associations. Cllr. Wood and the clerk would respond in this way to Sage Housing and the letter would be affixed to these minutes.

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

- Suffolk Crime commissioner and Chief Constable are holding a meeting about Policing in Suffolk on 20<sup>th</sup> June.
- Babergh East Police and Parish Forum: questions had been asked by Cllr. Wood about rural levels of crime at the meeting in April. He urged villagers to report any incidents on 101. The next meeting is on 13<sup>th</sup> June at Shotley Village Hall. Cllr. Tweedy and Cllr. Mendel will attend.
- There is a survey about the future of water services. Villagers are urged to respond.

#### **11. To consider the findings of the Personnel committee and the result of Clerk's Performance management and salary Review.**

See Confidential item affixed separately

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

- Bank Balances:  
Not received by day of meeting.  
To approve for payment:
  - Clerk's wages and expenses: £225.67  
Approved and signed  
Proposed: Cllr. Tweedy  
Seconded: Cllr. Clark  
Carried unanimously.
  
- The summary of income and expenditure for period ending 31<sup>st</sup> May was presented.
- **To review restricted funds - Tattingstone Village Hall**  
The amount of £500 was transferred for the last nine years into a restricted fund for the Village Hall. This money was now at a considerable level and had not yet been called upon by the Village Hall Trustees.  
A Proposal was made to retain this restricted fund at its present level of £4500 but that in future years this amount would be kept in general funds.  
Proposed: Cllr. Mendel  
Seconded: Cllr. Hawes  
Carried unanimously

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

See attached.

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

The deadline for return is 14th June. Councillors were urged to go house calling to try and retrieve some more completed surveys. It was mentioned by that they thought the survey too complicated and overlong. A suggestion was made that if another one is issued it could be put on Survey Monkey so responses could be made online. The survey which we used was a shortened form from one that is used to help formulate a neighbourhood plan. Even though the response seemed poor, useful data might be extracted that will give the Council some indication of village feelings on a range of issues.

## **15. To consider the awarding of the Unsung Hero**

Councillors thought this would be an excellent idea and will be discussed in February each year for awarding at the Annual Parish Meeting.

## **16. To initiate the co-option of a Parish Councillor.**

The Parish Council still requires one Councillor. Notices will be posted and hopefully applicants will come forward for co-option at July meeting of Parish Council.

**17. To discuss and consider future of Tattingstone News**

The Tattingstone News began as a small broadsheet and was born out of the Parish Plan. It is a valued village resource. The Parish Council has no formal responsibility for it although it has given it money in the past. It was confirmed the editor had resigned after 2 editions as without full transparency of finances, the publication was difficult to produce. A stand-in editor has been found. An electronic version could be made available on the new Parish Council website but because of the demographics of the village, it is necessary to have a paper copy too.

The Council felt that for the 'News' to be self-supporting, more advertising is needed. The Parish Council had always supported the Tattingstone News but it needs a full picture of its finances. A letter will be sent to ask for a copy of the accounts for the last two years. [affixed]

**18. To consider response to Battle's Over.**

Adjourned to next meeting.

**16. Any other urgent village matters**

Cllr. Mendel queried the insurance for the fete. Details had already been sent to Cllr. Gipps.

**The dates of meetings for the rest of 2017 and until May 2019 were circulated**

DONM 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 at 7.30pm

**Part 2 [confidential] the clerk left.**

**Item 11 To consider the findings of the Personnel committee and the result of Clerk's Performance management and salary Review.**

**Affixed separately**

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

**Items for next Agenda**

Battles Over

Tattingstone News

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

### **Overwhelming public opposition to Suffolk County Council's school transport plans**

Leaked documents from Suffolk County Council show overwhelming public opposition to proposed school transport changes. Of the 3600 responses to Suffolk County Council's home-to-school transport consultation, 85% "strongly oppose" the proposals and a further 5% "oppose" them. This is the most responses received by a Consultation in recent years, and it is clear that parents, teachers and communities have very serious concerns about the proposals.

The Cabinet is due to make a decision on changing the school transport policy on Tuesday 19 June. I, along with my Group, have opposed the proposed changes since they were first announced in September and we will continue to raise our concerns at the Cabinet meeting.

### **New Council Leader elected**

Following a leadership challenge in the Conservative Group at the Council, Cllr Matthew Hicks has been elected as the new Leader of Suffolk County Council, replacing Cllr Colin Noble. His Deputy will be Cllr Mary Evans, the former Chair of Scrutiny.

Cllr Hicks has promised a "new era" of politics at the Council, with a focus on mutual respect, collaboration and co-operation. We are hopeful that he will be more open to working with, and listening to, councillors from other parties.

The first major change has been the removal of Cabinet Committees, which were only established in September 2017. They will be replaced by Policy Development Panels, although we do not currently have the full details on how these will operate.

### **'Outstanding' schools in Suffolk have not had Ofsted inspections for years**

The National Audit Office has revealed that over 1600 schools in the UK have not been inspected by Ofsted for 6+ years. In Suffolk, 23 outstanding schools - almost half of those rated 'outstanding' - have not been inspected for at least 6 years. For 6 of these schools, their last inspection was over a decade ago. This means that whole cohorts of students have gone through school without a single Ofsted inspection.

My Group's Spokesperson for Education, Cllr Penny Otton, raised the issue and her concerns at a Council meeting on 24 May. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Gordon Jones, assured her that he shared her concerns and would raise it with the head of Ofsted.

Ofsted have said that the majority of 'outstanding' schools are exempt by law from inspections. However, if a number of concerns or complaints are raised against a school, they would have the power to carry out an inspection.

### **Unitary discussions on hold**

In March, it was announced that Colin Noble had commissioned the think-tank Respublica to produce a report outlining the options for a unitary council in Suffolk. This news was not well-received by the District and Borough Councils, who had not been consulted by Cllr Noble.

However, in the lead up to the Conservative Group leadership election in May, Cllr Noble announced that work producing the report had been suspended. It is not yet clear whether this work will resume under the new leader, Cllr Hicks.

### **Possible U-turn on Lowestoft records office**

At Council on 24 May, a petition was presented by the Save Our Record Office (SORO) campaign group, calling on the Council to reverse the decision to close the Lowestoft Record Office.

Cllr Hicks responded by acknowledging the importance of keeping local records in Lowestoft, and pledged to work with local residents and councillors to develop a long-term, sustainable solution for the storage of archives in the north of the county.

However, he made it clear that there is currently no capital or revenue budget available for the project, and so the council would need to seek funding to help deliver it.

### **New development with affordable homes in Cockfield**

On 15 May, the Cabinet approved proposals for the development of a 4.5 acre site near Cockfield, which is owned as part of its County Farms estate. The development will be comprised of 51 units, including 12 affordable rented homes. There will also be homes specifically for first-time buyers, affordable shared ownership homes, and self-build plots.

This project is being treated as a pilot for future developments on Council owned land. The County Council is planning to work closely with design and property partners, and there will be a particular focus on local needs and benefits for the local community. The council will also benefit from financial returns as a result of developing the land.

Report from Tattingstone Playing Field committee meeting 2.6.18

The treasure reported that the funds were in a happy state. He is still in conversation with Anglian Water and to date they cannot confirm the meters have been changed. In the meantime, he is keeping a record of the usage.

The closure of the Parish Plan was discussed and an amount of £2500 was presented to the Playing Field committee. The money will be used to erect a fence around the children's play area and the balance to go towards refurbishment of the changing rooms. Grateful thanks were expressed by the committee.

The Tennis Club reported that all was good and there were no problems.

The Cricket club reported that they were having a good season and enjoying the facilities of the playing field. They were very pleased with the success of the team and also the ladies team.

They are still hoping to have a children's club but at present there are not enough children.

The Football club had had a good season finishing third in Division 3. The lawn mower was again discussed and it was decided that it must be gone by the next meeting. There have been three offers made. The place where it is kept is in serious need of clearing out and more storage room is needed.

Cllr. Tweedy

## **Tattingstone Parish Council**

Jane Connell-Smith

Parish clerk

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6<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Sage Housing  
4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Manning House  
22 Carlisle Place  
London  
SW1P 1JA

For the attention of Mr J Cook CEO

Dear Sir,

Further to your letter of 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Tattingstone Parish Council is unable to comment on your inquiry regarding a project to provide affordable/rental housing on a plot of land to the rear of Church Road Tattingstone and adjacent to Chedworth Court.

A pre- application meeting is inappropriate and consideration for the building of affordable housing would only be considered by the Parish Council if approached by one of Babergh District Council's not for profit, approved housing associations.

Should a planning application be entered, due consideration, after consulting with all local parties, will be given.

There is nothing to stop you having an open meeting in the village if you should wish.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Connell-Smith,  
Clerk to the Parish

## **Tattingstone Parish Council**

Jane Connell-Smith  
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6<sup>th</sup> June 2018

TGC  
The Heath,  
Tattingstone,  
Ipswich,  
IP92LX

Dear Mr Plumbly and Mr Self,

Further to the discussion at the Parish Council Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June, the Parish Council kindly requests a copy of your accounts for the past 2 years. This was a requirement of the grants received in 2016 and we looking forward to receiving them as soon as possible.

The Parish Council has always supported the publication of a monthly village magazine/ newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Connell-Smith,  
Clerk to the Parish