

Preston St Mary Parish Council

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Minutes of a Meeting of Preston St Mary Parish Council held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 19 September 2017 in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors Bardzinski; Bisson; Hanlon; Martin; Tasker
County Councillor Robert Lindsay; District Councillor Clive Arthey; Nicola Smith-Parish Clerk; 2
Member of the Public and Guest Speak Mr Bill Newman, Corporate Manager for Strategic Planning at
Babergh District Council.

1. Apologies

- i. Chair, Cllr Kerrie McGrory sent her apologies due to work commitments. Cllr Luck also sent his apologies due to work commitments.
- ii. Cllrs consented to accept the apologies. In accordance with the PC Standing Orders and as agreed by all Cllrs present the Vice Chair Cllr Bardzinski agreed to Chair this meeting.

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

- i. No disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for the Agenda under discussions;
- ii. No gifts of hospitality received;
- iii. No requests for dispensation for pecuniary interests – not applicable for the Agenda under discussion.

3. Guest Speaker

Bill Newman, Corporate Manager, Strategic Planning at Babergh District Council attended the meeting to provide a short talk on the Local Plan which Babergh have recently produced and are in the phase of the consultation period with parishes. The consultation period will run until 5pm on Friday 10th November 2017, and is part of the initial stages of plan production and is being carried out under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Local Plan will inform how the district will develop over the next 20 years. It will establish how housing and land for businesses will be needed and where it will go, alongside delivering the infrastructure.

With regards to Preston St Mary there is an area of land that has been identified as the owners of the land as available for development (it is on the land almost opposite the Village Hall) and has for some time before this Local Plan exercise and the call for sites been identified as land for possible development. However, just because the owners have come forward and stated that they would be prepared for development to take place on the land does not automatically mean that development will take place on that land. It would still be subject to the planning process. The Parish Council should look through the Local Plan. There are 77 questions that are raised within the

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document. Parish Clerk suggested that the Local Plan be broken down into manageable size sections and each Cllr take a section and give back their report on their section to the Parish Council at the next Meeting on 31st October 2017, so that they can submit a response to the Local Plan in good time for the 10 November 2017 deadline. Cllrs agreed that this would be a sensible approach. Bill Newman confirmed that all 77 questions do not need to be answered, for example the PC may decide that say just 15 of those questions are pertinent to the village and therefore just answer those 15 questions. Bill Newman indicated that if a parish submits their views then he is more likely to say this is the parish view and if we can agree with the parish then that would be helpful.

District Councillor Clive Arthey, assisted the Parish Council by confirming that the parish which was previously considered to be a hinterland village is under the Local Plan now considered to be a hamlet and that is important when reading through the Local Plan. The village did a relatively recent housing survey so may need to look at the responses to that when considering responding to the Local Plan. Also the village is a built up area boundary, and that should also be taken into account.

Bill Newman indicated that if nothing else than the Parish Council should look at the part of the Local Plan that deals with settlement hierarchy (under the evidence section) and comment on the questions within that section.

There is currently a shortfall in housing in the Babergh and Mid Suffolk area. The shortfall is 7,800 homes. The District Councils need to collate comments from parishes to work out how and where new homes should be built. There are various options which include:-

- More central area – such as the edge of Ipswich. Ipswich is currently built up to its own boundary so it would be the out of boundary areas, but in a more centralised location.
- Balance between market towns and rural villages (which is the approach currently being exercised by Babergh). The current approach is that more should be built in Towns with lesser in rural locations, but in fact the figures show that the demand has been for the reverse of this, and that has been a consistent trend for the last 15 years.
- Build housing alongside the transport corridor (A12).
- A completely new settlement option, but then the next question would be where.

It is with input from parishes that Babergh can start to formulate how the Local Plan should operate for the next 20 years.

Vice Chair thanked both Cllr Hanlon for organising for Bill Newman to attend the meeting and Bill Newman for attending, it had been very useful and focused the PC on the Local Plan.

- 4. Minutes of Meeting:** All Cllrs confirmed that they read through the draft Minutes of 30 June and 15 August 2017 and agree them to be a true and accurate record. Vice Chair, Cllr Bardzinski signed and dated the Minutes.

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5. County Councillor, Mr Robert Lindsay's report:

Highways reshuffle

A highways reshuffle means the usual points of contact for you and me have gone and we are being asked to report standard defects on the Highways Reporting Tool and more complicated issues by emailing or phoning the Phoenix House "service delivery centre". PhoenixHouseSDC@suffolk.gov.uk 0345 606 6171

Broadband

I should be able to find out the dates of arrival of upgraded broadband for people in the village if they provide their postcode and landline number.

Secret Cabinet Committees

Suffolk County Council at their July meeting proposed new cabinet committees which would have seats for councillors from all three political groups. However, the final proposal was that these committees would sit in secret. I introduced an amendment to say they should be in public as are all other council meetings. This was defeated by Conservative councillors who were ordered to vote against. The unamended motion was then carried. I will be sitting on one of the four cabinet committees and am quite prepared to report anything significant to you and my constituents.

Cabinet members vote to boost their allowances

The Council in July also proposed to increase the allowance for cabinet members, but for no other councillors. I and most of my group, voted against this. Again, the Conservative majority were ordered to vote it through. I believe councillors need to make the arguments over allowance increases after they have served four years, not just after they have been elected.

Extra Chevrons on Moneyhole Corner

I'm happy to cover the £500 cost for this.

Cutting of free school buses and post 16 travel subsidy

Schools cabinet member Gordon Jones is brought before cabinet today (Tuesday) a plan by which from Sept 2019:

1. Free travel for primary and secondary pupils would no longer be provided, where a student is not attending their nearest school (even if that school is their catchment school).
2. Subsidised travel for 16-18 year olds would no longer be provided.

There will be 789 pupils in Cosford affected. For secondary school pupils, our division will be the worst hit in Suffolk with 37% having their free bus withdrawn and parents facing with the choice of changing school, having to arrange their own car sharing transport or purchasing tickets on a commercial service – if one is available. This move will disproportionately hit rural areas across the county, and amounts to an attack on rural communities. I and most of my group oppose it and will do our best to stop it.

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6. District Councillor, Mr Clive Arthey's report:

Boundary Review

Babergh have submitted two alternatives, and another round of consultations will now take place.

Move to Endeavour House, Ipswich

This has been slightly delayed and the move is now expected to take place in December 2017.

Two new Electric Car Charging Points

These have recently been installed in the car park of the Kingfisher Leisure Centre in Sudbury.

7. Public Forum:

Mrs Margaret Bisson tendered her letter of resignation from the role of Tree Warden, due to personal circumstances she felt she could no longer continue. Mrs Bisson confirmed that she had asked Mr Dunk of Willowbrook, The Street if he would take over the role and he would be happy to. Cllr Bardzinski thanked Mrs Bisson for her service in this role over the last 8 years. Cllrs all agreed that they would be happy for Mr Dunk to take over the role and asked the Clerk to write to him in this regard.

8. Correspondence:

- i. Cllrs had been provided with copy correspondence from Suffolk Police confirming that there is a Meeting in Sudbury on 20 September 2017 for the public to go along to and have the opportunity to speak to Tim Passmore, the Police and Crime Commissioner about any concerns they have about local policing. The poster with details had been on the village notice board and website for two weeks so that villagers had details ahead of time if they wished to attend.

9. Update on matters arising from previous Meetings:

Chevrons at Moneyhole Corner County Cllr had confirmed that he would fund this and Highways had confirmed that they would install the second chevron if the PC confirmed that wanted it. Cllr Martin proposed and Cllr Hanlon seconded. Motion carried.

Draft Emergency Plan and Trees on the Village Green These are being dealt with as separate Items under this current Agenda.

10. Clerk's Report

- i. Cllr Tasker has requested to attend the course for new Councillors at SALC. Cllr Bardzinski proposed and Cllr Bisson seconded that the Parish Council pay for Cllr Tasker to attend this course.

ii. Schedule of items Awaiting Authorisation

N Smith (salary)	£573.30	LGA 1972 s112
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HMRC (NI and tax)	£144.40	Inc&Corp Taxes Act
Chilton Office Supplies	£100.80	LGA 1972 s142
Information Commissioner	£35.00	LGA 1972

iii.	<u>Summary:</u>	
	*Community Account	5019.48
	Business Saver Account	501.02
	Less items awaiting approval	853.50

		4667.00

***Total includes Transparency Funding of £1645**

- iv. Clerk had provided Cllrs with a short report before the Meeting setting out that the law was changing in relation to the Data Protection Act. Cllrs needed to be aware that there were changes which would come in to force by 25 May 2018. The Clerk was attending a course at SALC in October on this matter and would update the Council at its next Meeting on 31st October.
- v. Clerk had completed the declaration to the Pension Regulator ahead of the deadline date. The Parish Council were not at this time required to contribute to a pension.

11. To consider and approve a draft of the Emergency Plan

Following discussion the draft Emergency Plan was approved subject to Cllr Bardzinski discussing with his Wife re: being a joint Emergency Co-Ordinator. Once finalised the Clerk will submit to the Joint Emergency Planning Unit at SCC for approval and the PC can then discuss how they wish to make the information available to villagers.

12. To consider guidance from Suffolk Tree Services together with estimate of works to various trees on the Village Green

Clerk had endeavoured to obtain three quotations, but despite contacting six local companies she had only received a quotation from Suffolk Tree Services.

Attached to this report is a report from the Clerk in relation to the trees on the Village Green numbered 1 through to 18, and as discussed with Mr Gentle from Suffolk Tree Services.

Cllr Bisson provided the Clerk with details of “Kevin’s Garden Services” and asked if the Clerk would obtain quotations from him in relation to trees numbered 14 through to 17. Cllr Martin stated that he had met with Cllr Hanlon, the Tree Warden and Cllr Bisson to look at the trees and agreed that the works on trees numbered 1 through to 13 could be carried out by volunteers, and the works to the trees numbered 14 through to 17 were too expensive and that he would call Suffolk Tree Services and discuss with him about reducing the price because the quotations were too much. Cllr Martin

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stated that they had agreed that the tree stump did not need removing as it was a “feature”.

Discussion took place. Clerk advised that if volunteers were to be used then a risk assessment would need to be completed as those volunteers were being asked by the Parish Council as a corporate body to carry out the works. They would be indemnified under the PC insurance if the PC asked them to volunteer. However, proper risk assessments should be completed to ensure the safety of the public, motorists and indeed the volunteers being asked to carry out these tasks on behalf of the PC. Cllr Martin did not think this necessary but following discussion it was agreed that “Phase 1” of the tree works (trees numbered 1-13) would be carried out by volunteers subject to a suitably completed risk assessment, and “Phase 2” (trees numbered 14-17) would be considered at the next meeting once the Clerk had a quotations from “Kevin’s Garden Services”. Cllr Bardzinski proposed and Cllr Hanlon seconded. Please note that tree number 18 just needs re-staking.

13. Parish Councillor’s Reports

- i. Cllr Hanlon reported that FP 12 would shortly be cleared so that it was easily accessible again.
- ii. Cllr Hanlon reported that she had been to Barclays Bank to become a signatory on the PC accounts as agreed at a meeting earlier in the year. Barclays were unable to do this, despite Cllr Hanlon completing the form that Barclays had provided to Cllr Bardzinski and Cllr Bisson. Barclays required a signatory to contact them by telephone to place details of a new signatory on the account. Cllr Bardzinski took the details and said that he would telephone Barclays.

14. Planning Matters

No new planning matters.

Next Meeting: 31 October 2017

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