

## PRESTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Preston St Mary Parish Council****held at 7.30pm on 29 January 2019 in the Village Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs Hanlon, Bisson, Tasker, Martin and Luck, and the Parish Clerk, Nicola Smith. District Cllr Clive Arthey was also in attendance, along with 12 members of the public.

**1. Chairman's welcome**

- i. Clerk reported that both the Chair and Vice Chair were unable to attend the meeting due to ill health. In accordance with the Standing Orders Cllrs agreed that Cllr Tasker would Chair this meeting.
- ii. Cllrs consented to accept the apologies for absence.

**2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest**

- i. Disclosure of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests – Cllr Martin declared an interest in item 11 of the Agenda.
- ii. Declaration of gifts of hospitality – none.
- iii. Requests for dispensation for pecuniary interest – none.

**3. Minutes**

Clerk made minor amendment to draft Minutes as requested by District Cllr Clive Arthey in relation to his report. Cllrs all agreed additional wording. Thereafter Cllr Hanlon proposed and Cllr Bisson seconded that the draft Minutes of the Meeting on 30 October 2018 were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**4. Matters Arising****Fencing outside of Mead House and Busted Mead**

Mr Mark Stevens, Assistant Director of Operations, Highways, SCC has now confirmed that after a number of exchanges between himself and the owner of Mead House, he was finally provided with a lot more substantive documentation that overwhelmingly suggested that the fence is erected on the highway boundary and on that basis SCC Highways have ceased trying to get the fence removed.

Parishioner advised that he had that day spoken with the Highways Dept who advised the matter remained open. It was considered that this may be just an administrative point, but nonetheless Cllrs would like to better understand the decision made by Highways and what "substantive documentation that overwhelmingly suggested..." was in place. Discussion took place and Clerk was asked to look at possible relevant legislation, and in the meantime draft a letter to the owner of Mead House.

**Planning Matter DC/18/01823 – 6 no. residential dwellings at land behind Six Bells**

Initial appeal was regarding a non determination of decision by the planning department, but this was rectified within a 24 hour period as the planning department issued a Decision

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Notice refusing the application. The current Appeal is in relation to that Decision Notice and the refusal to grant planning permission. The Appeal will be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate and will be by written representation format (as opposed to a public meeting). This may change and the Clerk will advise if that happens. The matter has yet to be allocated to an Inspector but the PC will be advised by Babergh once it has been. In the meantime Clerk will provide Cllrs with information about the Planning Inspectorate website and the Appeal number. Clerk advised that parishioner may submit written representations, even if they have already made those representations to Babergh. Clerk will put Notices in the village once the PC are aware of the date by which submissions will need to be made.

#### Grit bins

Clerk has taken photographs of relevant sites and will submit form once she has determined whether any land owner's consents are required. In the meantime there is grit on the grit heaps in the village.

#### **5. County Cllr Mr Robert Lindsays Report (not present at the meeting and sent his apologies. Report provided)**

##### **Proposed cuts to Citizens Advice**

In November, Suffolk County Council announced their intention to cut all funding for Suffolk's Citizens Advice Bureaus as part of their budget savings proposals. This was later amended to a phased cut over 2 years. The funding will be reduced by half (£184,000) in 2019/20, before being removed entirely in 2020/21. The county was legally obliged to do a consultation on this under equalities legislation. Of 805 responses, 90% said that both elderly and disabled would be adversely affected. However the relevant cabinet member, Cllr Richard Rout, argues that they are mitigating against this by giving CAB time to find other funding sources. I and our political group will be seeking to oppose this.

##### **Council pledges to lead fight against single-use plastics**

On 6 December 2018, my group successfully put forward a motion calling on Suffolk County Council to do more to tackle single-use plastic waste in the county. The motion was agreed unanimously by all councillors. The measures the council has agreed to implement include a commitment to work towards only using sustainable or re-usable plastics in all council buildings, writing to the public on how to reduce plastic waste, and creating a "plastic free Suffolk network" of councils, businesses and other organisations.

##### **Suffolk County Council refuses to tackle carbon emissions**

At the Council meeting in December, I seconded a motion asking Suffolk County Council to set an annual "carbon budget" and create targets for reducing carbon emissions. Suffolk County Council already monitors its carbon emissions, but currently this work is not in the public domain and there are no clear targets for carbon reduction. A carbon budget would set out how much carbon the council could emit each year, much like a financial budget sets out how much money can be spent. Unfortunately, the administration voted against the motion and refused to commit to any carbon reduction targets.

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### **New highways boss**

After a long search, a new head of Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, Mark Ash has been hired and will start in February. He is currently Director of Waste and Environment at Essex County Council, where he does flood and water management, sustainable drainage services, management and promotion of the natural environment and renewable energy.

### **Special Educational Needs Children – potential £45m investment**

Cabinet on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan approved a report from a cross-party policy Development Panel that recommends they invest £45m in building three new special needs schools and 36 specialist units within mainstream schools which together will create 828 new SEN places. We badly need these places inside the county rather than paying to send children far distances.

### **Orwell bridge plan dropped**

The county has finally dropped long running plans to build a big bridge over the Orwell in central Ipswich, although £8.3 million has already been spent on it. The bulk of this went to consultants WSP. The plan for two smaller bridges to connect Wet Dock Island by the Waterfront will go ahead at a further cost of £10m.

### **School admissions consultation – no change for now**

A consultation on whether the admissions priorities should be changed to nearest school rather than catchment school came back with 73% agreeing that admissions should continue to use catchment. The recommendation to cabinet is therefore that catchments for admissions purposes will remain for 2019/20 and 2020/21. However given that the county is in the process of changing free transport policy to nearest school rather than catchment, this will be kept under review.

## **6. District Cllr Mr Clive Arthey's report**

### **2019-20 Budget**

Work on next years budget is at an advanced stage, with a likely 3% increase in Babergh's element of Council Tax. Babergh's element is less than 10% of the total bill which is likely to include increases for Suffolk County Council (5%?) and Suffolk Police (over 12%?).

### **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

In the first bid round only £65,000 of District (123) funds was spent, with the remaining £316,000 carried forward to the October bid round (over £600,000 available). Bids include proposals for Preston St. Mary Village Hall and Electric Vehicle charger points in Lavenham. Unspent funds will be carried forward to the next bid round in May 2019.

### **Local Plan**

I am sorry to tell you that the next LP consultation will now be delayed until the summer. The 'revision to the timetable' now anticipates presentation to Council in June, followed by public consultation. There are then periods for preparation of the 'submission version' and a

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'technical consultation' before the Examination in Public. Adoption of the new plan will now not take place until next year.

#### Waste and Recycling

There has been a slight reduction in blue bin recyclables collected, and although we generate electricity from black bin waste, it is much more expensive than blue bin recycling. The Suffolk Waste Partnership, the County Council and BDC continue to look at ways to reduce waste, including the reduction in single use plastics, and increased recycling. We are aware there have also been collection problems on some rounds due to a shortage of freighter crews (particularly HGV drivers). Please don't be put off recycling, and continue to present your blue bins with recyclables clean, dry and loose (no bags please).

#### 2019 Elections

District and parish elections are on 2nd May. The district elections will be for the new wards, with Preston St. Mary in the new 'North West Cosford' ward, grouped with Bildeston, Brettenham, Hitcham, Kettlebaston, Thorpe Morieux and Wattisham.

### 7. Public Forum

- (i) Parishioner enquired about the s106 monies and the claim for indoor bowling club equipment at the VH. Clerk will go back through email thread and pick matter back up and update at next meeting.
- (ii) Parishioner enquired as to whether or not the problems with drainage near Rise Farm had been reported, as discussed at the October 2018 meeting. Clerk confirmed that she had emailed County Cllr Robert Lindsay as discussed and he had in turn raised this with Highways, and asked them action the matter to carry out necessary repairs. Clerk will liaise and obtain an update.

### 8. Correspondence (all general correspondence has been circulated to Cllrs by email)

Correspondence dealt with under Agenda items or updates on matters arising.

### 9. Clerk's Report

- i. Financial schedule of items awaiting approval:

100597	Top Marques (PPP printing)	£132	LGA 1972
100598	N Smith (Clerks salary)	£552.76	LGA 1972
100599	SALC (election training)	£30.00	LGA 1972
100600	N Smith (reimburse 10 x grit bags)	£44.80	LGA 1972
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		<b>£759.56</b>	

All Cllrs present approved the payments.

Council's financial position:

Community Account	5107.70
Less	759.56
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	<b>4348.14</b>

Business Saver Account	501.11
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- (ii) Clerk reported that she had attended a SALC Parish Council 2019 election training course and will prepare a note for all Cllrs so that they have information about key dates and procedures etc.

**10. To consider and approve Precept for 2019/2020**

Cllrs considered no further changes to the draft precept presented at the October 2018 meeting. Cllr Bisson proposed and Cllr Hanlon seconded a precept to be levied in the sum of £5363.00. Using the Tax Base of £100.88 provided by BDC this calculated a Band D Precept demand of £53.69 per annum which was an increase of £1.80 compared to the increase last year which was £4.95. All Cllrs agreed. Chairman presiding over the meeting Cllr Jack Tasker duly signed the Precept form as did Cllr Hanlon and Cllr Bisson. Clerk also signed the Precept form and confirmed that she would submit to BDC before the 31 January 2019.

**11. To consider whether or not to proceed with an application for the Six Bells Public House to be nominated as an Asset of Community Value (ACV)**

As presiding Chairman, Cllr Tasker took advice from the Clerk and agreed that Item 12 should be dealt with prior to item 11. It would then allow for Cllr Martin to then leave the meeting for the evening.

This matter was discussed after item 12. Following a brief discussion with the Clerk Cllr Martin left the meeting.

Following discussion Cllr Hanlon proposed and Cllr Taker seconded that the Clerk would complete and submit a nomination form for the Six Bells to become an Asset of Community Value (ACV). It was further agreed that the nomination form should include the pub, carpark including the side entrance and all the land at the rear of the Six Bells and within its title.

**12. Parish Cllrs reports:**

Cllr Hanlon reported the following matters:

she had agreed to take over the role of Tree Warden;

Suffolk Tree Services had not come out yet to grind out the stump and there is a lump of wood sticking up from where a tree was removed a few years ago that STS had been asked to tidy up, unfortunately this work had not yet been carried out. Will follow matter up with Clerk;

100 free trees had been ordered following on from the October 2018 meeting and all of those trees have now been allocated/planted to various people. Cllr Hanlon said there was an overwhelming response and Cllrs all agreed that this was a very successful and worthwhile scheme and thanked Cllr Hanlon.

The owner of the barns by Model Farm is going to put up some Barn Owl boxes, as they had been seen coming in and out of the barn.

Ones of the trees ? cherry tree on the grass verge opposite the Six Bells looked as if it were dying. Should wait until Spring to see if it recovers but it is the tree on the STS report from 2018 that was noted as not being healthy and possibly dying off. Clerk will look back on quotation from STS to remove and report at next meeting with a view to Cllrs agreeing expenditure on this matter.

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Cllr Martin reported that Mrs Janet Martin no longer wished to be responsible for looking after/maintaining the red phone box and would like someone else to take over this role. Cllrs agreed that an article would go in to the PPP (subsequently after the meeting a person stepped forward and has agreed to take over the role). Clerk asked Cllr Martin to thank his Wife for all her time and effort in looking after the red phone box over several years.

**13. Planning Matter:**

No new planning matters at the time of serving the Agenda.

**Date and time of next meeting** 26 March 2019 at 7.30pm

**Meeting closed: 9.25pm**