

## PRESTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Preston St Mary Parish Council.**held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March at the village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Korwin, Cllr Tasker, Cllr Hanlon, Cllr Whymark together with the Parish Clerk, Kay Shorter. No members of public present.

**1. Chairman's welcome**

- i. no apologies for absence

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

- i. Disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest for the Agenda under discussion – none;
- ii. Declaration of gifts of hospitality – none;
- iii. Requests for dispensation for pecuniary interest – not applicable.

**3. Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of meeting 25<sup>th</sup> January signed and agreed

- 4. **Robert Lindsay's report** has been forwarded to all councillors as due to a commitment to attend another meeting Cllr Lindsay was not able to attend

**New restricted byway between Preston and Kettlebaston**

The county's development control committee met today and approved a new restricted byway running from Rushbrook Farm down to Back Lane, Kettlebaston, where it joins an existing footpath. Under new laws any old route that may be closed to public access now, but can be shown to be likely to have been a highway in the past has to be designated a "restricted byway" by the county council. Old maps and tithe maps were produced to show that there was reasonable evidence that it **Preston PC 14.3.22 Report from District and County Councillor Robert Lindsay** had been a highway. Restricted byways are open to all but motorised transport.

**Babergh Council to down-size accommodation**

Babergh Cabinet recently voted to give back one of the two floors they rent at Endeavour House from Suffolk County Council, saving approximately £338,000. The majority of staff are now home working with some office visits for meetings etc.

**Babergh councillors to vote on changing to committee system**

On the agenda at Babergh full council today March 22nd is a switch to a committee system from cabinet system, originally proposed by me. Our group believe that this is more democratic, allowing all councillors to have a say, rather than 10 handpicked by the leader of the largest political party.

**Executive Pay changes at Babergh**

Also on agenda is a hike in the senior directors' pay. The initial proposals, which were voted down, would have seen the top 8 directors getting rises of between 20% and 25% but under the new plans the incremental pay rise next year for each individual will be between 2% and 3%. Also the chief executive will initiate a review of all staff pay immediately this is approved. I and our Green group find this latest proposal more acceptable and shall probably vote in favour.

**Suffolk Biodiversity Recommendations**

The Suffolk County Council cabinet has approved plans to enhance the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land by 2030. This was a result of a motion we proposed a couple of years back and a cross party panel. Examples include ensuring 30% of council owned land is managed to enhance nature by 2030, planting more hedgerows, improving highway trees, and developing nature-based flood management solutions. For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/councils-commitment-to-further-enhancing-suffolks-natural-environment>

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Date..... 24/03/22

### **Bus Back Better and Bus Recovery Grant**

The Government has written to highways authorities, including Suffolk to advise it that it is cutting the pot available for investing in buses from £3bn to £1.4bn. At a recent internal meeting officers were still not clear whether we would get any of Suffolk's £77m bid from this pot for bus improvements in the county at all.

### **County Council – precept to rise by 4% (not the full 5% allowed), Babergh has agreed to increase its precept by 2%.**

At county the rise includes 2% on social care. Our political group tried to amend this, due to the pay crisis in social care, to the full 3% cap that the county is allowed, but this was voted down. At Babergh the rise will only raise about £120,000 which would have been covered by car park fees in Sudbury and Hadleigh that the administration had originally planned to introduce. Our group voted against this budget.

### **Cycling**

Babergh's new sustainable travel officer (hired as a result of a Green motion to Babergh) tells me she is on schedule to bring a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) to Babergh cabinet for approval in April. This includes a prioritised list of just under 80 cycling and walking schemes within Babergh.

### **Ending the need for oil fired heating**

A volunteer project in Bildeston (Heating Bildeston) has just won £40,000 grant to begin a feasibility study to see if village homes can be heated using multiple bore holes and a giant ground source heat pump. A similar project in a village in Cambridgeshire is already under construction and the jump in oil prices is making such heating schemes value for money.

### **Lavenham 20mph Scheme**


I've recently heard that my and Lavenham parish council's application for a 20mph limit covering the core of the village has been approved. The next stage is to pay for the design which may take months to draw up. It follows approval for a similar scheme in Bildeston.

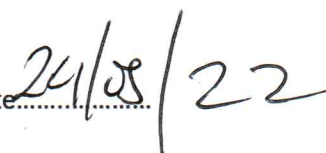
The council have asked the clerk to have their concerns noted with regard to the Bus recovery grant, they would like to ask clr Lindsay how can we get cars off the roads if there are no alternative ways to travel.

5. **Public Forum** no members of the public were present

6. **Correspondence**

- i. Email received from address management team at Babergh Council they would like Parish Council to suggest a name for the development of 5 houses being built on the south side of the street. Cllrs feel that as we are a linier village these properties should be considered as part of the Street and declined to give development a name.
- ii. Email from residents asking what is happening with the village green this year, does it require mowing or is it going to be left to wild? Resident has also raised concerns for the safety of the trees that are to his side of the church grounds. It has been debated as to whether the parochial council is responsible for this or the Parish council. The council wish to have it established that if the Parish council's grant to the Church for maintenance of the church grounds should cover the upkeep of the trees.

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Date 

4 **Clerks Report**

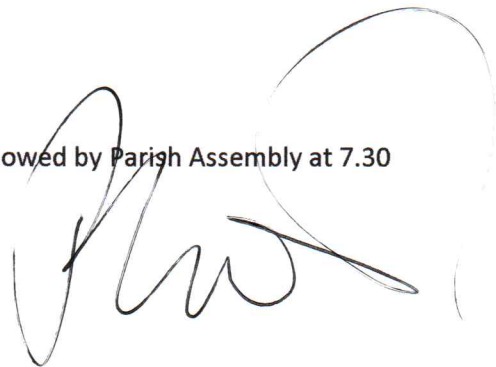
- i. Jubilee celebrations are being organised by a committee from the village. It is proposed that all children under the age of 18 will be given a souvenir of the occasion, as ~~it~~ has been established the local primary school are giving each child a coin that the parish Council will give each child a china mug to be purchased by the clerk. It was also agreed that the Parish Council will fund a life size cut out of the Queen to appear in photos. It has also been agreed that there will be a souvenir issue of the PPP with mostly colour pages to commemorate the occasion.
- ii. The 1<sup>st</sup> litter pick is to be held on Sunday 03<sup>rd</sup> April, clerk will provide refreshments afterwards.

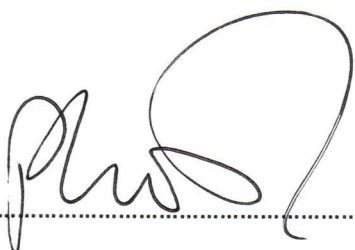
5. **Councilors reports**

- i. Councilors would like the clerk to report to the planning and highways dept. that the verge outside the development of the 3 house has been severely damaged and should put reinstated as the builders finish.

Meeting finished at 8.50

Next meeting will be the AGM to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 followed by Parish Assembly at 7.30



Signed.....  


Dated.....  
24/05/22