

# Little Waldingfield Parish Council

## Approved Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 12 September 2019 at 7.30pm at the Parish Room, Little Waldingfield

**Present:** Cllr Barbara Campbell (Chair), Cllr Chris White (Vice-Chair), Cllr Stewart Braybrook, Cllr Matt Foster, Cllr Tim Sheppard and Incoming Cllr Caroline Dawkins (Item 9b)

**Attendance:** Cllr Clive Arthey (District Councillor), Simon Ashton (Parish Clerk) and nine Members of the Public

**1. Apologies and Approval of Absences**

There were no apologies and absences for approval as all Members were present.

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Members**

There were no interests declared by any of the Members.

**3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 11 July 2019**

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 11 July 2019 were received and approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**4. Reports by the District Councillors and County Councillor**

Cllr Maybury (District Councillor) and Cllr Colin Spence (County Councillor) did not attend the meeting. The Chair summarised their reports which had been shared in advance of the meeting. Copies of these reports have been made available at the end of these minutes for information. Cllr Clive Arthey (District Councillor) delivered his report at the meeting and confirmed that a copy should have been provided. The Parish Clerk confirmed that it had not been received and that reports had previously been submitted directly by BDC Councillors. Matters reported included free swims at Hadleigh and the recent change of bin collection days and the related settling in issues.

**5. Contributions by Members of the Public**

(a) The issue of the proposed discontinuation of the village's 112 bus service was raised (Item 9a).

(b) Various members of the public provided comments in advance of the Council's decision to provide a response to the Joint Local Plan consultation (Item 6b). This included inconsistencies with other hinterlands and the impact on historic paths and open spaces following future developments. Cllr Arthey advised everyone that the document reflected a plan and was not necessarily proportionate and responded to questions.

**6. Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Consultation**

- (a) The Chair confirmed that the village consultation meeting had been held on 7 September 2019 and that 56 local residents had attended to provide input in addition to the Council's consultant, Ian Poole of Places4People. Members concluded that there was no general support for development at Churchfield and that there were some discrepancies in the numbers quoted in the plan and insufficient explanation.
- (b) Members agreed with the recommendations included in a subsequent report prepared by Mr Poole which, with modifications agreed following discussion at the meeting, formed the basis of the Council's approved response to the Joint Local Plan consultation. Cllr Sheppard agreed to finalise the response on this basis and to co-ordinate the submission by the due date of 30 September 2019.

**7. Neighbourhood Plan**

- (a) Following review, Members approved the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's meeting on 22 June 2019.
- (b) Following review, Members approved the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's meeting on 9 August 2019.
- (c) AECOM had commenced work on what, if any, development could take place at the Eniskillen and Churchfield sites based on the planning constraints identified at each location. A further update would be provided at the meeting in November 2019.

**8. Consideration of Planning Applications and Decision Notices**

- (a) BDC DC/19/01975: Application Granted (17 July 2019)  
The Swan, The Street, Little Waldingfield, CO10 0SQ  
Members noted the outcome of this planning application.
- (b) BDC DC/19/01283: Application Granted (30 August 2019)  
The Swan, The Street, Little Waldingfield, CO10 0SQ  
Members noted the outcome of this planning application.
- (c) BDC DC/19/01284: Application Granted (30 August 2019)  
The Swan, The Street, Little Waldingfield, CO10 0SQ  
Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

**9. Governance**

- (a) The issue of the proposed discontinuation of the village's 112 bus service in 2020 was discussed. Data had been received from Suffolk County Council, which a member of the public had found questionable, as well as its suggestion of the use of the taxi bus by appointment. The Chair gave an update on the multi-parish council working group to consider the potential continuation of the service subject to the raising of funds.
- (b) Following an introduction, discussion and conclusion to qualification considerations, Members approved the co-option of Caroline Dawkins as a Member of the Council. The Parish Clerk confirmed that arrangements would be made for an acceptance of office form and the BDC register of interests to be completed as soon as possible.

**10. Finance**

- (a) Members noted the Lloyds Bank Treasurers account balance of £20,751.33 and the Business Instant account balance of £2,522.90 as at 31 August 2019.

- (b) The receipts and budget reports and payments and budget reports to 31 August 2019 were reviewed and noted by Members.
- (c) The bank reconciliation of activity to 31 August 2019 was reviewed and approved by Members.
- (d) Following a review by Members of the risks included in the insurance policy compared against the asset register, Members approved the fidelity cover of £50,000 and the overall insurance cover arrangements with a three-year term from 1 October 2019.
- (e) The Parish Clerk's annual salary scale change to SCP10 from 1 October 2019 was approved by Members.
- (f) A payment to purchase a Poppy Appeal wreath for £17.00 was approved by Members. Cllr Braybrook agreed to make appropriate delivery arrangements with the local Royal British Legion representative.
- (g) Payments were authorised in favour of the Parish Clerk's wages and office and personal expenses (£448.12), Babergh District Council for an uncontested parish council election (2 May 2019) (£104.78), Little Waldingfield Parish Room for Neighbourhood Plan meeting venue hire (2 September 2019) (£24.00), Society of Local Council Clerks for an annual subscription (September 2019 to August 2020) (£37.82), The Poppy Appeal for a Section 137 Payment for a Wreath from Royal British Legion (£17.00), Business Services at CAS Ltd for an annual insurance renewal (October 2019 to September 2020) (£250.04) and Fraser Lawson for Neighbourhood Plan photographic services (£350.00). These payments were approved by Members.

#### **11. Consultations**

- (a) Following discussion, Members agreed not to submit a response to the SCC Green Access Strategy consultation by the due date of 20 September 2019.
- (b) Following discussion, Members agreed not to submit a response to the Historic England War Memorial consultation by the due date of 23 September 2019.
- (c) Following discussion, Members agreed not to submit a response to the SALC Governance consultation by the due date of 27 September 2019.

#### **12. Matters for Future Consideration**

- (a) Review & Approval of Internal Audit Report 2018/19 Response & Action Plan
- (b) Consideration of the Parish Council's VAT Claim Submission Update (2018/19)
- (c) Review & Approval of the Appointment of the Council's Internal Auditor (2019/20)
- (d) Review & Approval of the Council's Budget, Reserves & Precept Setting (2020/21)
- (e) Consideration of a Donation Request Received from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service
- (f) Review & Approval of the Parish Council's Annual Risk Assessment (2019/20)
- (g) Consideration of Local Post Box Restoration BDC Heritage Contact & Update
- (h) Consideration of SID Data Presentation & Speedwatch Co-ordinator Update
- (i) Consideration of Parish Room Venue Bookings, Costs, Payments & Queries
- (j) Consideration of Dunwich Dynamo Cycling Event Village Incident (13 July 2019)
- (k) Consideration of Closed Churchyard Push Tests Update (September 2019)
- (l) Consideration of the Maintenance of the Bench at the Entrance to Croft Lea
- (m) Consideration of the Availability of the Minutes of Parish Council Meetings
- (n) Consideration of the Replacement of No Parking Posts on Church Road
- (o) Consideration of Local Public Rights of Ways, Presentation & Course of Action

- (p) Consideration of Overgrown Hedge & Dropped Kerb SCC Highways Update
- (q) Consideration of Knocked Down Village Entrance Gate LWPC Repairs Update
- (r) Consideration of Lavenham Water Street Additional SCC Highways Update

**13. Dates of the Next Meetings**

- (a) 10 October 2019 (Urgent Items Only & Documents Received by 2 October 2019)
- (b) 14 November 2019 (Agenda Items & Documents Received by 6 November 2019)
- (c) 12 December 2019 (Urgent Items Only)
- (d) The meeting finished at 9.40pm.

Simon Ashton, Parish Clerk  
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10 October 2019

## **Cllr Margaret Maybury September 2019 Report**

Life at the District Council is littered and overtaken with JLP (Joint Local Plan) meetings, questions, queries and researching facts and figures. Residents are talking with me regarding the JLP as well as parish councillors. This is an important document; but it does, in my opinion, lack in some detail, description and linking to other policies, but I keep going. Please remember the consultation closes at 4pm on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

A management review at BDC has seen the loss of some experienced staff and I await the full outcome of this procedure and implications for services. I do find it very sad that people I have worked with for the length of my service to the Council are or have left – it seems all I do is write cards. I definitely miss their counsel, but wish them well in their new ventures.

I was pleased to have some input into the Scrutiny of Citizens' Advice last month. During my stint at the helm of Communities I maintained the funding level for this vital advocacy service which supports all of the community and I wish them well for the future. During the meeting I was able to identify the cost as £20 per client to the District funding allowance. I believe this to be good value for money. The CA are looking for volunteers and I would recommend any resident to offer their service if they can.

Climate change is rearing its ugly head if the dry conditions in East Anglia are anything to go by. This morning, however, it is raining; I am sure my lawns are sighing with relief. We do need to do all we can to help and I ask all residents to be careful with their recycling and waste products.

CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) is currently being reviewed alongside the JLP. This will be going to Cabinet next week. Please be aware that the CIL123 part is to be reviewed and most bids will be for major infrastructure only – so I understand. So, congratulations to those parishes who managed to fund some very local issues so far – the future will be different.

The Cabinet will be reviewing the first quarter finance figures this next week and the Council meeting takes place on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

I have enjoyed social events at the Classic Car Show, Lavenham; the Horticultural Show at Great Waldingfield; and a coffee morning at Cockfield. Thank you for the welcome at each.

## **Report to Little Waldingfield Parish Council– Thursday 12 September 2019 From: Colin Spence Suffolk County Councillor – Sudbury East & Waldingfield Division**

**The following matters have been considered by the County Council:**

### **Schools in Suffolk see an improvement in results across a range of subjects at GCSE level**

Self-reported results from Suffolk schools, released on 22 August, indicate an increase in students achieving higher grades.

This includes a 4% increase in pupils achieving at least a grade 5 in all elements of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and a 7% increase in the number of students achieving a grade 4, when compared with the previous year.

The English Baccalaureate constitutes GCSEs in English and Maths plus GCSEs from the Sciences, Humanities and Languages. This is seen by the government as an important academic foundation for all pupils.

The self-reported figures also show an increase in the number of disadvantaged pupils achieving grade 4 in English and Maths. There has also been a 2-point increase in the attainment 8 figure for disadvantage pupils, which is likely to see disadvantage students exceed the national average when provisional results are released in October. Attainment 8 takes into account a pupil's overall results across a range of GCSEs.

More than 6,500 pupils in Suffolk were entered for GCSE exams, according to self-reported results collated from around 70% of schools.

These figures are based on self-reported data from schools and academies to Suffolk County Council. The results are subject to validation by the Department for Education.

### **The Hold - preserving Suffolk's history for many years to come**

Building work on The Hold, the new home of the Suffolk record office, is now well underway.

Whilst The Hold is primarily a record storing facility, it has so much more to offer. It will be a completely accessible space - once through its front doors there's no need for visitors to use steps or lifts.

There will be a dedicated exhibition space which will host four specially curated exhibitions per year, to encourage both young and old to interact with Suffolk's culture and history. Most of these exhibitions will be replicated at our Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft Record Offices, but with a local twist to ensure that the whole county gets involved.

Exhibitions make up just a small portion of events that will be held in the building. A 200-seat tiered auditorium will primarily be used by the University of Suffolk but will also host conferences and talks by archivists. There is no other auditorium space with this capacity in Ipswich and it's hoped that it can also be used by the wider community.

## **Suffolk bucks the national trend for vaccine rates as the UK loses its 'measles free' status**

On 21 August it was revealed that national rates for the second MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine have now fallen to just 87.2 %. This is thought to have led to the large increase in measles cases in England and Wales in 2018 (991 compared to only 278 the previous year).

However, as a result of the hard work of local healthcare professionals and the engagement of parents, Suffolk continues to buck this trend. Vaccination rates in Suffolk at the end of March 2019 reached 94.5% for the first MMR dose (by 24 months of age) and 90.3% for the second booster dose (by 5 years of age).

Following the introduction of a targeted, multi-agency campaign launched in December 2018, a Suffolk project group was set up to address falling vaccination rates. Public Health Suffolk have worked with NHS England and Improvement, Public Health England, Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Groups and Child Health Information Service to identify and remove potential barriers for parents and children in accessing immunisation services. They have also improved the quality of vaccination data and encouraged parents to consider the preschool booster/MMR just prior to school entry.

As a result, vaccination rates in Suffolk for both MMR doses improved between the first quarter and last quarter of 2018/19, by 2.4% for dose one and 3.5% for dose two. This is particularly encouraging at a time when there has been a decrease nationally, with the UK failing to meet the World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommended target of 95% for the second MMR vaccine. This, along with the consequential large spike in the number of confirmed measles cases in England and Wales, has resulted in the UK losing the 'measles free' status they achieved two years ago. The WHO views a country as 'measles free' when there are low levels of measles infection circulating in the population along with high vaccine cover, as well as good systems for identifying cases of measles.

NHS England plans to write to GPs across the country, including Suffolk, to promote 'catch up' campaigns, encouraging the parents of children and young people who haven't received two doses of MMR to contact their GP surgery to arrange vaccination against this highly infectious and preventable disease.

## **Unsafe goods totalling £23 million detained at the Port of Felixstowe**

On 19 August 2019, it was reported that nearly one million unsafe items have been prevented from entering the UK consumer market in the last year.

This is thanks to the work of Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards Imports Team at the Port of Felixstowe.

Figures for 2018/19 show that 996,143 items across 670 product lines were targeted, assessed and detained, with an estimated value to society of over £23 million.

Products such as baby carriers, strollers, child car seats and electric hot plates have been detained recently. The baby carriers were found to have non-compliant labelling, an easily detachable label which becomes a choking hazard, and the leg openings were too wide meaning that a baby could fall out.

Four in five of the UK's consumer goods arrive in the UK by a container. Half of these enter via the Port of Felixstowe, making it the busiest entry point of its kind in the country.

Suffolk is one of the few authorities to host a dedicated Imports Team, which is directly funded by National Trading Standards. As well as protecting the public from unsafe items, the team's work also helps to protect legitimate businesses trying to compete on a level playing field.

### **Keeping Suffolk's villages safe with Lorry Watch**

On 13 August, it was reported that two new Lorry Watch schemes have launched. The scheme are aimed at reducing the number of HGV drivers ignoring weight restrictions on the county's roads.

The villages of Fornham All Saints (near Bury St Edmunds) and Barnham (near Thetford) join nine other similar schemes across Suffolk, set up in conjunction with Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards and Suffolk Highways. Local residents in Fornham All Saints and Barnham have been noticing HGV drivers regularly ignoring weight restrictions and wanted to do something about it.

Suffolk's Lorry Watch started in 2012 and to date has reported nearly 3,000 incidents of HGV vehicles exceeding weight limits, where clearly marked restriction signs are in place. Volunteers monitor their area and report suspected offenders.

The existing schemes have been a great success with only four repeat offenders being issued with a warning, meaning that drivers are taking notice when they are first contacted.

### **A number of bus services to continue despite funding challenge**

On 31 July, it was reported that a number of bus services in the county will continue to run, despite a reduction in public funding coming into effect this autumn.

Since announcing In June 2019 that 23 routes were at risk, Suffolk County Council has been working with operators and communities to find solutions to the funding challenge. The council is pleased to confirm that permanent solutions have been found for two services and a further five will continue to run until at least the end of March 2020. Conversations are also being taken forward about a further four routes that the council is hopeful can continue to be served in some way.

The 971 service from Hadleigh to Colchester has been taken on by the operator Beestons, who will deliver the service on a commercial basis.

The early morning M33 and M34 service that takes a circular route around Bury St Edmunds, will also continue. This is due to section 106 funding which has been obtained by the council.

The council has secured £24,000 in extra grant money to extend the 387, 456, **112**, 120 and 461 services until the end of next March. Operators, local communities and councillors in the areas served by these routes are actively working to find alternatives to keep the services running. This extension allows them time to find permanent solutions.

Suffolk County Council is also confident that although notice is being served on the 375, 483 and 62, solutions can be found. It is working alongside communities, bus users and operators to explore options such as local community transport, taxi-buses and alternative funding.

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