



CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held **online via Zoom**, Creeting St Mary on **Monday, 11th January 2021 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors: S Haynes (Chair)
H Craggs
R Coton
P Scully
N Smart
L Plummer
J Palmer

In Attendance: J Blackburn - Clerk
County Cllr M Hicks
District Cllr M Norris

CSM115/20/21 – PUBLIC FORUM

There were two members of the public present.

CSM116/20/21 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Emmins.

CSM117/20/21 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

CSM118/20/21 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

CSM119/20/21 - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30th NOVEMBER 2020

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2020 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

CSM120/20/21 – TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR M HICKS

Cllr Hicks report was circulated prior to the meeting which contained the following points:

Moving into a national lockdown. Testing capacity has increased in response to demand - More than one third of Suffolk's total confirmed coronavirus cases were recorded in the last two weeks, government data had shown. A total of 15,643 people had tested positive for the virus in the county as of January 2 – with 5,321 people testing positive from December 20 to January 2, making up 34% of all cases recorded in Suffolk by that point. While the figures showed cases were significantly on the rise, testing had vastly increased in recent months when compared to the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic. Mobile testing had increased countywide, while a walk-in test centre had also opened at Portman Road, Ipswich, alongside the permanent test centre at Copdock. Suffolk was seeing a similar, sharp increase in positive cases in line with the regional picture, which was making more people ill and putting our hospitals under even more pressure.

Support payments available for those told to self-isolate on low incomes - As of the 24th December, more residents on low incomes or benefits could now get financial help if they had been told to self-isolate due to COVID-19. Previously Test and Trace Support payments could only be given to people meeting certain criteria, including on benefits. Now Councils across Suffolk had extended this, using their discretion, to help those on low incomes but not on benefits. Councils across Suffolk were helping administer the Government grant scheme to help people remain at home and do their bit to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Details about the Test and Trace Support Payments could be found on District and Borough Council websites and how to apply for it (see below). This was part of a range of measures that councils across Suffolk had introduced to support communities and businesses during the coronavirus pandemic.

Additional help, including financial aid, was also available from Suffolk Support and Advice Service. This additional help was available for those facing financial difficulty or needing support – especially for those who had never asked for help before. On 1 October 2020, the Suffolk Support and Advice Service phone line was launched to help people across the county access information or support relating to debt, benefits, housing or employment.

Suffolk 2020 fund projects to deliver over £2.5 million in new community-focused initiatives - On the 18th December, seven new projects were announced as part of the Suffolk 2020 fund to support residents and improve the county for years to come. The announced initiatives and projects were as followed:

1/ New booking system and automatic number plate recognition at Household Waste Recycling Centres – Improving the efficiency and customer experience across all 11 recycling centres by enhancing the online booking system using automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) and automated entry barriers.

2/ Adult Digital Learning - Developing new virtual learning tools and techniques and setting up a laptop loan scheme to strengthen and extend access to the Adult Learning Service for those living in digital and/or rural isolation. This approach would enable people to enhance their knowledge and skills to secure employment. Building on the swift switch to virtual learning during lockdown, we would further develop virtual learning for adults across Suffolk and use new technologies to enrich and improve the quality of interaction and training, modernising the service's offer.

3/ Youth Work - Developing and supporting growth of grass roots organisations to deliver accessible, high quality provision for youths across Suffolk. Includes creation of a virtual 'Centre of Excellence' to share best practice and provide a 'one stop shop' of support for youth groups across Suffolk.

4/ Discovering Suffolk – raising awareness of Suffolk's countryside and the county's rights of way network, promoting local (Covid-safe) outdoor activities across all of Suffolk with the development of a smartphone outdoor app and QR codes to engage new audiences.

5/ Automated Numberplate Recognition Speed Indicators – Devices would be installed at the roadside to tackle localised problems with speeding drivers. The devices would be periodically moved between sites of concern and the data would be forwarded to the Police to assist with targeted enforcement.

6/ Virtual Reality therapy - Engagement and coproduction with people living with dementia and their carers to explore and develop interactive and therapeutic experiences to support wellbeing. These would be delivered through mobile virtual reality headsets and include bespoke content and interactions based around archive media of Suffolk.

7/ Mobile Community 'Care Hubs' - Digitally equip and staff selected community vehicles accessing rural communities within Suffolk. This would support digital inclusion and provide a way to share information and provide help around the opportunities available with care technologies and other digital skills.

The work involved in setting up and enabling these projects would begin in early 2021, setting in motion a range of new community projects that would benefit people for years to come. The council's agreement to move forwards with these exciting projects listed above follows the successful launch of the first three Suffolk 2020 projects that were announced over recent months:

EV Vehicle Charging Points – Making grants available to install around 100 vehicle charging points throughout the county. Particularly targeting rural areas and sites owned and managed by not-for-profit organisations such as Parish Councils, village halls, sports clubs, libraries and charities.

Tree Planting - Increasing tree cover, through rural and urban planting schemes, planting approximately 100,000 trees over the next 18 months, establishing 'healing woodlands' to remember those lost to Covid-19, and increasing biodiversity along roadside verges.

Quiet Lanes - Encouraging the use of non-motorised vehicles and more considerate driving at lower speeds along a range of the community's self-selected rural lanes, with a view to adding 200 new lanes across Suffolk.

Whilst 2020 would live long in the memory for many reasons, the launch of these projects as part of the Suffolk 2020 Fund offers some real optimism and effort to bring communities together, supporting projects that would provide social, environmental and economic benefits in years to come. The Suffolk 2020 Fund was only made possible because of the decision of this council to use part of the Government's one-year financial settlement to invest up to £3million throughout 2020 to kickstart some of the beneficial community projects that ordinarily may not have received as much focus or opportunity, given the other huge, costly frontline services that the county council was responsible for.

Proposed changes to Sizewell C application are step in right direction but there is still work to be done - On the 18th December, Suffolk County Council welcomed EDF Energy's movement towards reducing the number of additional heavy good vehicles on Suffolk's roads. As part of its response to EDF Energy's latest community consultation on its application for Sizewell C, Suffolk County Council had welcomed the energy provider's movement towards reducing the number of additional heavy good vehicle movements on Suffolk's roads and increasing the use of rail and marine freight deliveries during site construction. The Council had urged EDF Energy for many years to maximise freight deliveries by sea and rail and significantly, being of the view that the transport proposals were not sustainable, so it welcomed the proposals for an additional Beach Landing Facility on Sizewell Beach to bring construction materials in by sea, as well as an additional night-time rail delivery of materials to site. In its response, the Council also reflected that many of the proposals offered still lack vital elements in detail and assessment at this stage – such as impacts of the proposals on the coastline or night-time disturbance of residents living close to railway lines. The Council would welcome the opportunity for further dialogue with SZC C to better understand details of the current proposals, and the evidence base which had led to them. It was encouraging to see that EDF Energy had begun listening to the concerns raised by us and Suffolk's communities. Recognising the need for further detail, the Council did welcome the principle of the changes proposed by EDF Energy, as they begin to address some of the concerns we had repeatedly raised. However, they felt that there still remained work to be done if the scheme was to be acceptable to us and our communities - not least in the area of further eliminating, minimising, mitigating, or compensating for the impact of the scheme on Suffolk's unique natural environment.

Cllr Hicks had nothing further to report.

CSM121/20/21 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLRS NORRIS & CLLR PHILLIPS

Cllr Norris' report was circulated prior to the meeting which contained the following points:

COVID-19: SUPPORT PAYMENTS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE TOLD TO SELF-ISOLATE ON LOW INCOMES - More residents on low incomes or benefits could now get financial help if they were told to self-isolate due to COVID-19 as Suffolk councils extended support payments to help more people. Previously Test and Trace Support payments could only be given to people meeting certain criteria, including on benefits. Now Councils across Suffolk have extended this, using their discretion, to help those on low incomes but not on benefits.

Councils across Suffolk were helping administer the Government grant scheme to help people remain at home and do their bit to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Details about the Test and Trace Support Payments can be found on District and Borough Council websites and how to apply for it. This was part of a range of measures that councils across Suffolk had introduced to support communities and businesses during the coronavirus pandemic, which included the new Suffolk Support and Advice Service phone line to help those facing financial difficulty.

COUNCILS LOOK TO SLASH FLEET EMISSIONS - Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils were considering proposals to cut their fleet's carbon emissions by up to 90% – supporting the councils' carbon neutral aims, by moving their vehicle fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). The proposals form a major step in the councils' Carbon Reduction Management Plan, which set out how net zero carbon emissions aim to be achieved by 2030. If approved, the move would see a significant reduction in pollutant emissions for the fleet, including up to a 90% reduction in CO₂. It would also support a circular economy, as the HVO fuel was produced from sustainable feedstock, including waste cooking oil. Currently, the councils' vehicle fleet represented 26% of the councils' total CO₂ emissions, approximately 880 tonnes per year. The fleet included the councils' 35 waste lorries, as well as some vehicles used by the public realm and housing services. Moving to the new fuel would initially cost around £50k per council. An estimated further £56 - £97k per year, per council, over the next three years, would also need to be agreed to cover fuel costs. However, by using HVO, lower maintenance costs and longer engine life for the vehicles are expected.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION FOR 2021! - The new look Regal Theatre in Stowmarket was starting to take shape with the construction of two additional auditoria and a new café area in recent months. The Regal was benefiting from a £3.6m investment including a comprehensive expansion and refurbishment programme which would see it boasted three modern cinema screens, improved audio-visual experience, as well as a new front of house, café and bar area. Works were also being undertaken to restore and preserve many of the original features of the existing building built in 1936. Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the project managers, Northmores, and the main contractor Mixbrow, had maintained progress on site with a significant proportion of the structures, electrics and utilities having now been installed. The final elements of the project including new seating, cinema screens and interior design features were due to be completed early in 2021. The Regal Theatre Project, being led by Stowmarket Town Council and Mid Suffolk District Council, would be a key attraction forming part of a wider vision for the development of Stowmarket. The project and the wider vision sought to attract more visitors to Stowmarket who could enjoy the shopping, leisure activities, bars and restaurants on offer in the town.

GREEN LIGHT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES HUB FUNDING: - Mid Suffolk District Council recently approved £431,740 in funding from housing growth to progress plans for a shared Emergency Services Hub in Stowmarket – paving the way for collaborative working and enhanced 999 services.

RESIDENTS IN BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK ARE SET TO BENEFIT FOLLOWING RECENT GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT ITS GREEN HOMES GRANTS - The Green Homes scheme, which was designed to help make homes more energy efficient, offers vouchers to households to get energy saving work done, and also invited councils to bid for funding to run home energy efficiency projects. A Suffolk consortium bid, including Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils, had been awarded over £1 million from the Department of Business Energy and Industry for five projects to be installed by 31 March 2021.

Cllr Scully asked Cllr Norris what the capital cost would be to reduce their fleet emissions to which Cllr Norris said he would look further into it and report back.

CSM122/20/21 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

i) **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk had nothing to report in addition to the items already on the Agenda.

ii) **TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk reported on the Council's current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance in the accounts on 5th January 2021 was £47,678.97.

iii) **TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS**

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jan)	£289.98
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance / Expenses (Jan)	£34.71
CFB IT Solutions	Email Hosting (Jan)	£6.00
Brian Day	Container - installation of caging	£151.06

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £481.75 be approved. It was also agreed that a payment of £500 (CiL money) to the River Gipping Trust be ratified.

It was noted that no receipts had been received.

iv) **PRECEPT 2021/22**

It was AGREED: That the Precept for 2021/22 be set at £10,028. **Clerk to Action.**

v) **FINAL BUDGET 2021/22**

It was AGREED: That the Final Budget be approved.

CSM123/20/21 – SUFFOLK CODE OF CONDUCT

It was AGREED: That the Suffolk Code of Conduct be adopted.

CSM124/20/21 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/20/05904 - Householder Application - Erection of single storey front, side and rear extension. Location: 33 St Mary's Gardens, Creeting St Mary

Whilst Cllr Coton felt the application was over-development of the site, other members had no concerns.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council had no objections to the application. **Clerk to action.**

Ref: DC/20/05244 - Planning Application - Change of use of agricultural land to form extension to existing industrial premises. Location: Poundfield Products, The Grove, Mill Lane, Creeting St Peter

During a general discussion concerns were raised which included excessive traffic and that the application would bring environmental issues as the proposed site was part of the Gipping Valley.

The ongoing issue of Poundfield lorries driving through the village was discussed. It was felt that a sign opposite the site stating for all lorries to "turn left" was needed. Cllr Norris said he would look into it.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council **OBJECT** to the application for the above reasons. **Clerk to action.**

CSM125/20/21 - PLANNING DECISIONS

Ref: DC/20/04897 - Retention of dwelling and garage without compliance with Condition 2 (approved plans) of permission DC/19/02671 to permit revised design and layout. Grange Farm, All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary, Ipswich Suffolk IP6 8NG – **GRANTED**

Ref: DC/20/04917 - Application under S73 to vary or remove conditions relating to DC/19/05926 (Condition 2 - Approved Plans and Documents) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - To alter the orientation of storage building. Riverside Barn, Kettle Lane, Creeting St Mary – **Granted**

Ref: DC/20/04903 - Householder Planning Application - Erection of single storey extension to accommodate swimming pool and home gymnasium; glazed linked extension and solar panels. Extension to garage. Riverside Barn, Kettle Lane, Creeting St Mary - **Refused**

CSM126/20/21 – POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO RIVER GIPPING TRUST

Following a brief discussion all members were in favour of a contribution of £500 to be paid to the River Gipping Trust for its replacement bridge at Baylam. The monies would be paid from the CiL account.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk arrange a payment of £500 (CiL) be made to the River Gipping Trust.

CSM127/20/21 - COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH TEAM

The Clerk reported that due to the current situation with Coronavirus all Community Speedwatch Team work had been put on hold.

CSM128/20/21 – DONATION OF LAND

The Clerk reported that the current owners of the land had all signed the Transfer documents and so the solicitor would be completing in the near future.

CSM129/20/21 – REPORTS

Blacksmiths Field – Cllr Scully asked Cllr Palmer if more den building materials were needed, of which members agreed they would be useful.

SALC – Cllr Coton reported that due to technical difficulties the recent SALC meeting did not go ahead. It had been re-arranged for March.

Footpaths – Cllr Scully reported that various signs had not yet been replaced, but FP58 had been cut and cleared, which was positive.

Village Hall – Cllr Haynes reported that the sound proofing had been carried out at the village hall and the heating system replaced.

Sustainability – Cllr Craggs reported that he had been looking into ways of preparing the areas to be made into wildflower of which works would be carried out over the next month. He also reported that works to Dunches Lane had not yet commenced.

CSM/130/20/21 - HEDGING AROUND VILLAGE HALL

William Barnes reported that he had cut the hedge right back along the side of the village hall / Driftway.

He suggested, on behalf of the Social Club, the following ideas which could be looked into:

- Low level lights along the Driftway,
- An electrical supply of lighting at the gateway onto Blacksmiths Field,
- Driftway needed releveling and adjacent ditch needed clearing out which would stop the area becoming very muddy during the winter months,
- Better access to the Driftway, from the road end, to aid easy access for future cutting of the hedge (tractor and flail),
- Patio area at the rear of the hall could be replaced with a rubberised material,
- Awning on the rear of the hall would be useful at events and lettings,
- Picket fencing to replace current fencing around the perimeter of the hall building, and
- Additional lighting at the rear of the hall plus outside water taps.

Cllr Haynes reported that it had been suggested for three steps to be installed into the grass bank at the front of the hall adjacent the bottle bank bins, which would help access for people going to the bins and also the Bin Men when they were emptying the wheelie bins.

Chris Bingley, on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) reported that to replace the patio area with a rubberised surface would seem unnecessary as non-slip paving being installed on top of the concrete would be a much more appropriate option.

She added that outside water taps had been considered in the past but had been dismissed due to the possibility of them being tampered with and left running, as had happened at the church previously.

Cllr Palmer asked whether webbing would be a more practicable surface along the Driftway? She also felt that the installation of a gateway at the road end of the Driftway would be a danger to children onto the road.

Cllr Coton felt that the VHMC should decide on what changes they wished to make with the outside of the hall, seek quotes, then bring those changes and costs to the Parish Council in order to ask for assistance with funding (CiL monies), to which Cllr Craggs agreed.

Cllr Craggs felt that additional lighting should perhaps be available as and when it was needed rather than lighting being on every night.

Cllr Scully suggested that any new seating on the patio area be the same material as the bench purchased by the Parish Council on Jacks Green triangle. It has very low maintenance and was very heavy so couldn't be stolen.

It was AGREED: That the VHMC consider what changes they would like making to the patio area, furniture, fencing and bring those to a future meeting of the Parish Council once quotes had been sought.

CSM132/20/21 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- Resident had suggested the possibility of a village vegetable garden
- Resident suggested flyers through all doors asking all villagers to plant sunflowers for the summer
- Website – ask Host about charges for uploading documents
- Cllr Smart informed members that following the death of Mrs Lily (who originally owned the wildwood land the Parish Council were soon to acquire), her daughter would like a memorial bench to be placed on the land somewhere.

CSM133/20/21 - DATES OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting be held on Monday, 22nd February 2021.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm.

Chairman: Dated: