



CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held **online via Zoom**, Creeting St Mary on **Monday, 19th October 2020 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

CSM79/20/21 – PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

CSM80/20/21 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Emmins.

CSM81/20/21 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Craggs declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9 on the Agenda.

CSM82/20/21 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

CSM83/20/21 - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th SEPTEMBER 2020

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2020 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

CSM84/20/21 – TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – CLLR M HICKS

Cllr Hicks went through his report, which is attached at the end of these Minutes.

CSM85/20/21 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – CLLRS NORRIS & CLLR PHILLIPS

Cllr Hicks went through his report, which is attached at the end of these Minutes.

CSM86/20/21 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

i) CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk reported that Cllr Plummer had queried the regularity and duration of Parish Council meetings.

Cllr Plummer explained that she wondered if meeting more regularly would be more beneficial to the decision making process.

The Clerk explained that it was the decision of the Parish Council how regularly to meet, but in her experience a parish of the size of Creeting St Mary would not meet on a monthly basis and that six-weekly was appropriate. Following a vote where five members were in favour of retaining the six-week timescale and two members were in favour of a monthly timescale:

It was AGREED: That the regularity of meetings remained at six-weekly.

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

The Clerk reported that the process for the preparation, submission and publication of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return had concluded for 2019/20. The internal auditor had signed off the return with two observations being made (Minute CSM12/20/21 (iii) refers). The report of the external auditor had also been received stating that the information contained in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return had been prepared in accordance with proper practices subject to the following:

- a) That Section 2 (the Accounting Statements) had been approved before Section 1 (the Annual Governance Statement) whereas the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 required them to be approved in the reverse order; and
- b) That the extended period of inspection rights for electors (because of Covid-19) had been advertised on the Parish noticeboards but should also have been published on the Parish website.

These matters would be addressed by the Parish Council in subsequent years.

It was AGREED: That the External Auditor's Report be received by the Parish Council including the comments contained therein.

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 13th October 2020 was £51,582.62.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Oct)	£289.98
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance / Expenses (Oct)	£31.12
Jennie Blackburn	Poppy Wreath Reimbursement	£17.00
CFB IT Solutions	Hosted exchange mailbox (Oct)	£6.00
Chapple Signs	Sign for Blacksmiths Field	£42.97
Paul Scully	Reimbursement - strip light in kiosk	£3.99
Sovereign	Slide replacement deposit	£395.03
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	240.00
Swarco	Gold Insurance Cover for speed sign	344.98

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £1,081.09 be approved.

It was noted that the following receipts had been received.

MSDC	Precept - 2nd Installment	£4,996.50
MSDC	CiL monies	£13,081.03

CSM87/20/21 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/20/04274 - Outline Planning Application (some matters reserved, access to be considered) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Erection of 1No Dwelling (following demolition of stables). Location: Land Rear of 13 All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 8NF

Following a brief discussion, four members voted in support of the application and three against.

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

Ref: DC/20/04456 - Householder Planning Application - Erection of single storey front extension (following demolition of existing) (amended scheme to DC/19/00731) - 28 All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 8NF

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

Ref: DC/20/04457 - Listed Building Consent - Erection single storey front extension (following demolition of existing) (amended scheme to DC/19/00732) - 28 All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 8NF

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

Ref: DC/20/03721 - Application for Outline Planning Permission (some matters reserved, access to be considered). Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Erection of 2No dwellings and garages (following demolition of existing storage building) - Land at Grange Farm, All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary, Ipswich Suffolk IP6 8NG

During a brief discussion members raised concerns that the proposal would be overdevelopment of the area. Also, that the access to the site would be on a sharp bend which would not be safe.

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

Ref: DC/20/04567 - An application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwelling houses (Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) -Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q- Creation of 1no. Dwelling - Barn at Maltings Farm, Norwich Road, Creeting St Mary, Ipswich Suffolk IP6 8PE

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

CSM88/20/21 - PLANNING DECISIONS

Ref: DC/20/03791 - Notification under Schedule 2 Part 3 Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 Proposal: Application to Determine if Prior Approval is required for a Proposed: Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to 1no Dwellinghouse (Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q. - Agricultural Building, Land Rear of Lyndale Lodge, All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary Ipswich Suffolk – **REFUSED**

CSM89/20/21 – COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH TEAM

The Clerk reported that she was still awaiting completed application forms to be returned to herself from volunteers. She also stated that Stefan Henriksen (Police) would need a completed Assessment form which indicated suggested locations within the parish in which to carry out the speedwatch. Once all forms had been received and forwarded things would progress.

CSM90/20/21 – CONTAINER

Cllr Scully reported that himself and Cllr Palmer had inspected the inside of the container and had split the internal space into three areas, Parish Council, Village Hall and Social Club.

He explained that he had received a quote to install a cage system, which was good value for money.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Scully go ahead with the quote and that the installation be paid with Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) monies.

CSM91/20/21 – Seed Swaps – Telephone Kiosk

Cllr Scully reported that a resident in the village had suggested that a 'seed swap' system be introduced in the telephone box, if there was space.

Following a brief discussion member felt that as the defibrillator was installed in the kiosk, along with walk information, there wasn't really space for anything else.

The Clerk agreed that she would speak with the resident to thank them for their suggestion and to explain why the Parish Council would not be able to carry it out.

CSM92/20/21 – DONATION OF LAND

The Clerk reported that the Transfer document was awaiting signatures, which had to be witnessed, before being sent back to the solicitor. Once the signed form was received by the solicitor he would seek the signatures from the current owners in order to complete the land ownership transfer.

Cllr Craggs explained that he had had a site visit with a representative from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. He proposed to clear away some overgrown vegetation to make way for wildlife and also repair or replace signage and benches.

CSM93/20/21 - REPORTS

Blacksmiths Field – Cllr Palmer had nothing to report.

SALC – Cllr Coton reported that a meeting had taken place at which Sally Longmate was a speaker. Topics discussed included voting systems for Parish Councillors, gritted roads and tyre punctures and Diversity and Equality and how CiL money should be spent.

Footpaths – Cllr Scully had nothing to report.

Village Hall – Cllr Haynes reported that the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) felt that a taller fence along the side of the hall would help to alleviate the wind during bad weather making the patio area more shaded and less breezy. She also reported that if the smaller perimeter fence was replaced a power cable could possibly be ran along a trench in order to give power to the container for lighting and plug socket, should the Parish Council be able to pay for the fencing using CiL money.

Cllr Plummer asked whether it was planned to refurbish the outside seating area of the hall as it was looking a bit worse for wear. A project that would be ideal to use CiL money for.

Cllr Haynes agreed to take back the suggestions to the VHMC and would report back at a future meeting.

Sustainability – Cllr Craggs reported that a quote to dredge out the pond was still being awaited upon. A working party was planned for the land once transferred to the Parish Council in order to keep it well maintained and Dunches Lane should have been completed by now, but hadn't been.

CSM94/20/21 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- Remembrance – laying of the wreath – was a service due to be held?
- Metal detecting request – Blacksmiths Field
- River Gipping Trust – New bridge funding – invite to future meeting
- Age Suffolk UK – Community Chinwag being set up in Needham Market – needed funding to reinstate a past successful group, for hall hire, refreshments and entertainment (£250 per meeting)
- Strimmer continued to be faulty

CSM95/20/21 - DATES OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting be held on Monday, 30th November 2020.

The meeting finished at 9.07pm

Chairman: Dated:

October 2020 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

Plotting the road to COVID recovery – Leaders agree £3.4 million investment in Suffolk’s future

On 25 September, Suffolk’s public sector leaders met to agree collective action as part of Suffolk’s recovery from COVID-19 over the coming months. To kickstart the process, the group agreed in principle to a significant investment of £3.4 million towards key priorities to support Suffolk’s communities and businesses, addressing some of the challenges people currently face, including isolation, hardship, exploitation and the uncertainty of the economy.

As part of the first phase of supporting Suffolk’s recovery, the following funding was agreed to support some of Suffolk’s immediate areas of focus:

Driving inclusive economic growth – investing in recovery (visitor economy/local investment) and the Suffolk Growth Partnership - £1,302,500m (over three years).

Supporting the most vulnerable – hardship funding - £800,000.

Community safety – tackling gangs and county lines – £1,352,202m (over three years).

Over the last few months, we have all seen how Suffolk is blessed with so many people willing to volunteer their time to support one another, and businesses which have found ways to adapt and continue through incredibly tough times. Across Suffolk’s public sector we have dedicated staff who have all risen to the challenge to maintain essential services under immense pressure and develop innovative solutions to get help to those who need it when they need it most. The way in which Suffolk’s public sector has risen to the complex challenges in responding to Covid-19 so far is testament to our approach, and that’s how we wish to continue into recovery.

We now have the opportunity to develop collaborative plans that provide a clear direction for Suffolk’s recovery, supported by active engagement and consultation with all of our communities. As the national response to COVID-19 continues, it is important for Suffolk to establish an approach to recovery that is inclusive, people-focussed, and sustainable during these challenging times. Suffolk’s public sector leaders are committed to driving the services and support that communities and businesses across Suffolk need as the first steps towards recovery from the pandemic begin. Every leader and their organisation has been at the forefront of the local response, playing a key role throughout the last seven months. The response through Home But Not Alone has proven a real success, bringing together services and volunteers with those who need support. The established PPE team, which formed part of the Suffolk Resilience Forum’s response, has successfully sourced and supplied vital equipment where it is needed most.

Whilst it is essential that individual organisations across Suffolk’s public sector have their own recovery plans and processes in place, agreeing funding for these key areas is another clear sign of the collaborative focus that all of Suffolk’s Public Sector Leaders recognise in supporting their priorities, including: creating strong communities, supporting the most vulnerable, inclusive economic growth, tackling climate change, improving health and care, improving community safety, and securing fairer funding for local public services.

Council announces £300,000 for electric vehicle charging points in rural Suffolk

100 fast charging points for electric vehicles will be installed in rural parts of the county by SCC. The council will be reaching out to interested parish and town councils and non-profit organisations to put in fast chargers where there are currently none. The funding will cover the installation and set-up costs, meaning very little expense for the hosts and possibly creating a source of income for them. This project is the first to benefit from the council’s Suffolk 2020 Fund, which was announced earlier this year. This is a £3m fund for the council’s own projects to bid into. Projects must help address the council’s climate emergency declaration and must improve Suffolk for all residents in years to come. The £300,000 award will link into the council’s existing Plug In Suffolk project, which was launched in February 2019. It is the UK’s first ‘fully open’ public fast charging network for electric vehicles, meaning drivers simply pay by contactless payment with no need to register their details. Ultra-low emission vehicle ownership has nearly trebled in the last three years in Suffolk and I want to this to continue by making it even more convenient to charge up across the county. I’d like to see fast charging points at our rural village halls, community buildings, sports clubs, places of worship and in small villages. We can now make this a reality and hopefully provide the host with a source of income too. If you look at a map of existing charging points in the county, there are big gaps – and one of the barriers to people switching to an electric vehicle is lack of confidence about finding a place to charge. This funding will help fill those gaps and give people that confidence. Once these

charging points are installed, Suffolk will have one of the best rural charging networks in the country. We will be contributing to better air quality, reducing carbon emissions and cutting down our reliance on fossil fuels – all supporting our climate emergency declaration and ambition to create the greenest county. A better charging network can also help Suffolk economically. The UK's electric vehicle owners can look fondly on Suffolk as an even more welcoming destination, as they will be able to charge their cars right across the county. The fast charging points supplied by Plug In Suffolk do not require any registration, membership or apps - drivers simply park, plug in and charge using contactless payment.

There have already been expressions of interest for charging points from around 20 suitable sites. In the coming weeks, officers from Suffolk County Council will be contacting town and parish councils to investigate more possible locations. For further information on Plug In Suffolk or to apply to join the network, visit www.greensuffolk.org/plug-in-suffolk

County Council unable to support plans for Sizewell C in its current form

SCC has stated it cannot support EDF Energy's plans for Sizewell C in its current form. A report, and accompanying supporting documents, discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 22 September, focussed on significant concerns regarding transport impacts, site design, and the environmental impact on the Suffolk coast which remain unanswered by EDF Energy. Details of the council's position will be shared as Relevant Representations with the Government's Planning Inspectorate, which is overseeing the process for this proposed development. It is very clear from the Council's representations that the current proposals do not sufficiently avoid, minimise, mitigate or compensate impacts of the proposed development. Many issues raised in previous rounds of consultations remain outstanding, and the lack of improvement and progress regarding many of these issues is very disappointing considering how early in the development process the council raised its concerns. The Relevant Representation document fully details the council's proposed position and lists the areas where it believes EDF Energy needs to undertake further work. SCC has always supported the principle of a new nuclear power station at Sizewell and recognises that Sizewell C would offer an important contribution to the national energy strategy. The council would also welcome the benefits of new jobs and skills. However, it cannot support the current proposals presented by EDF Energy as they stand today. The council does not support EDF Energy's proposed transport strategy as it remains predominantly lorry-based and, in the council's view, is unsustainable. The authority strongly believes that an increased proportion of rail and sea transport is reasonably achievable and, in its current form, the transport impacts on Suffolk's highway network are unacceptable. The Relevant Representation document published goes into greater detail on other areas of concern, including:

Proposals to have additional pylons on site.

Ecological damage.

Suitable mitigation to protect local wildlife species.

Appropriate levels of funding for mitigation measures and compensation to support the impact on the local community and related infrastructure.

To view the Cabinet report and accompanying draft Relevant Representation document, visit committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk.

Successful £4.4m adaptive street lighting project celebrates first year

On 17 September, Suffolk celebrated a successful first year of its £4.4m Live Labs project – 'A Smarter Suffolk'. Suffolk's Live Lab project is part of the ADEPT SMART Places Live Labs Programme - a £22.9m project funded by the Department for Transport. Suffolk was one of nine local authorities to successfully bid for funding.

The main aim of Suffolk's Live Lab is to use its existing street lighting infrastructure to provide a showcase of innovative technologies that bring efficiencies to Suffolk County Council now, and potentially to other local authorities in future. Benefits from these technologies are set to revolutionise the way services are delivered by local authorities through the collection of data from sensors placed on street lighting columns throughout the county. As well as working with the University of Suffolk and BT, Suffolk has spent the last year negotiating with potential providers of a wide range of such sensors so that they can be deployed in different environmental conditions - namely urban, rural and coastal locations. The project will enable local authorities to monitor aspects such as weather, air quality, road surface temperatures, and traffic volumes, as well as create on-street electric vehicle charging and support the deployment of 5G infrastructure by the mobile network operators. So far, Suffolk has installed 43 sensors, with plans to install hundreds more over the coming months.

The data being gathered can help to provide a picture of road use. This will be particularly valuable in areas where COVID-19 related initiatives such as cycle lanes have been implemented, as data for before and after implementation can be analysed. The original two-year timescale for the Suffolk Live Labs project was recently extended by six months to account for the impact of COVID-19. This allows a greater time period to analyse incoming data from the deployed sensors.

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division

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MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILLORS MIKE NORRIS & STEVE PHILLIPS REPORT 19TH OCTOBER 2020

Covid-19 Update. Earlier this month East and West Suffolk saw a steep incline in cases, putting them on the regional watchlist criteria set by Public Health England. This is when weekly cases reach 30 per 100,000 of the population. Mid Suffolk, Babergh and Ipswich have now reached that figure. Mid Suffolk's rate of 40.43 last week is up from 27.91 the previous week. In terms of actual case numbers this means 42 cases, up from 29. The rates are higher for 18-30 year-olds, which reflects the national pattern.

Gateway 14, Stowmarket consultation. The public consultation to provide early information and invite local feedback on the draft proposals for a mixed-use business park planned for land opposite Tesco, Stowmarket adjacent to junction 50 on the A14, before plans are finalised, runs until 31st October and can be accessed at www.g14yoursay.co.uk.

Mid Suffolk and Babergh awarded £100,000 to help cover hotel costs for temporary accommodation. Mid Suffolk and Babergh have been successful in securing funding to ensure interim accommodation for the most vulnerable over the winter period. The funding has been secured via the Next Steps Accommodation Programme, which is part of the government's landmark commitment to end rough sleeping for good. The two councils have never had a 'winter provision', such as a night shelter in the Districts before, so having funding to enable them to get rough sleepers off the streets promptly in spells of very cold weather is very welcome. They are 2 of 274 Councils who are being allocated £91.5m overall to help ensure vulnerable people are housed and continue to be housed, especially during the pandemic.

New Chairman of MSDC chooses local charity. Cllr Barry Humphreys MBE, Councillor for Chilton ward, Stowmarket, was elected Chairman of Mid Suffolk District Council at the Annual Council Meeting on 24th September and has selected Stowmarket Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) as his chosen charity for the year.

New Public Realm Corporate Manager, MSDC/Babergh. Will Burchnall has joined Mid Suffolk & Babergh District Councils as the new Public Realm Corporate Manager, and was previously with the National Trust, and before that the Broads Authority.

Mid Suffolk District Councillors Mike Norris mike.norris@midsuffolk.gov.uk Tel. 01449 720871 and Steve Phillips stephen.phillips@midsuffolk.gov.uk Tel. 01449 721710.

Representing Needham Market, Badley, Baylham, Creeting St Mary, Creeting St Peter, Darmsden.