

Monks Eleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 26th September 2022 at the United Reformed Church Hall, Monks Eleigh Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs John Newton (Chairman), Angela Forrest, Victoria Keitley-Webb and Alan Braithwaite,

District Cllr Bryn Hurren (8.30pm)

Attending: Lucinda Rogers (Clerk) and 7 members of the public

156/22 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Patti Derry – holiday; Elizabeth Evans and Will Sykes– family event
County Cllr Robert Lindsay

157/22 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Keitley-Webb – re planning application DC/22/04154

158/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2022

The minutes of the meeting 26th July 2022 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

159/22 Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay

Cllr Lindsay was unable to attend the meeting and his report was read out: **Suffolk in talks to become investment zone** Suffolk County Council has let it be known that it has agreed to start discussions with Government to become an investment zone as part of the PM's new growth and investment strategy. Our political group has gone on record in the media that we are opposed to the idea since the Government says it wants to remove environmental controls and planning controls within these zones. Since the council began talks, the RSPB, National Trust and the Wildlife Trusts, including Suffolk Wildlife Trust have all described the plans, announced in Kwasi Kwarteng's mini budget, as "an attack on nature". It is not yet clear which parts of Suffolk the council wants to be in the zone. The current Freeport East Zone, (investment zones are designed to replace Freeport zones) extends from the coast 50 miles inland to Sudbury and includes almost all villages in Babergh. **Monks Eleigh traffic issues, Church Hill junction** I'm grateful to Mrs Haddow for persuading the county council to visit the site of the Church Hill/The Street junction. They visited on 12th September and found that although there was a white van parked outside the Swan, this did not obstruct visibility. They found that there was no room on the road for a mini roundabout. They suggest that if parking outside the Swan is seen as the problem it could be dealt with by a double yellow line running 10m from the junction, but this would cost £7000. I do not have enough in my discretionary highways budget for this. So if the parish council decide to do this, they would need to raise the bulk of the funds. However, I am not convinced the expense of double yellow lines is worth the relatively small benefit in making it easier for drivers to turn out from Church Hill. Yellow lines require a TRO and a consultation with local residents and businesses such as the shop and the Swan. Any objections about loss of parking would need to be overcome by a significant weight of support in favour from the rest of the village. There was only one recorded collision in the past five years on the Street and that was someone reversing out of their drive, not related to the junction. **Belle Vue Park retirement flats rejected** Babergh Council's plans to redevelop Belle Vue Park in Sudbury have hit a hurdle after the planning committee voted 6 to 5 for refusal of Churchill Homes' plans for a 4-story block of retirement flats on the former

swimming pool site. I voted for refusal. **Warm Homes Suffolk Fund – Access Free funding and Advice** Suffolk's councils have joined together to establish Warm Homes Suffolk. The service will offer expert advice on reducing energy bills and usage, as well benefits you may be entitled to during this crisis. The fund is open to homeowners, renters, and landlords and will target homes that need insulating and more efficient heating.

For more information, visit: www.warmhomessuffolk.org, or call 03456 037 686.

County Council unveils first of its electric car fleet The first delivery of 16 electric vehicles (EVs) will be in November, as the council begins its program to upgrade all existing pool cars. This is part of the council's work to deliver on its climate emergency declaration, and ambition to protect and enhance the environment. The Renault Zoe has been chosen as the first of the new vehicles, with 10 MG ZS to arrive in April 2023. The aim is to completely electrify the fleet by 2024. **EV Charging – Expression of Interests!** SCC have been successful in a bid for funding towards new EV charging infrastructure. The £2.75m funding will focus on community-owned car parks, where charging can be accessed 24/7. If you wish to express interest and make the Council aware of your area, please contact Peter Frost, Environment Strategy Officer - peter.frost2@suffolk.gov.uk

It was agreed for the parish council to register an interest in EV charging - Clerk

159/22 Report from District Cllr Bryn Hurren

Babergh are building 57 homes on the former council office site in Hadleigh. Will save costs on security guards for the site. It's been a very sad time with mourning for Queen Elizabeth II. Babergh had to follow protocol for the period including re-scheduling meetings. CIL – have awarded £420,000 over the whole area recently including Constable visitor centre, Gainsborough's house, Go Start community bus, CCTV in Sudbury. CIL has raised £11m over the years it has been running. £9m has been allocated with the next round in October. The cost of living crisis is biting hard. Babergh administer the governments money to those eligible. They are advertising so hopefully nobody loses out. Fuel costs are difficult – ask CAB for help. If you don't need the £200 government money you can donate it back for others in need. Suffolk Community Foundation are running Surviving Winter scheme. Visit to the energy from waste centre was good and another is planned for 2/11/22 at 2pm – let Cllr Hurren know if you would like to go. There has been no movement on the Old School site in Monks Eleigh despite generous offers and negotiations from Babergh who are trying to help resolve the situation. It is a private application so not up to Babergh to sort out but they are trying to resolve the problem. The funders of the development may yet force the issue. The planning application for 6 dwellings on The Street will be looked at next week by developers and planning officers and it's likely to be refused. Babergh are not allowed to directly refuse so they have to negotiate to see if there is a way to make it work. Perhaps the applicant will withdraw the application, modify it and re-apply. Cllr Hurren will only give support if there is a decent gain for the village. A decision will probably be made at the end of October.

160/22 Public Forum

Road calming – a neighbour's wall has been knocked down 4 times and many car wing mirrors broken but this is not taken into consideration of accidents/incidents on the road. When the 17 houses are occupied it will add to traffic within the village.

A mirror opposite the Church Hill junction might help but would require planning permission. Allotments – there are water springs near the allotments and a problem with rabbits. No sheds on the allotments to keep tools or help water capture.

161/22 Planning Matters

- a. The councillors considered planning application Planning Application - DC/22/04154 – Erection of 2 no 1 bed roomed thatched cottages at Land at Former Cottages at Manor Farm, Tye Road, Monks Eleigh and agreed to support the application with the reservation that it is sited outside the village envelope in open countryside
- b. Neighbourhood Plan – Brent Eleigh PC have enquired if Monks Eleigh parish council would make a joint Neighbourhood Plan using the available grants to help fund it. To add to the next agenda. Clerk to inform Brent Eleigh PC.

144/22 Finance

- a. The councillors approved the financial report and noted income received
- b. The councillors authorised payments from the RFO Report made since the last meeting and to be made
- c. The councillors agreed to approve and accept PKF Littlejohn's external audit report for the year ended 31st March 2021
- d. The councillors agreed to approve the Internal Audit report 2021-22
- e. The councillors agreed to approve the insurance payment £763.41 – final year of long term agreement
- f. To confirm the appointment of the Responsible Finance Officer
- g. The councillors agreed to request an annual play area inspection 2022-23 at a cost of £70.00
- h. The councillors agreed to donate the Recycling credit of £61.20 to the shop

145/22 Street Lights Upgrade to LED

Clerk to ask for a start date for the upgrade.

146/22 SID Speed Camera

The councillors agreed to sell their share of the current SID to Whatfield. Clerk to negotiate a price. The councillors agreed in principle to buy a SID for the sole use of the village at a cost of £3,455 + vat. Clerk to research funding.

147/22 Traffic calming

The councillors considered a request to introduce traffic calming on the A1141 near Church Hill. Unfortunately there is not enough room for a roundabout at the Church Hill junction and it would be very expensive. Double yellow lines might help visibility from Church Hill but would cost £7,000 and there are no recorded road traffic accidents here. Highways do not permit the use of mirrors to see oncoming traffic so the council may not erect one.

148/22 Allotments

The councillors considered a request to supply water to the allotments and agreed it would be too difficult to put in a supply. The use of sheds to facilitate water capture from shed roofs and mulching crops to maximise water was discussed. Allotment holders may construct a shed if they ask the parish council for permission to do so. Three allotments are in use. It was suggested that people can rent parts of allotments as they are very large. Clerk to find a water diviner to check for water on the site.

149/22 Footbridge at Polegate

The councillors agreed accept the quote for the repair work from Mike Hearnden. Clerk to ask and arrange deposit for the work.

150/22 Footpath from Back Lane to Stackyard Road

The footbridge has been replaced with a new sturdy one. The stile has been removed. Clerk to write to Belport and thank them for their work and to request that when the field is planted that a clear footpath line is made.

151/22 Dog Fouling

The councillors agreed to erect a spare dog bin at the bottom of Church Hill. Clerk to arrange to add it to the bin emptying list. Cllr Braithwaite to chase up repair of the dog bin post at Causeway on Back Lane..

152/22 Recreation Field Management

The Councillors agreed to wait for the ROSPA inspection before arranging a power wash.

The upgrade of equipment survey has shown there are 12 children living in the village and 34 grandchildren and 10 regular child visitors to the village. A zip wire is the most popular addition followed by a replacement slide. Other suggestions include more seating and fencing the area.

The Infrastructure Team are visiting the site soon to offer advice about how to proceed.

153/22 Quiet Lanes

Cllr Forrest has the signs in her garage and is waiting for help from Richard Thompson to erect them.

154/22 Parish Trees, Hedgerows and Wildflower Scheme 2022 – the Councillors agreed request 400 new mixed native hedging plants as unfortunately only 20 of the 400 planted last spring survived the difficult growing conditions this summer. Also to request 20 sqm of wildflower seed for the recreation field.

155/22 Policies and Procedures:

Standing Orders – The councillors agreed to amend 3g – public comments to five minutes for each person.

Pre-planning Procedure – the councillors agreed to adopt the protocol subject to Cllr Hurren’s comments following guidance from Planning

Complaints Policy – The councillors agreed to adopt the policy

156/22 Tree Work at Swingleton Green

The councillors agreed for Cllr Braithwaite to follow up the quotes for work and suggested ways of resolving the issue. The councillors thanked Cllr Hurren for his work with the notice board

157/22 Causeway Maintenance

The Causeway has been strimmed and hopefully enough for the autumn now. Need to dig out the ditches either side to keep it clear. Cllr Braithwaite to ask Jamie Smith. Clerk to ask Will Pratt if he can help. The councillors agreed to carry out a strim 4 times each year.

158/22 Action List Review

Minute	Action	Who
49/21	Grass cutting risk assessment for volunteers. Clerk to email form to Cllr Sykes	Clerk/Cllr Sykes
157/22	Causeway ditches – to ask Jamie Smith and Will Pratt for work	Clerk/Cllr Braithwaite
153/22	Quiet Lanes signs	Cllr Forrest

150/22	Clerk to than for stile removal and request footpath Back Lane to Stackyard Green marked when planted	Clerk
115/21	Place larger logs with reflectors on triangle at Causeway	Cllr Braithwaite
151/22	Erect dog bin on Church Hill green Repair to dog bin at Causeway	Cllr Forrest/Clerk
148/22	Find a water diviner for allotments water	Clerk
147/22	Aerial runway/climber – quotes for work and grant application. Amount pc can add to the application and a post on Facebook to discover number of children living in the village	Clerk/Cllr Braithwaite
149/22	Parish tree, hedge & wildflower scheme – make an application	Clerk
154/22	Scroll for Vivienne Aldous – agreed £100 cost	Cllr Braithwaite

159/22 Councillors Reports

Anonymous email from dog owner in village to reconsider allowing dogs on the recreation field. Clerk to reply this will be raised at the AGM next year

160/22 Reserved Business Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press were excluded from the meeting at this point, due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

To review Clerk's pay and expenses

The councillors agreed to raise the Clerk's wages to scp 15 and to pay £20 office expenses monthly.

161/21 Date of the next meeting

Parish Council Meeting 28th November 2022

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Appendix - Financial Report

Income received since 25th July 2022

Nil	£0.00
Total	£0.00

Expenditure (movement since 25th July 2022)

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

Legal fees land registration	498.00	101519	
Cutting Causeway	50.00	101520	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10

Cancelled cheque		101521	
Clerk expenses June-August	20.32	101522	LGA 1972, s137
Clerk wages August	473.41	101523	LGA1972
MESCAL donation	500.00	101524	LGA 1972, s137
Sudbury CAB donation	250.00	101525	LGA 1972, s137
Tye Farm Contracting	278.00	101526	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
PFK Littlejohn	240.00	101527	LGA1972
Hadleigh United Reformed Church	10.00	101528	LGA1972
L Rogers	473.41	101529	LGA1972
CAS Insurance	763.41	101530	LGA 1972, s111
L Rogers	71.34	101531	LGA1972
	<u>3,627.89</u>		

Unpresented cheques

MESCAL donation	500.00	101524	LGA 1972, s137
Sudbury CAB donation	250.00	101525	LGA 1972, s137
Tye Farm Contracting	278.00	101526	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
PFK Littlejohn	240.00	101527	LGA 1972
Hadleigh United Reformed Church	10.00	101528	LGA 1972
L Rogers	473.41	101529	LGA 1972
CAS Insurance	763.41	101530	LGA 1972, s111
L Rogers	71.34	101531	LGA 1972
	<u>2,586.16</u>		

Bank Reconciliation

Account	Statement Date	Statement balance	Actual Balance	Credit/transfers not shown	Unpresented cheques
Community a/c	31.8.22	£30,521.12	£27,934.96	£0.00	£2,586.16
Business reserve	31.8.22	£8,894.56	£8,894.50	£0.00	£0.00
		£41,779.13	£36,829.52		

Actual Spend v Budget		
	Budget	Actual
Assets B/forward		35,053.83
<u>Income</u>		
Precept	19,000.00	19,000.00
Grants	0.00	0.00
CIL	0.00	3,327.53
VAT		0.00
Allotments	75.00	75.00
Misc		105.00
bank Interest		0.67
Total	<u>19,075.00</u>	<u>22,508.20</u>
Total		
		57,562.03

Reserves		
Precept	19,000.00	
CIL	6,013.13	
Streetlights	5,540.00	
Play equipment	4,500.00	
Total		
	35,053.13	

	Budget	Actual
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Wages	5,670.00	2,840.46
Exp/admin	500.00	137.56
Training	350.00	0.00
Subs	350.00	308.28
Website	150.00	0.00
Insurance	1,200.00	763.41
Hall hire	100.00	10.00
Newsletter	150.00	0.00
Ch allowance	100.00	90.00
Grass	1,750.00	1,112.00
Strimming	500.00	50.00
Bins	495.00	248.22
Defibrillator	200.00	0.00
Streetlights	1,500.00	0.00
streetlight replacement	2,500.00	0.00
Highways	500.00	162.00
CSW	150.00	0.00
Play/assets	500.00	69.12
S&P rent	75.00	0.00
Bus subsidy	1,000.00	0.00
V Hall grant	3,000.00	2,750.00
s137 grant	2,000.00	1,750.00
Election	500.00	0.00
Planning	500.00	0.00
Contingency	1,000.00	420.00
Audit	400.00	340.00
	<u>25,140.00</u>	<u>11,051.05</u>
Assets c/forward		46,510.98
Total		57,562.03