

CULFORD, WEST STOW AND WORDWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council Annual General Meeting held on 25th May 2017 in Culford Village Hall

Present Clr Joy Childs, Clr David Fisher, Clr Bruce Murdoch, Clr Steve Flack, Clr Ann Self
Clr Susan Glossop (St Eds BC), the clerk John Milward and 4 members of the public.

- 1. Election of Chairman** Proposed by Clr Self and seconded by Clr Murdoch that Clr Childs be elected chairman for the coming year. Carried unanimously.
- 2. Election of Vice Chairman** Proposed by Clr Murdoch and seconded by Clr Childs that Clr Fisher be elected vice chairman for the coming year. Carried unanimously
- 3. Election of Representative to Village Hall Committee** Clr McQueen was elected to be the Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.
- 4. Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2017.** Minutes of the meeting with the amendment of addition of Clr Self to those in attendance were approved and signed by the chairman.
- 5. Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Clrs Ramsey and McQueen and from our County Council representative Clr Rebecca Hopfensperger
- 6. Register of Members' Interests** Members were reminded of their need to report any interest they may have on items listed for discussion on the agenda. Nil reported.
- 7. Reports**
 - a. Clerk**
 - (i) New church sign is now up and the old one removed.
 - (ii) Photos of tree house forwarded to planning for decision by enforcement.
 - (iii) Path alongside Lone Pine to be passed back to Highways who had queried hedge on the other adjoining property Manson House. Confirmed that the only overgrown part was that of Lone Pine. To be referred back to Highways for action.
 - (iv) Farthings residence. Confirmed that no action can be taken with regard to painting of the house since it does not lie in conservation area.

b. St Edmundsbury Borough Council Representative.

Clr Glossop's written annual report (attached at Annex B) covered the following aspects of Borough Council's priorities and plans over the last year:
Council Tax and Budget, her Locality Budget, Economic Development, Planning, West Suffolk Operational Hub, Housing, Farmer's Market, Garden Waste Collection Service, Parking Enforcement and Town Centre Master Plan.
In addition an update was given on the piece of land she refers to as The Triangle which had been used as a tip and ownership of which has now been confirmed as being Culford School.

The Chairman raised with Clr Glossop an issue which had arisen with the school. Burial room in the graveyard in Culford was now running out and the school has asked the council in what way they were able to help in procuring more room suggesting that it was the council's responsibility to find more land. The position was clarified by the clerk who had confirmed through SALC that, although the council was empowered to help, they were not obliged so to do. Should the council be unable to take on such action then responsibility would pass to the Borough Council. Clr Glossop will check out possible solutions with St Eds BC and will report back.

c. Suffolk County Council Representative Clr Rebecca Hopfensperger's annual report (attached as Annex A) covered the following county issues :
Budget, Locality Budget, Highways issues, Broadband, Education, Ofsted and Early Years.

8. Finance

a. Completed accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017 were distributed to councillors together with copy of BDO Annual Return for the same year. It was proposed by Clr Fisher and seconded by Clr Murdoch that:

(i) The accounts as presented be accepted as a true record

(ii) That the BDO Annual Form as completed on pages 2 and 3 be accepted as a true record and be signed off by the chairman and clerk

Carried unanimously

b. Cheques were signed for Viking (Stationery), Communicorp (Fees), M&TJ's (Grass cutting), SALC (Fees), HMRC, Clerk's Wages, Suffolk Cloud Biz (Web site), Clerk's Expenses and AON (Insurance).

9. Highways Nothing to add to that discussed during parish meeting. Clerk to forward copy of Parish Meeting Minutes to Clr Hopfensperger.

10. Correspondence Letter from Clr S Flack tendering his resignation. Thanks of the council and the chairman given for his time as councillor over two election periods.

11. Planning

Application No DC/17/0830/TPO – Tanglewood, Chimney Mills, West Stow. 2 x Oak trees
Reduce overhanging branches by 6 metres. Approved

Application No DC/17/0994/HH – Keeper's Cottage Culford Heath – erection of double garage with ancillary accommodation following demolition of existing garage. Approved.

Application No DC/17/0405/FUL – Land at Meadow Farm, Ingham Road. Installation of a 25 metre high lattice tower supporting 3 antennas and 2 transmission dishes, installation of 2 radio equipment cabinets and 1 meter cabinet all within 2.1 meter high security fence. Approved.

Application No DC/17/0808/VAR- Larkwood Trout Fishery, West Stow. Removal of Condition 3 of E/91/3023/P to enable unrestricted occupation of dwelling for the 2 single storey dwellings and construction of new vehicular access for occupation by fish farm owner and manager. Unresolved.

Clerk to seek further information from planning officer re location of proposed new access and also check with regard to change of use of land.

12. Matters raised by Councillors

a. Chairman raised the fact that a resident of Ingham had contacted her and commented on fencing which had been erected by the owners/residents of Forest Edge on The Triangle. The fence had two top layers of barbed wire. Clerk to check with planning as to whether or not this contravenes planning rules.

b. Minutes of the Village Hall's AGM meeting had been received by the Chairman. To be forwarded to the clerk for inclusion on the web site

c. Clr Flack reported that the Footpath sign at the eastern end of Drifts Meadows has rotted. To be reported to Highways/Footpaths.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm. Next meeting 27th July 2017

Culford AGM – Report by SCC Representative Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger

Budget – Suffolk County Council have frozen general council tax for the seventh year in a row, this budget savings were made of £31.5m with £4.5m being taken from reserves to cover the budget gap. SCC continued with the adult social care precept of 3% which is ring-fenced money for adult social care raising £8.5m which is invested in full to front line services in addition the government awarded us an adult care grant of £3.3m resulting in £12m investment in adult social care.

Locality Budget – Through my locality budget I was pleased to be able to support the village hall and the purchase of the mobile VAS.

Highway Matters – Suffice to say that highway issues take up a lot of my time ranging from pothole repairs to flooding/drainage issue, resurfacing, and trimming of the verges and trees around the village to name but a few. Through my highways budget I will be paying for two safety schemes in Culford and West Stow, I am hoping that work will commence on these schemes soon. I will continue to chase and ensure that highway issues are resolved quickly and right first time.

Broadband - Currently, we are at around 90% fibre coverage in Suffolk. BT are currently re-modelling the rollout plan for the second contract, which will run to 2019. This is a result of a Suffolk County Council move to introduce the “clawed back” funding into the contract, pushing coverage higher, beyond the 97% by 2019 target.

Education - GCSE's- Suffolk's GCSE has risen above the national average. Suffolk is now ranked in the top half of all authorities for progress at GCSE level, at **55th out of 151**. It is important to recognise that the way a school's progress is measured has changed this year nationally. Progress 8 is the Government's new way of measuring GCSE results. It measures how well pupils of all abilities have progressed by comparing them with students who achieved similar levels in Key Stage 2 across the country. Across Suffolk, 60.1% of students achieved the national measure of attaining a grade C or above in English and maths. This is **3% higher than last year** and marks a **6% increase since 2014**. Suffolk students have also closed the gap to the national average state funded schools from 6% in 2014 to just 3% this year. Suffolk continues to **be above the national figure of 59.3% for all schools**. This is a real sign that Suffolk is making good progress.

Ofsted - There has been a more than 20% rise in Suffolk Schools being judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. This rate is currently improving more than twice as fast as those across the country, 90% of Suffolk schools are now rated 'good' or 'outstanding', this means that 9/10 children in Suffolk now have access to the highest standards of education.

Early Years - In Suffolk 70.2% of children achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) this year. This is slightly above the rest of England.

Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger Suffolk County Council

ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR SUSAN GLOSSOP

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting of Culford Parish Council on the 25th May 2017

Budget. (Medium term Financial Strategy.) As grants from Government continue to fall, SEBC has adopted the strategy of becoming more commercial and investing to secure extra funding. If we didn't do this, there would be a budget shortfall of over £3.3million which could only be met by cutting **St Edmundsbury Council Tax**

funding for services by that amount.

Capital investment plans 2017-2021 currently stand at £64 million. This includes £3 million in Barley Homes, our housing company, and £20 million in our growth agenda plus potential future investment opportunities in Suffolk Business Park, Haverhill Research Park and the delivery of Bury St Edmunds town centre masterplan actions. Investment in our communities is reflected in our Community Chest grants and through the locality money awarded by ward members.

Council Tax makes up around a fifth of our total income. The Government has removed its Council Tax freeze grant and its funding decisions assume local authorities will increase Council Tax by the maximum level each year, which equates to an extra £3.51 a year (under 30p a month, or 1.96%), taking SEBC's share of the total Council Tax bill to £182.16 for an average Band D home. Bearing in mind that there will also be an increase of 3% for SCC and 1.97% for the police and the parishes on average 3.50%

Locality budget I have a budget of £2,500 each financial year Please contact me if you have a scheme that requires funding. This year funding has been awarded to:

Risby	£200	Defibrillator
Lackford	£500	Vehicle activation sign
Flempton cum Hengrave	£500	Vehicle activation sign
Lackford church room	£1,000	Conversion for public community meeting room

Economic Development There are a number areas scheduled for development around Bury which are coming forward at the moment to be developed in phases over the next few years. In the north there are 2 such areas. To the north-west the area will stretch from the current edge of the built up area towards the Tut Hill road in Fornham All Saints. This is named Marham Park and on the 3rd May, Development Control will be asked to consider the first application for the first phase of 151 homes with 36 one and two bedroom affordable homes within this development. To the north east Moreton hall will be extended eastwards and will link up with the projected Suffolk Business Park which has recently been given outline planning permission which includes the Enterprise zone for Bury St Edmund which is connected to the Eastern Relief Road and the now opened Sybil Andrews Academy. The 56 acres of strategic employment land will provide high quality buildings to meet the demand of modern business and will see the creation of approximately 9,000 jobs however the project to complete the whole park is a 25 year plan. To the south, the south east development in Rushbrooke and the Nowton area has now been adopted, outline planning permission has been granted for 1,250 dwellings, community hall, playing fields and

primary school, on land south of Rougham Hill. These areas are scheduled for development within the next 15-20 years. Work has started on the redevelopment of two major areas within Bury. Station Hill and the Tayfen Road area are part of a large brownfield area, which will lead to 200 more houses and jobs: a care home, a family pub, new retail and commercial areas.

The development work continues on the brownfield site on Western Way, which borders the already developed ASDA and West Suffolk House, but will extend to include amongst others the current Borough refuse depot, the NHS building and the Olding Road car park. The area is intended to become a service village for the Borough and the wider area. A multi storey car park and student accommodation is also part of the plan.

Planning Applications On a much smaller scale, but possibly of more importance to residents of Culford several individual planning applications have been made. The majority of the applications have been approved enabling people to build extensions or make alterations to their property. Not all applications go smoothly however, and I would strongly advise people wanting to put in an application to talk to the Parish Council who make comments pertinent to each application. In addition it is worth having some pre-application advice from Planning Officers. I am also readily available to discuss any individual plans with anyone in the village and I frequently act as a go-between between resident and Planning Officer to try to resolve any problems on an informal basis.

Bury Household Waste Recycling Centre .The opening hours have been extended on Sundays, Bank Holidays, and on a Thursday evening during the summer months, reflecting the times when the sites are most used and needed by residents. Weekends and bank holidays are busiest. The quietest day of the week is consistently a Wednesday. As a result of this, the site will be closed on a Wednesday. However the site will be open from 9am- 5pm on other days and during May to August the centre will be open until 7pm on a Thursday.

Housing Company. A Housing Company, called Barley Homes, has been set up which is jointly owned by St Edmundsbury Borough Council (25% share), Forest Heath District Council (25% share) and Suffolk County Council (50% share). The purpose of the company is to act commercially, to build homes for sale and private rent, and provide up to 30 per cent of the homes as affordable housing (rented, shared ownership and/or low cost starter homes) in line with planning policy. The first applications are expected to be submitted to the local planning authority later this year.

Farmers market. A regular Sunday market will now take place on the second Sunday of the month, beginning in March in the Traverse, with the regular market traders offered the chance to trade as an additional market in the Cornhill.

West Suffolk Operational Hub. Following the public consultation on a site for the operational hub the preferred site is to be Hollow Road where the proposal is to have a waste transfer station, where West Suffolk waste will be transferred to larger vehicles and taken to Great Blakenham for disposal/recycling, a vehicle depot and associated offices and staff and a household Waste recycling centre for Bury St Edmunds. The planning application for this is expected to be heard by the Development Control committee in July. Comments or representations you wish to be considered by the local planning authority as part of the planning application consultation and decision process should be submitted through the online planning portal: <https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-application>.

Following the decision made by the Development Control committee hearing the application will have to go to the Planning Inspector for approval as the scheme was not part of the 2031 vision masterplan.

Garden Waste Collection Service Take up of the subscription service in year one was successful with 39% of all West Suffolk households signing up (41% SEBC & 35% FHDC). 65% of subscribers applied and paid online. Current customers will be contacted in Mid-February/beginning of March with regard to the new subscription year which started in April. Unsubscribed bins will not be emptied from May onwards.

Community safety – Public Space Protection Orders. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recently discussed Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) specifically to include the proposal to include begging in the Order for Bury St Edmunds. There was a lively discussion in order to ensure that people who find themselves on the street are given the right support, advice and help. Prevention and support remains our primary aim at all times. Unfortunately there are a small number of individuals who cause problems for people working, living and shopping in the town and this PSPO provides the Police with a way to address severe anti-social behaviour incidences. This will now go forward for wider consideration in the Council and for public consultation.

Rough Sleepers There have been increased pressures on the limited accommodation for homeless people. Following a successful bid to the DCLG for a rough sleeper outreach worker. We have employed an outreach worker for two years, this should help reduce homelessness by providing a point of contact for individuals at risk of becoming homeless or who are homeless. This worker will have links with agencies and partners to provide accommodation.

Civil Parking Enforcement Agreement has been reached between the Police, SCC, St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath that St Eds and Forest Heath will take on the role of control of street parking as will Mid Suffolk District Council. It should run at a surplus but more importantly enable control of parking issues in conjunction with our off street parking operations. This will enable St Eds to keep all on street income. The period will be from 2019 -2029 and the proposal has to go to the Secretary of State for approval.

Town Centre Master plan The eight week consultation on the town centre master plan has been completed and the consultants will now produce a draft plan for the steering group to review.

I have enjoyed working with the parish council and the residents of Culford over the past year. On the whole many of the local issues are to do with.

Pot holes

Fly tipping

Speeding traffic through the villages

Rural bus service

Maintenance of public rights of way

Dog fouling

Establishing ownership of the three corner triangle at West Stow known as Lewis King Grove.

Cllr Susan Glossop

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