

Copdock & Washbrook Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 March 2020 at the Church Room, The Street, Washbrook - 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Keith Armes, Cllr Laura Butters, Cllr Louise Carman, Cllr Terry Corner (Chairman), Cllr David Marsh, Cllr Mike Watling (Vice Chr), District Cllr Dave Busby, 5x residents, Clerk - Angela Chapman.

1776/1920 Chairman's Welcome & Apologies for Absence CC Christopher Hudson

1777/1920 Declaration of Interests Cllr Mike Watling - C&W Tennis Club; Cllr Louise Carman - Carman 4Seasons Ltd

1778/1920 Minutes. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2020 were signed as a true record.

1779/1920 Clerk's Report including Matters Arising

Another busy month.

Attended Babergh DC Community Liaison meeting on 5th Feb with Cllr Mike Watling & Cllr Keith Armes. Tom Barker is now oversees Heritage & Enforcement under his remit. Interestingly, he said there are no statutory targets for planning enforcement and BDC will set their own. Christine Thurlow announced there is £4.5m in the CIL fund. Tom Barker also announced BDC wants to use its staff's skills on a voluntary basis.

Environmental management - the list of jobs for contractor has been lessened by making a list of jobs that could possibly be carried out by volunteer working groups at the bi-annual litter pick and village tidy up event. Working group list sent to Cllr Dave Marsh. The PC can see how this works over this year and review at the end of Autumn. Village gateways and signs - SCC have provided criteria for installation, PC need to send a map with location of gateways on to enable SCC to grant a licence.

The missing 'Keep left' signs on the Old London Rd, outside the hotel exit have been reported and should be replaced with 2 days if not already done. This was reported on the SCC report a problem tool and also to Steve Merry, SCC Highways.

2 enforcement issues - ongoing, have had no further contact with Babergh DC.

Achilles youth football team -TC, MW and myself met with representatives from Achilles meeting Mon 2 March. They are very keen to use the field for 2 youth teams, currently Under 10's and Under 11's. Going into next season in August 2020 (Under 11's & 12's) they require a larger pitch which the playing field can give them. They seem to have big plans and want a 'home' for these 2 teams. They are currently running 11 teams in the youth section with a waiting list of 30. It was agreed it would be discussed this evening, it's on the agenda later on, Achilles reps would go to the village hall and cricket pavilion committees to see if facilities can be accessed on match days. They will be looking for funding for equipment, Suffolk FA will help with some. An extension on the back of the village hall was also discussed, this was looked at with the previous village hall committee without any success. This may be broached again should Achilles start to use the field although funding criteria may hold it back. The PC need to decide whether to go ahead with hiring to the football club, it may be on a 1 year basis to start with and then move forward from there. There is also a possibility the club may use the field fairly soon, until the end of the season, as they are losing their current pitch to developers. This will give everyone an idea of how it will work before launching into a long hire agreement.

I was approached at the Neighbourhood Plan consultation by a resident who asked for help with a boundary issue, I agreed to assist them. I will be contacting Babergh DC, and SCC, and asking for assistance from both.

Taylor Wimpey A1071 road closure - spoke to MPC/Andy Ansell office, TW & SCC meet last week, still to confirm closure dates but the PC will be informed as soon as the dates are set which should be this week.

Still 2 Casual Vacancies.

1780/1920 Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 19.40hrs

District Councillor Dave Busby:

Planning officers for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are in the running for a national award... having paved the way for technological advances as part of 21st century planning.

The Development Management team, which looks after planning matters for both councils, is shortlisted in the Best Use of Digital and Technology category at the annual iESE – Public Sector Transformation Awards 2020.

The category recognises the innovative use of digital tools and technology in order to improve services for residents.

Judges were impressed by how the team had streamlined the planning application process for residents across the districts, bringing teams and systems together in order to become one of the top performing authorities for timely planning decisions. The team has also introduced electronic case management and a mobile app in order to put vital information at the fingertips of officers and the public – with public searches of information leaping from 600K in 2017 to 1.3m in 2018. And, although not yet in use, they have started to pave the way for future technological advances, such as the possible use of drones and augmented reality as part of the 21st century planning process.

Babergh District Council tonight approved its budget for 2020/21, including an increase in council tax that will see £5 a year added to the bill of a Band D property.

Headlines include:

- A proposed increase of 3.1% to council tax – equivalent to just 10p a week or £5 over the course of a year for a Band D property (increases range from 6p per week for the smallest Band A property to 19p per week for the largest Band H property).
- No change in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme that sees poorest residents pay just 5% of their bill.
- A change to empty property discount, reducing the period that unoccupied and unfurnished properties pay discounted council tax from three months to 28 days, in order to bring empty properties in the district back into use.
- Continued investment in CIFCO – the council's property investment company, as agreed in last year's budget. CIFCO makes a significant contribution to the money required to run the councils' services, without which residents would face either a substantial hike in council tax bills to fund the shortfall, or cuts to services.
- An increase in long-stay car parking charges from £2 to £3. However, short-stay parking for up to three hours will remain free at all of our town centre car parks.

After four years of reductions, the council is also proposing putting up council house rents by 2.7% meaning a £2.38 per week increase for tenants – although, even with this increase, rents are still lower than in 2015/6. Sheltered housing tenants also face an increase of £2 a week on their bills, but their utility payments remain static for another year.

A number of shops in Suffolk are offering refills for a host of household items in a bid to cut down on the amount of plastic and packaging we use.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has launched a handy online directory which lists the shops, businesses or charities that host refill points for items such as cleaning products, toiletries and dried foods, such as rice or oats and even loose-leaf tea and chocolate. At the moment there are 22 organisations which stock refills, but the partnership is encouraging other businesses to consider introducing similar schemes.

Now Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils' cabinets are set to discuss proposals to ensure the councils are poised to provide a discretionary retail discount, local newspaper discount and pub discount to support ratepayers across the districts as quickly as possible.

The Government pledged to:

- increase the retail discount from one third to 50% and include cinemas and music venues within the scheme
- extend the duration of the existing newspapers discount
- and introduce an additional discount for pubs

Residents: Thanks given for work on Neighbourhood Plan and the consultation meeting Saturday last. Agreed to submit piece to In Touch re Pye Road, Copdock cycleway.

It was brought to the Councils attention an article in the EADTs regarding wildlife area in verges. Mike Watling to enquire with EADTs.

Meeting reconvened 19.59hrs.

1781/1920 Planning Applications:

Two enforcement issues ongoing.

DC/20/00658 Change of use and conversion of barn. Erection of cart lodge and new perimeter walls.

Grange Farm, Wenham Road Copdock And Washbrook Ipswich Suffolk IP8 3EZ.

Copdock and Washbrook Parish Council have lead responsibility for the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) that is currently being progressed in the Parish. The Plan is well progressed and is due to be submitted to Babergh in May 2020.

The NP group have worked with Babergh and reviewed all 16 sites put forward in the SHELLA in 2017.

Furthermore the NP now incorporates all sites that are being supported in Baberghs draft Local Plan that was open for consultation in 2019. Copdock and Washbrook has complex issues with infrastructure that the NP hope to address. The village is unique in that it has a dual carriageway running through the village. It is the view of the PC that further development in the village outside of the sites that have been put forward to Babergh as part of the site selection should not currently be supported. The NP is developing a shared vision for the neighbourhood and will include policies that support how the village expands. It will also ensure that the infrastructure supports this, links are maintained and that the landscape is not adversely affected. This property location is not included in the Neighbourhood Plan, however, as the proposed works would significantly improve the existing building the Parish Council have no objection.

DC/20/00795 Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) on planning permission DC/19/03372 | Copdock House Old London Road Copdock And Washbrook Ipswich Suffolk IP8 3JW.

No objection.

1782/1920 Financial Matters & RFO Report:

- a. payments approved
- b. Internal Control Statement - adopted, signed and approved
- c. internal Auditor appointed as SALC
- d. RFO appointed as Clerk

- e. online banking - Nat West advised they do not have a system for online payments with 2 signatories, therefore make enquiries to move bank accounts
- f. recycling banks donation - approved to C&W Church Heritage Trust

RFO Report

The Parish Council's budget position is in order.

Payments approved.

Spreadsheets updated. Bank reconciliation sheets to be approved by Council. Checked & counter signed by Cllr Louise Carman.

1783/1920 Neighbourhood Plan

Successful consultation meeting, will be 6 month period before Babergh DC adopt Plan, each resident can vote for the Plan, a mail drop will be carried out to encourage everyone in the village to vote. A piece in In Touch for the next 2 months.

Agreed an infrastructure plan for CIL payments should ideally be in place before funding received.

1784/1920 Environmental Management

Working list for contractor agreed. Other 'jobs' on the volunteer list - DM will endeavour on the Great British Spring Clean Day to complete some of the tasks.

1785/1920 75th VE Day Celebrations

Agreed to cancel meeting to discuss plans due to lack of interest.

1786/1920 Playing field licence

MW and Clerk met with Achilles Youth FC, they are very keen to use the field. AYFC will contact Cricket Club and the village hall with a view to using their facilities i.e. changing rooms, toilets etc. Clerk to forward contact details to AYFC. Await outcome.

1787/1920 Lease Renewal & Access

- a. car park maintenance responsibility - meeting 10 March - report back next meeting
- b. Bowls Club lease - Secretary of State approval may be needed - approval given to go ahead and apply

1788/1920 Risk Assessment

MW confirmed no amendments to RS register. Monthly/quarterly tick sheet completed.

1789/1920 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

KA - 'Our Water' project in conjunction with SCC has been completed by KJA and MW. Digitised mapping of all water courses in the village should be lodged with the Parish Council in due course.

MW - lorries doing 'U' turns on Old London Rd nr Tom Cat farm **TC** advised he wrote to the Traffic Commission regarding this problem. **MW** advised the crossover nr the village hall is unofficial.

DM - underpass leaking water, thought to be 700 litres a day. Anglian Water to visit this week; attending Councillor training

MW - village quiz - PC to enter a team

LB - redesign of the transport consultants report put on hold for present; to tackle social isolation suggested a Christmas lunch.

Items for next agenda:

Christmas lunch - social isolation

Meeting closed at 21.12hrs.