

**GREAT ASHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 31st May, 2018**  
**At the Lord Thurlow Hall at 7pm**

**Chairman:** Cllr Arthur Peake

Mrs. S. Austin parish clerk took the minutes

6 Members of the public attended.

Apologies received from B. Fitch

Cllr Peake welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. To Sign the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were signed as a correct record of proceedings.

**2. Suffolk County Council Annual Report**

Cllr Jane Storey did not attend a report had been received, a copy of which is attached.

**3. Mid Suffolk District Council Annual Report**

Cllr Roy Barker attended an Annual Report Summary 2017/2018 was received a copy was circulated.

**4. Police Report**

No representative from Suffolk Constabulary attended and no report had been received. A copy of SNT Stowmarket April 2018 Newsletter was circulated.

**5. PCC Report**

A representative attended and gave a report which is attached.

**6. Village Hall Report**

A representative attended from the Village Hall Committee and gave a report a copy of which is attached.

**7. W.I. Report**

A report had been received and was read to the meeting: Two members stepped in to save us from closing in December last year, in that uncertain time we held two open meetings that were well attended, 'Bees and their Honey' and 'The Yanks are Coming'. This later was held in the Church as the Hall had to be used for voting! A summer evening visit to Fullers Mill Gardens at West Stow was enjoyed along with coffee and cake. Members helped 'man' a stall at the Badwell Ash fete/fun day in June. Our local pharmacist, made us really aware of the information that is on our prescriptions, very few of us gave a second thought to before handing in, perhaps not even reading the instructions to get the best outcome from the medication. Our craft Snowmen 'doorstops' were a hit, and we enjoyed a Christmas meal together. Most of our 18 members who joined again in January have also

joined in outings and craft days put on by our Suffolk West Federation Office. Visitors and new members are always welcome, come and join us.

#### **8. Newsletter Report**

The Editor of the Newsletter attended and gave a report which included: Little feedback has been received and felt if residents didn't like the Newsletter we would soon know and was very happy to carry on as Editor. At the moment there is a budget for 4 pages and this seems adequate for the village. The Editor highlighted the work the Parish Council has been carrying out has made the Newsletter far more interesting and hopefully residents will also find it of interest. It was asked if the Parish Council wanted an additional one off edition was the Editor able to carry this out, the Editor was happy as long as notice was given. There was a brief discussion on sending out the Newsletter by email, it was agreed to keep a paper copy of the Newsletter. The Chair on behalf of the Parish Council thanked the Editor for all their hard work putting the Newsletters together it was very much appreciated.

#### **9. Speed Watch**

The latest Speed Watch report had been circulated. It was also advised that it would be nice to have more community support from Great Ashfield as most of the volunteers come from Long Thurlow and Badwell Ash. The Speedwatch group was working closely with both Badwell Ash and Elmswell Speed Watch teams. A resident took the contact details of the Community Speed Watch co-ordinator.

#### **10. Parish Council Annual Report**

The Chairman of the Parish Council gave a report a copy of which is attached.

#### **11. Public Forum**

It was asked whether the village could have a further street light on the corner of Elmswell Road and School Road. A brief discussion took place, the Parish Council to contact SCC for the cost of providing a street light. A resident highlighted light pollution.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50pm

**Signed:**

**Date:**

## VILLAGE HALL REPORT FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

Since the last report, the Village Hall has been transformed with new PVC windows in the main hall and a new door at the entrance hall. Roy has done an excellent job rounding up various grants and persuading Jane Storey to give us £1200 from her villages fund so that we only used just over £300 from our funds on these new additions. This has been the major achievement for this year.

The Village Hall Committee are continuing with the Disabled Access project and there is now a ramp up to the entrance hall. The main annual events have been well attended this year, good weather and Pimms made for a successful BBQ and the Pumpkin evening was back up to usual numbers. The Pub evenings have also been better attended this year including the Christmas evening and a Gin tasting evening in September.

However, we have still been unable to fill the positions on the committee that have become vacant resulting from people moving out of the village but it is has recently become easier to get people to run the bar on Pub nights with new people offering. Roy again, has done an excellent job doing both the Chairman and Treasurer positions with Di managing the Village Hall mailing list and posters together with Sue Perkin-Ball running the Village Draw.

The Hall has been rented out more this year (but we did have local elections in May and the June General Election) with increased bookings for parties and a new Yoga class with a second planned.

The first and second stages of the **Disabled Access project** are now complete, the project stages are as follows:

Stage 1 was to have one unisex disabled toilet - this is complete

Stage 2 was to replace the entrance door & the West window. This has now been completed including all the main hall windows. A ramp by the entrance has also been built.

Stage 3 is completing the 2nd disabled toilet, again unisex

Stage 4 is to provide disabled parking

### Events

The number of people attending the Village Hall has increased this year, both for evenings with food and bar nights. The two most popular events were the Pumpkin evening in October which was up to 65 people from 30 in 2016 (profit up to £219.58

with £200 taken at the bar as well compared to the 2016 profit of £169.86) and the July BBQ was well attended with the burgers running out.

Support for the **Bar Nights** has increased together with the profits! (£711.73 compared to £187.84 for 2016/17 and £610.94 for 2015/16) even though the March evening was cancelled due to snow. Chrissie & Paul Charie who distill Flint & Hardings gin at Daisy Green ran a very successful gin evening in September. We are continuing to see new faces each month. The BBQ will take place again at the July Pub Night on 6th July and Pumpkin Evening will be on 27th October this year.

**Hall bookings** have continued to rise with Dog Training on Tuesday evenings, the WI every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, more birthday parties, Christenings, funerals, two cycle clubs and Voting. There is also a new yoga class with a second planned and a Mah Jong afternoon. The Christmas Craft Fair was bigger this year with more local stalls and was well supported.

The **Village Hall draw** income has increased from last year because new members have replaced those who have moved out of the village.

Roy has been running the **finances** again this year until we find a new treasurer. A surplus of £976.92 was made after all costs have been accounted for. The balance of the current account at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 was £2775.33 and in the deposit account £2291.71.

#### **Great Ashfield, Long Thurlow and Badwell Ash Community Speed Watch 3 Villages, 2 Parishes, 1 Team.**

- Initial response was to Long Thurlow (LT) community request for action re speeding Badwell Ash (BA) Parish Council meeting 24 Nov 2016
- Invitation extended to Great Ashfield (GA) PC to join the cause Dec 2016
- Decision made to form a joint Community Speed Watch (CSW) team, followed by a call for volunteers, responses from LT and GA, none from BA Dec 2016
- Decision to purchase SIDs, seeking sources of funding Jan 2017
- Suffolk Roadsafe TVAS was on the loan rota for placement in BA Jan Feb Mar 2017
- Site surveys for SIDs in both Parishes were submitted Feb 2017
- SID posts erected in BA, LA and GT Mar 2017
- Registration for joint CSW team started with Suffolk Roadsafe May 2017
- CSW sites in LT and GA were identified by the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), no suitable site was identified in BA for safety reasons (eg lack of safe run-off) May 2017
- Westcotec SID presentation in GA Village Hall attended by BA Parish Council representatives Jun 2017
- Recruitment of CSW volunteers was progressing, more from LT than GA, none from BA Jun 2017
- Two potential CSW volunteers from BA failed to respond when contacted
- BA & GA joint meeting with Elmswell CSW team decision made to share information Jul 2017
- Suffolk Constabulary Safer Communities Officer approved name for team as "Gt Ashfield, Lg Thurlow & Badwell Ash", DLS named as Speed Watch Coordinator, RK as deputy.
- Volunteers submitted vetting forms to SNT Jul 2017
- 30mph bin stickers selling well in LT, spares passed on to GA Jul 2017
- All volunteers vetted positively Aug 2017
- Suffolk Constabulary Safer Communities Officer provided 8 "Speed Watch Area" signs at no cost which we attached to the SID posts in GA, LT and BA

in Aug 2017 • Suffolk Constabulary Safer Communities Officer arranged the loan of a Speedar device, road signs and hi viz jackets Aug 2017 • SNT led a training session for CSW volunteers Aug 2017 • CSW sessions were held in GA and LT during Sep, Nov and Dec 2017 o 16 sessions in LT, 17 vehicles were reported to and followed up by SNT o 16 sessions in GA, 17 vehicles were reported to and followed up by SNT • We ran a full day session (6 hours) in LT in Apr, 3 vehicles were reported to and followed up by SNT. • Analysis of results from SIDs show the problem is worse in LT than in BA. • GA and BA SIDs were placed in LT during Jan 2018 to monitor the situation from both ends of the village.

483 2.26% 50 to 85 mph 8284 38.81% >30 to 49 mph 12578 58.93% ≤ 30 mph 306 2.24% 50 to 85 mph 7412 54.26% >30 to 49 mph 5943 43.50% ≤ 30 mph

☐ SNT referred our LT stats to the Speed Enforcement Team, who placed their monitor on Long Thurlow Road Mar 2018

☐ Outcomes of their monitoring were:

Site Title

C557 Long Thurlow Long Thurlow Road opposite Thurlow House on TP 103 Channel Combined Channel 1 Channel 2

From Great Ashfield From Wyverstone

Average Speed 32.8 32.6 32.9

Speed Limit 30 30 30

NPCC 35 35 35

Percentage At Or Over NPCC

35.5 31.8 38.9

• The Safety Camera Team responded to that and has said that on Long Thurlow Road “The prosecutable percentages are well over 20% at 31.8% and 38.9% and make this an amber site which where possible should be enforced at twice a month, and should commence once necessary risk assessments have been carried out. It is not a huge volume of traffic with average of 38 vehicles per hour but there is steady speeding through the whole day.” • From 9 Mar to 14 Apr 2018 we monitored the traffic from the Elmswell direction passing the SID at Tudor Lodge on Elmswell Road. 69.93% of vehicles were travelling at speeds >30 mph.

1474 3.82% 50 to 85 mph 25528 66.11% >30 to 49 mph 11613 30.07% ≤ 30mph

☐ Liaison with the Elmswell team is going well and data comparison shows similar results. ☐ Next steps: ☐ Currently we have 16 trained CSW members, 1 awaiting training and 1 new application under review. ☐ This consists of 10 members from LT, 6 from GA, 2 from BA. Only 12 of these are active currently, 5 from GA and 7 from LT. ☐ It would have a positive effect on the morale of the team if we could recruit more volunteers from GA. ☐ With the cooperation and agreement of BA Parish Council we plan to repeat the approach used on Long Thurlow Road by placing a SID for a month at each end of BA and GA. ☐ We requested in Mar 2018 that BA appoints one of their Councillors to take responsibility for Speed Watch in order to facilitate communication with them. To date this has not happened.

### **Parish Council summary 2017/18**

The council has met seven times this year including specific planning meetings. Over the year ten planning applications were referred by Mid Suffolk (MSDC) and all were approved, albeit with appropriate comments where needed.

We have had to increase the precept for the first time in many years, from £1,900 to £2,300. Regular expenditure is now at £2,150 p.a. and last year we spent an additional £1,400 on asset repairs and the contribution to the mini SID speed indicator sign. New data protection rules (GDPR) mean that from May we may have to pay for a Data Protection Officer.

The big issues remain highways and for some residents broadband.

**On Broadband** we were fortunate to fill our PC vacancy when Ian Sadler volunteered in October. He has tracked broadband issues and been active in their progress to resolution. At the time of writing new cabinets support much of our village and Ian is trialling a mobile service that may help the 'narrowband' users between the main roads.

**On Highways** the two issues that arise most are potholes and speeding. The rate of pothole filling seems to have improved lately but vigilance is needed to spot and report issues (online) as soon as possible.

Last year I wrote that we had the poles for the mini SID and were supporting the setup of Community Speed Watch (CSW) in partnership with Badwell Ash and Long Thurlow. The mini SID has arrived and been deployed to good effect. Thanks again to the **Great Ashfield Playing Field Association**, Roy as **District Councillor** and Jane as **County Councillor** who all made contributions to the cost of the mini SID.

Data captured in Long Thurlow has been verified by the police and they are planning to set up enforcement visits there twice a month. Recent data on Elmswell Road was eye opening and we hope similar police action will follow.

In October we were invited to respond to the County's Local Plan which covered housing development, industry, transport etc. A working party met and made 61 responses or comments. Hopefully these reflected the feedback we received from residents.

This year marks the centenary of the end of WW1. There have been pleas for background information on the 60+ from Great Ashfield who served in the war. If these pleas have missed you but you can help then please contact any councillor.

Finally my thanks to all the Parish Councillors for their time, ideas and effort this year (tree planting, dog bin repair, CSW liaison, broadband meetings, making salt boxes, making the books balance, rodding drains and so much more) , also to Sandra for keeping us in order. For a small parish we seem to have punched above our weight this year. We are always happy to see you at any meeting.

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL THEDWASTRE NORTH 2018

### 2017/18 News highlights

#### **On 4 May 2017, Suffolk Conservatives won the County Council elections with a majority of 29**

I stood for election and have the honour to represent Thedwastre North for another four years. There was a 36.71% turn out, and of the 75 Suffolk County Councillors, 52 are now Conservative Councillors.

We stood on a manifesto of strong financial control. We are always mindful that it's your hard-earned money that pays for the services we provide to the most vulnerable people in Suffolk, from protecting children to helping older people with social care support. After one of the worst winters on record, with a number of extremely damaging frosts, we have begun the permanent repair programme - as we do each year, once our crews have stopped their gritting work. We spend about £15m a year on our roads and we all want to spend more. That's why, as per our manifesto, we are borrowing £21m over the next 4 years to surface dress over 1,000 miles of our 4,000 mile network.

#### **More news highlights from 2017/18**

Here is a selection of news items from Suffolk County Council that featured over the last 12 months. For further details on any of these stories, and more, visit <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/>.

#### **Suffolk passes 90% fibre broadband milestone as commitment to connect entire county is reiterated**

On 21 July 2017, new figures were published that show that nine out of every 10 homes and businesses in Suffolk now have superfast broadband available. Suffolk County Council and Openreach have signed a new contract to extend coverage to 98% during 2020. Plans are being developed for the remaining 2% to complete the Better Broadband for Suffolk programme.

Around 315,000 properties now have the option of using fibre broadband, an increase of more than 127,000 from when the Better Broadband for Suffolk programme started deployment in 2013. It comes as Suffolk County Council reiterates its commitment to provide high-speed internet access for all properties in the county – no-one will be left behind.

## **Suffolk County Council's Children's Services continue to improve following Ofsted pilot inspection**

On 6 November 2017, it was announced that the council's Children's Services are now rated 'Good' in all areas. Ofsted have developed a new framework for their future inspections of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS). Earlier this year, Suffolk County Council was asked to be a pilot site for this new inspection framework.

Suffolk County Council's Children's Services were previously judged 'Good' overall at the end of 2015, a grade that only a third of Local Authorities have achieved.

Whilst this was positive, the council recognised that there were still areas for improvement and Ofsted's latest report reflects the action taken to improve in all areas. All areas are now judged to be 'Good'. This puts Suffolk County Council in the top 25% of all Local Authorities.

## **Suffolk County Council's 2018/19 budget proposals published**

On 14 November 2017, proposals to balance Suffolk County Council's budget in 2018/19 were published. These included an option to increase the basic rate of council tax for the first time in seven years and a range of savings plans.

All local authorities across the country continue to face significant challenges to meet frontline service requirements in a climate where there is less money and resource available. Once again, the council has carefully considered financial forecasts and projected demand to ensure the most vulnerable people in society continue to receive the highest level of support possible in the future.

The council also continues to develop new and innovative ways to deliver services and make further savings. This includes using digital technology to improve efficiency and ensuring health and social care services working better together to improve access for the people that need help. These programmes will support the authority as it seeks to make savings of £56 million by 2021.

## **Suffolk is chosen as one of only 10 pilot areas to retain 100% of business rates**

On 20 December 2017, the amount of money allocated to each Local Authority in England for the next financial year was announced by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid.

As part of the announcement, Suffolk County Council was named as one of the pilot areas for a new Government scheme to retain 100% of business rates from Council Tax in 2018/19. In future, Business Rates will be an even greater income stream for all local authorities.

## **Additional £21 million to resurface and repair Suffolk's roads**

On 15 January 2018, Suffolk County Council announced new plans to invest an additional £21 million in resurfacing and repairing the county's roads in the next three years.

The plans will see 1,000 miles of roads in Suffolk resurfaced by March 2021, a quarter of all the roads that Suffolk County Council is responsible for. This is a commitment made in the council's Our Priorities report published in 2017.

This investment will improve the quality of roads, reduce the number of potholes and enhance the experience of Suffolk's road users. It also makes sound financial sense as preventing deterioration will avoid the need to spend more money on reactive maintenance over the same period and in future years. Over 227 miles of Suffolk roads were surface dressed or machined surfaced during the summer of 2017.

The funding will boost Suffolk Highways' road maintenance and improvement spending in 2018/19 alone by 21% - £40 million in total. The extra money will be allocated to roads and infrastructure where there is the greatest need. These works will be planned carefully to make the most of the warmer summer weather when surface dressing needs to be done and conditions are the best for machine surfacing. This work will be fully coordinated to reduce the impact on road users.

**A reminder:** You can access up-to-date information about roadworks, road and street closures and how they affect you, as well as information about road improvements projects in Suffolk. The interactive map can be found at [www.roadworks.org](http://www.roadworks.org)

## **Revised GCSE and A Level results reflect progress of Suffolk students**

The Department for Education published revised GCSE and A Level results on 25 January 2018.

The validated figures confirm that 3% more students in Suffolk are achieving the expected standards in English and Maths at GCSE compared with last year. 63.1% of students in the county are achieving the expected standard in English and Maths and Suffolk has closed the gap to national to less than 1%. Suffolk has also risen by 26 places in national league tables for this measure, to 83rd out of 151 authorities. The county has risen 5 places in national rankings for the percentage of students achieving the English Baccalaureate.

The Revised A Level figures confirm that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the General Applied entry and Tech Level entries remaining above the national average figures.

Since the launch of the council's Raising the Bar programme in 2012, Suffolk has risen 59 places in national rankings for GCSE attainment in English and Maths. 87% of schools in Suffolk are judged by Ofsted to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

## New Chief Executive for Suffolk County Council

In March 2018, Nicola Beach was appointed as Suffolk County Council's new Chief Executive.

Nicola, who is currently Executive Director of Infrastructure and Environment at Essex County Council, will take up her new role this summer. She was appointed due to the wealth of experience she has in local government, having been Chief Executive at Braintree District Council before joining Essex County Council, and having held various other roles in authorities across the East of England.

## Locality Budget 2017/18

Commitments Carried forward from previous year £2,452.00

Budget allocated for 2017/2018 £8,000.00

Total available budget for 2017/2018 £10,452.

22/07/2015 Norton Parish Council Refurbishment of the War Memorial (Committed 2015-16) £2,000.00

20/12/2016 Bury St Edmunds Past & Present Society. Digitisation of glass photo images of villages in the division by Spanton&Jarman (Committed 2016-17) £250.00

22/03/2017 Woolpit Parish Council Refurbishment of the War Memorial (Committed 2016-17) £202.00

16/10/2017 Great Ashfield Parish Council Mini-SID (speed indicator device) £1,200.00 16/10/2017 Great Ashfield Lord Thurlow Hall New windows for the Lord Thurlow Hall £1,200.00

Commitments 25/10/2017 Woolpit Cricket Club Broadband installation charges £2,874.00

Total allocated £7,726.00

Remaining balance 21/03/2018 £2,726.00

These figures can be checked, along with other information, on the Suffolk County Council website - <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/council-and-democracy/councillors-and-elected-representatives/locality/Mid-Suffolk-Locality-Budget.pdf>