

**GREAT ASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7.30pm  
The Lord Thurlow Village Hall**

**Mr. A Peake – Chairman\***

**Mr. R. Barker – Vice-Chairman\***

**Mrs. N. Calderbank\***

**Mr. B. Fitch**

**Mr. I. Sadler\***

**Mrs D. Stick\***

**Present: All marked\***

Mrs S. Austin took the minutes.

No members of the public in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. Record Councillors' apologies for absence**

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Fitch.

**2. Declarations of interest**

None received.

**3. Suffolk County Councillor**

Cllr Storey sent her apologies a report had been received and circulated to Councillors which included: Schools in Suffolk see an improvement in results across a range of subjects at GCSE level, The Hold – preserving Suffolk's history for many years to come, Suffolk bucks the national trend for vaccine rates as the UK loses its 'measles free' status, Unsafe goods totalling £23 million detained at the Port of Felixstowe, Keeping Suffolk's villages safe with Lorry Watch, A number of bus services to continue despite funding challenge. Cllr Storey also confirmed in an email: 'If the parish want to produce a footpath map then I would like to support the printing of that from my locality budget.'

**District Councillor**

No report had been received.

**Public Forum**

No members of the public in attendance.

**4. To Sign the Minutes of the Previous Meeting as a True Record**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were signed as a correct record.

**5. To consider co-option of Councillor**

No members of the public had put themselves forward.

**6. Reports**

- i. General Highways: Potholes on the corner of Elmswell Road just before School Road Ref: 250501 – Highways had responded it does not warrant remedial action at this time. Dip in road/drain opposite Elmswell Road cul-de-sac had been re-reported Ref: 253629. Cllr

Sadler asked if the road in Daisy Green could be resurfaced, the clerk to inform Highways.

- ii. Community Speed Watch Report: Cllr Stick updated Council all going well and the police have also been in attendance. A report of the speed watch sessions and outcomes were given. Currently there are 13 members of Speed Watch 8 from Long Thurlow and 5 from Great Ashfield. A brief update on Elmswell Speed Watch was given. Great Ashfield/Long Thurlow may co-ordinate with Elmswell speed watch.
- iii. Clerks Report: The second tranche of £300 locality monies from C.Cllr Jane Storey towards the publishing of booklets etc had been applied for and confirmation received; payment should be made within the next 5-10 working days.

Working Group Draft Local Plan Consultation recommendations: Council discussed and agreed Cllr Peake to send comments to MSDC of 'Consulted in 2017 and made the same point, which was ignored. This is a hamlet village, linear with essentially four separate areas of housing. All services run along the main road. Putting the settlement boundary tightly around the four housing areas - so tight that more recent housing and gardens are outside the area - means that future housing plans will be difficult to approve. Great Ashfield is an active village but is ageing, groups are finding it hard to gather volunteers. The settlement boundary needs to be one area alongside the main road replacing the four separate areas. We can then consider new housing that may draw in additional people and change Great Ashfield from a decaying hamlet to a more vibrant one.'

#### **7. To agree Tree planting in village**

To defer to the next meeting.

#### **8. To consider community newspaper deliveries**

Cllr Barker reported to Council on community newspaper deliveries, Council discussed and agreed there didn't appear to be a need at the present time.

#### **9. Salt boxes review and to consider any further works needed**

The location of the salt bins - map had been forwarded to SCC Highways for filling for the winter months. Cllr Peake reported the salt bin on Hantons/Green Lane had been destroyed, it was hoped to build a new one.

#### **10. Annual review of Asset register & risk review**

The Register of Assets had been circulated to Councillors, to adjust to show currently only 10 salt boxes. Council briefly discussed the need to earmark reserves for replacement of major assets when the budget is discussed in November. The Risk Assessment of Assets had been circulated to Councillors, Council reviewed, to amend to show the printer is held by Cllr Peake.

#### **11. Annual review of Newsletter costs**

Council discussed and all happy with the current cost of Newsletter printing.

### **12. Update on history of schooling/education in Great Ashfield event**

Cllr Stick gave an update on findings so far, including pictures. So far, thirty-three families have been researched and it was hoped to include a virtual walk of the village again. Much information had been found from the Bury Free Press including reportage of an annual sports event. To place on next agenda.

### **13. Update on War Memorial/Roll of Honour**

Cllr Barker advised the PCC had received the letter from the Parish Council but they had not had a meeting yet on the matter. Cllr Stick suggested a memorial garden. The Roll of Honour had not been refurbished as yet. To place item on next agenda.

### **14. To consider Village Sign maintenance**

Cllr Barker reported he had spoken to a contractor who had advised the sign will need to be lifted to clean the rot away and re set in resin and seal. All in agreement for Cllr Barker to go ahead if the total costs were under a £100.

### **15. To consider footpath map**

All Councillors had a copy of the original footpath leaflet, Council discussed various footpaths maps including a WW1 map using the virtual walk as well as a WW2 map. Council agreed to a working party to look at different maps and ideas, to place on the January agenda.

### **16. To consider to adopt updated Financial Regulations**

A copy of the updated Financial Regulations had been circulated to all Councillors, all in agreement to adopt the updated Financial Regulations.

### **17. Correspondence**

To circulate: Clerks & Councils Direct July & September issues

Circulated:

- i. Publication of Mid Suffolk Five Year Housing Land Supply Position Statement & Joint Annual Monitoring Report – Noted
- ii. PCC says it's your police service – tell us what you think - Noted
- iii. Email from District Councillor Wendy Turner – Climate Change - Noted
- iv. Email from resident in regards the Blue Plaque: Cllr Stick to arrange new plaque with updated wording, to also amend booklets when re-printed. Cllr Stick had responded to resident.

### **18. Planning**

- i. **Application DC/19/04283 2 Daisy Green: Erection of single storey front and single and two storey rear extensions (following demolition of sun room and garage) Insertion of dormer window and application of cladding to front elevation:** Council discussed and a majority decision (three to two) to object to the application with the comment: Council were happy with the rear extension but felt the front extension and cladding was out of character with the associated dwellings.
- ii. **Applications decided by planning authority:** None received.

No further planning applications had been received.

### **19. Finance Report and to consider the payment of invoices**

The second quarter against budget had been circulated to Councillors. To confirm the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of the precept had been received of £1,207.50, a donation of £10 for the booklet 'Here but Not Here' had been received and banked, £300 locality monies to be received in the next 5-10 working days. The deposit account held £802.12 at 28.8.19 the current account had a cleared balance of £4021.52 at 10.9.19.

All Councillors in agreement for the payment of invoices below:

- i. Insurance Review and to agree payment of premium: Insurance schedule and papers had been circulated to Councillors, all in agreement the Council qualified for the micro policy at a revised annual premium of £218.
- ii. HMRC payment: a cheque no: 367 was raised for £70
- iii. Ladywell Accountancy Services invoice for £25: a cheque no: 368 was raised for £25
- iv. Clerks salary and expenses to 31.9.19: a cheque no: 369 was raised for £301.12
- v. Came & Co insurance premium as agreed above: a cheque no: 370 was raised for £218
- vi. No further invoices had been received

### **20. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda**

To place Speedar calibration, emergency officer, neighbourhood watch/police on the next agenda. Cllr Sadler advised he had attended a meeting with Cllr Peake and a village business owner to discuss broadband, who had received a proposal of fibre to the home at a cost of £30,000. The area covers approximately 55 homes subject to confirmation, it was hoped if enough householders signed up it would be £23 to £30 a month. It was advised there was also a rural voucher available, if they can get at least 20 households this would cover the cost. A meeting to be called, to be held on a Saturday morning in the village hall to explain the details to those who may be interested. To place broadband on the next agenda.

### **21. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in the Lord Thurlow Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.