

GREAT ASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 25th January 2018 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*

Mr. R. Watts

Present: All marked*

Mrs S. Austin took the minutes.

No members of the public attended

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Record Councillors' apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr R Watts

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest received

3. Suffolk County Councillor

Cllr Storey did not attend; the January report had been received and circulated. Clerk to ask Cllr Storey to attend the next meeting.

District Councillor

District Cllr Barker attended and reported they were currently setting the budgets, at the moment it was looking at a half per cent increase. The biggest issue presently is the possible merger with Babergh and they are currently looking at all outcomes, Council briefly discussed. The waste department went through Christmas well and are up to date. The Planning department has lost a third of their officers due to the move to Endeavour House.

Public Forum

No members of the public attended.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 30th November 2017 were signed as a correct record.

5. Reports

- i. General Highways: The clerk updated Council on outstanding highway issues including the damaged safety barrier on Elmswell Road which SCC have confirmed works will be carried out to rectify the issue within approximately 14 calendar weeks. The flooding on Elmswell Road has been reported again to SCC and an email sent to Cllr Storey asking for an update on the issue, no response has been received so far. Cllr Barker advised he had organised for the ditches bordering the flooded ditch to be dug out again which had helped to alleviate the problem. Cllr Barker advised he had reported a number of potholes on Elmswell Road to SCC as well as a dangerously leaning electricity pole to UK

Power Networks, which should be inspected imminently. Cllr Barker to also look into the faded 30mph signage opposite Holly Lodge. Cllr Stick advised a dog waste bin on Hantons Lane was leaning dangerously and needed emptying, the clerk to inform MSDC, and Cllr Peake to inspect. Cllr Peake had reported a pot hole on Ashfield Hill and the flooding issues caused by faulty drain on the corner of Daisy Green, to inform Cllr Storey of this continuing problem.

- ii. Clerks Report: Transparency grant funding to cover the purchase of a laptop, software and scanner has been approved and £660.56 will be placed in the Councils bank account within the next month. The Council website is currently being updated by Community Action Suffolk and we will be unable to access it between 22 January and 30 January. The clerk has booked a free 2 hour training session provided by CAS covering how to use the new upgraded site. A separate folder has been created both hard copy and digital to keep Community Speedwatch updates rather than attaching them to the minutes.
- iii. Broadband update: Cllr Sadler advised he had received an email from Cllr Storey stating the majority of postcodes in Daisy Green will receive faster broadband by March 2019. Cllr Sadler has asked for a list of postcodes which are not due to receive the upgrade, to place on next agenda.

6. To note CSW update and to consider any grant applications

It was noted all Councillors had received a Community Speedwatch update, this was briefly discussed. It was felt on the whole the signage was working; information on speedwatch will be placed in the next Newsletter, to place on next agenda. Cllr Stick advised a large 30mph sign had been found propped up by a telegraph pole, the clerk to advise SALC asking them to email villages asking if any had lost a 30mph sign which apparently sits over a village sign.

7. To consider Beacon 2018 event

Cllr Barker showed Council the damage to the Roll of Honour 1914-1918, Cllr Barker to take to local calligrapher for a quote, Council agreed, if under £200 to get the works done. To place on next agenda. Cllr Stick updated Council on her work looking at those who fought in World War 1 from the village. Council discussed, it was hoped to possibly tie this work in to the welcome pack to new residents, to also try to get a grant for this. Details of the event to be placed in the next Newsletter.

8. Correspondence

To circulate: Clerks & Councils Direct, The Local Councillor x 2, Cllr Jane Storey January report, Age UK donation request, MSDC letter re a single new Council and Suffolk County Council Spring Clean 2018. Cllr Barker suggested having a spring clean day to clean signage and vegetation around the signs, to place on next agenda.

9. Planning

Applications determined by planning authority:

DC/17/05404 Westside Cottage, Norton Road – Granted 20.12.17

DC/17/05673 Ashfield House, Elmswell Road – Granted 2.1.18

10. Finance Report and to consider payment of invoices

All in agreement for the payment of invoices, it was asked if the budget 2018-19 could be made available for the next meeting:

- i. I.C.O. subscription 2018-19 £35: a cheque no: 322 was raised for £35
- ii. Laptop, software & scanner inv. For £603: a cheque no:323 was raised for £603
- iii. No further invoices had been received

11. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

Cllr Stick advised there were still bin stickers available to sell. Cllr Calderbank to ask residents on Elmswell road. Cllr Sadler asked about defibrillators, this was briefly discussed. Cllrs: Barker and Fitch advised they were meeting to discuss trees in the village, to place on next agenda for an update. Cllr Stick highlighted a tree with a broken branch which may need looking at. Cllr Peake advised the email address: greatashfieldpc@outlook.com was available to use.

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 29th March, 2018 in the Lord Thurlow Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.