

**GREAT ASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7.30pm  
At the Lord Thurlow Hall**

**Mr. A. Peake – Chairman\***

**Mr. R. Barker – Vice-Chairman\***

**Mrs. N. Calderbank\***

**Mr. B. Fitch\***

**Mrs. D. Stick\***

**Mr. R. Watts\***

**Present: All marked\***

Mrs S. Austin took the minutes. Six members of the public attended  
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

All Councillors in attendance

**2. Declarations of interest**

Cllr Barker in respect of being a MSDC Councillor item 13

**3. Visiting Speakers**

- i. County Councillor: Cllr Jane Storey attended and gave a report which included: the resources budget had agreed a 3% rise for adult social care levy and a 0% rise in general council tax. Discussions had taken place in regards to the site at Mildenhall; they would like it to stay as some kind of airfield. They are currently looking at a hybrid solution at the moment possibly housing, light industrial use/aircraft maintenance. There is a cabinet meeting next week an EDF consultation on Sizewell 2. Devolution deal currently nothing further happening but there may be a possible Suffolk only deal. The January 2017 Thedwastre North report was circulated.  
Cllr Storey updated Council on broadband provision in certain areas in the village with poor connectivity. It was advised if there is a cluster of premises with less than 2mbpsec and are not getting updated for at least 12 months they may go on the Better Broadband website. Within the website there is an option to go to Community Broadband where, if criteria are met they may receive a £200 voucher per household; they would need to contact BT Open Reach directly. There is also a possibility of farmers digging trenches for cable to outlying premises called 'fibre to the farm' which can be looked into.  
Cllr Storey updated Council on highway issues which included: Badwell Ash, Stowlangtoft, Great Ashfield and Long Thurlow would all like use of VAS Cllr Storey was happy to support this. The Chair advised he had already ascertained the visibility lengths needed for the poles to place the VAS on. It was advised the highways officer for the area would make a site visit to check these were satisfactory. Cllr Storey highlighted that speeding was a problem in most villages. It was suggested SCC were reactive rather than proactive. Cllr Storey to send out a template of how to implement a new 30mph area

and environmental weight limit. The clerk to contact Cllr Storey at the beginning of May to ask for monies from the new Locality budget to finance dragon's teeth and gates at the beginning and end of the village.

- ii. District Councillor: Cllr Roy Barker attended and gave a report which included: MSDC are looking to increase their section of the council tax by 1.64%. They are currently moving to a Cabinet system of governance rather than a Committee system used at present. Cllr Barker advised if anyone sees any hare coursing to please contact 999 and if possible to note any vehicle number plates for the police. If any member of the public has anything of concern they may contact Cllr Barker and he will try and resolve the issue.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016 had been circulated, and were signed as a correct record of proceeding.

#### **5. To consider Co-Option of Councillor**

No member of the public had come forward to be considered a further notice to be placed on the notice board, to place on next agenda.

#### **6. Matters arising from the previous meeting**

- i. General Highways: the clerk read out a response received from Portable Spaces which was read to Council. A response from SCC Highways re the visibility at the Norton/Elmswell Road junction had been received and was read to Council. It was asked if anything further could be done about safety/visibility at the junction; there was particular concern in regards to the site of the BT box and visibility for low vehicles coming out onto Elmswell Road. The clerk to go back to Highways asking if they considered the BT box and if there were any further safety marking that could be used. To ask highways to look at the drainage and flooding potential/red safety barriers on Elmswell Road between No.1 and Lindsay Farm. To also advise highways the jetting of the drain between The Glen and the first house on the Elmswell Road Estate had not worked and there were still problems with the drain.
- ii. Speeding in Village: traffic calming measures were discussed, it was reported Long Thurlow residents had paid for 30mph signage to go on their bins. The Chair distributed maps with 7 potential sites for poles for cameras these were discussed. As part of SCC highway criteria any householders in the vicinity of poles would need to be consulted. Council agreed to 5 possible sites, the Chair to complete the forms in the first instance. Once SCC have the completed forms they will arrange a site visit to verify their suitability.
- iii. Broadband provision in Village: This was covered in item 3i.

#### **7. Clerks Report**

An update had been received from the SAAA on the new audit arrangements and was read to Council: For the financial year 2016/17 there are no changes to your existing audit arrangements and you should continue to work with your existing auditors on limited assurance reviews for accounts for the financial year 1.4.16 – 31.3.17. The new appointments only become effective for the five year period in relation to accounts for the financial year beginning on 1 April 2017. All matters relating to

the financial year 2016-17, including the Annual Return for the year 2016-17, should still be sent to your current external auditor. For Suffolk based Councils this is still BDO LLP.

A further update has been received the audit fees if necessary for 2017-18 to 2012-22 will be £200.

## **8. Correspondence**

Correspondence to circulate to Councillors: Thedwastre North January report, The Local Councillor x 2, Suffolk Age UK letter, MSDC press release 'notice to change governance arrangements under the Localism Act 2011' and Clerk and Councils Direct. An email received from local SNT co-ordinator was read to Council with two meetings arranged on 21 February and 8 March to discuss local issues/concerns updates on the progress of the SNT.

- i. **SCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan consultation:** Council discussed and no comment was made
- ii. **Beacon – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018:** Council discussed Cllr Barker to look into it and report back at the next meeting, to place on next agenda.
- iii. **Nomination to Buckingham Palace Garden Party:** The Chair did not wish to be considered.

## **9. Update on Village Sign**

Cllr Barker advised he was still waiting for the quote, to place on the next agenda.

## **10. Update on recently planted trees in Village**

Cllr Fitch reported they had found most of the trees, a number had died and some were in a bad way. It was advised if Council wished to plant more trees this would have to be completed in the autumn. To place on the September agenda to consider whether to purchase replacement trees.

## **11. Annual review of provision of dog waste bins**

Council discussed and all in agreement to keep the current dog waste bins and review annually.

## **12. To consider the re-binding of Millennium Book**

A report was received on the re-binding, four options were given:

- To repair existing binding, adding new end papers, use existing case £100
- To repair existing binding, drill and sew pages, add new end papers, use existing case £150
- To drill and sew existing pages, add new endpapers, make new case foil block title £250
- To make a new book using your spare sheets and endpapers, full bind in leather, raised bands on spine, tooling to front cover, gold block title, coloured headbands and ribbon marker £500

Council discussed all the options it was asked when the bookbinder would be able to start the job and how long it would take him. It was agreed Cllr Stick to look into heritage lottery grants available, the clerk to contact Cllr Storey if any locality monies could be made available. To place on the next agenda.

## **13. Planning**

- i. **Application No: 5046/16 9 Main Road – Erection of two storey & single storey rear extension:** Council discussed and agreed by majority decision no comment.

- ii. **No applications decided by the planning authority had been received.**

**14. Finance Report and payment of invoices**

It was confirmed a cheque for £150 had been received from SCC (Cllr Jane Storey locality budget) in respect of HM Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday party.

All Councillors in agreement for the payment of invoices.

- i. **ICO renewal subscription £35:** a cheque no:295 was raised for £35
- ii. **SALC inv:18435 £120 and inv:18506 £30 Councillor training:** a cheque no:296 for £120 was raised and cheque no: 297 for £30 was raised
- iii. **Mileage @ .45p per mile to J.Constantine re Millennium book:** To be placed on next agenda
- iv. **D. Barker purchases made in respect of HM Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday:** a cheque no: 298 for £149 was raised.
- v. **SCC street lighting and maintenance:** To place on next agenda
- vi. **Great Ashfield Village Hall rent 1.4.16 – 31.3.17 £88:** a cheque no: 299 for £88 was raised.
- vii. **No further invoices had been received**

**15. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda**

It was reported a number of dog walkers leaving dog waste bags in the area leading up to Hall Farm, the clerk to contact MSDC asking for some signage which could be used, the Chair to put a notice in the newsletter asking dog walkers to put dog waste bags in a bin. Cllr Barker advised Great Ashfield church may have a harvest festival with a combined flower festival details to follow later in the year. A number of pot holes were reported on Lea Lane. Village sign, Millennium Book and Beacon to be placed on next agenda.

**16. Date of next meeting**

The next scheduled meeting was confirmed as Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Great Ashfield Parish Council  
Signed:

Date: