

GREAT ASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 26th November 2015 at 7.30pm
At the Lord Thurlow Hall**

Mrs. S. Orford – Chairman*

Mr. S. Miles – Vice-Chairman*

Mrs. N. Calderbank*

Mr. B. Fitch*

Mr. R. Barker*

Mr. A. Peake*

Mr. R. Watts*

Present: All marked*

Mrs S. Austin took the minutes.

No members of the public attended (see attendance book)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Record Councillors' apologies for absence

All Councillors in attendance

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations received

3. County Councillors Report

Cllr Storey attended and gave her report which included: Cabinet meeting held on 10th November which included The Fire Authority Risk Management Plan which may be viewed through on a link on the Suffolk County Council website. Cllr Storey highlighted nothing is to happen with the Elmswell or Ixworth fire station. Cllr Storey advised monies were still available through the locality budget. It was asked whether an application would be considered from the village hall as they were having to install disabled toilets. It was advised this would be suitable; Cllr Barker to advise the village hall on how to send the application to Cllr Storey. Cllr Orford asked whether monies could be made available for the maintenance of the village sign. Cllr Barker to arrange for a quote for the works, Cllr Storey would allocate the monies for the works from next year's locality monies. Cllr Storey reported on her attendance at the Community Emergency Planning Conference at Stowupland. Emergency planning was a valuable exercise to find out what resources/equipment was available in your area also UK Power Networks and Anglian Water give priority to older residents or those in need when an emergency occurred. Council discussed the matter and felt they were already well placed with locally know contacts in an emergency but would like more information on the help that could be given from UK Power and Anglian Water, the clerk to find out details. A number of Highway issues were reported to Cllr Storey who agreed to follow them up including: Missing 'slow' written on the road, passing place, gully between The Glen and Elmswell cul-de-sac, pothole outside Ashfield House, the clerk to also report them to SCC. The October and November report were circulated.

Great Ashfield Parish Council

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Date:

4. District Councillors Report

Cllr Barker gave his report which included: District Councillors now had an allocation budget and £1000 would be allocated to Great Ashfield Village Hall to help with refurbishment. The waste calendars would no longer be supplied to all residents but can be viewed on the Mid Suffolk District Website. The clerk to send a copy of the waste calendar to the editor of the Newsletter for possible inclusion. The cost of emptying the dog waste bins is to rise next year, the clerk to put this item on the next agenda. Cllr Barker reported the police had retrieved the capping stones which had recently been stolen.

5. Suffolk Constabulary Report

No Officer attended and no report had been received.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 24th September, 2015 had been circulated, and were signed as a correct record of proceedings.

7. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- i. General Highways – The ‘raised’ footpath outside Church Cottage had been reported to Highways, the clerk to chase. Possible footpath from Great Ashfield to Elmswell, Council discussed and agreed the clerk to give contact details of SCC to resident advising that the Council is happy if the resident wishes to pursue this with Suffolk County Council.
- ii. Elmswell Road amenity land – Cllr Barker advised the complaint from a resident had been progressed up to the Inspectorate but he had heard nothing further. The clerk reported Cllr Storey had not advised whether she was taking this matter to the Inspectorate.

8. Clerks Report

The transparency code funding has been accepted and will be credited into the Parish Councils bank account. The pension auto enrolment date is January 2016. The clerk will inform the pension authority the parish council has one entitled worker who does not wish to pay into a pension scheme, the parish council to review this in three years.

9. Correspondence

An email had been received from a resident with concerns at a possible planning application. The clerk had noted the concerns. A factsheet on the procurement of audit for smaller authorities had been received and circulated to Councillors a copy had also been placed in the circulation folder. Council discussed the appointment of an auditor and agreed to have an auditor procured for them through the ‘sector led body’ which would cost approximately £100 for 5 years. Included in the circulation folder: Thedwastre North October and November reports, a letter from Headway Suffolk and Clerks & Councils Direct.

10. Long Thurlow Road Sign

Council discussed and agreed to keep the Long Thurlow road sign as it is.

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11. HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

Council discussed and agreed a Traditional Tea Party to be held in the village hall 4 – 6pm on a date in June to be arranged. Cllr Calderbank agreed to organise a working party to organise the event and would send a notice for inclusion in the next Newsletter to the editor.

12. Village Hall Report

- i. **Village Hall Insurance Update:** Cllr Orford reported she had spoken to the Chair and Secretary of the village hall who had stated they had insurance for the village hall, Cllr Orford had not seen a copy but would advise them it should be displayed.

13. Village Sign

This item had been discussed in item 3 Cllr Barker to obtain a quote for the maintenance works needed on the brickwork.

14. Village Newsletter

The clerk advised copy to the editor by 30 November for inclusion in the next newsletter with the hope to have it ready for distribution by 8/9th December. Cllr Miles advised he had sent in an article reporting on the final Trash and Treasure event.

15. Financial Regulations Review

Council discussed and agreed no changes were necessary

16. Financial Risk Assessment Review

Council discussed and agreed no changes were necessary

17. Dates for Parish Council Meetings

Council agreed the dates for next year's parish council meetings as: Thursday 28 January 2016, Thursday 31 March, Thursday 26 May (To follow the Annual Parish Meeting), Thursday 29 September and Thursday 24 November.

18. Planning

- i. **Application No: 3809/15 Ashfield House, Elmswell Road: Single Storey rear extension to existing annex accommodation:** Council discussed all in agreement – No Objection
- ii. **Planning decisions received: Application No: 2556/15 14 Elmswell Road - Refused**

19. Finance Report and to consider payment of invoices

All Councillors in agreement for the payment of invoices

- i. **To consider budget and precept 2016/17:** Council discussed, Cllr Barker proposed keeping the precept the same as last year, Cllr Watts seconded all in agreement.

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- ii. **Grass cutting Dec – Nov 2015:** a cheque no: 276 for £60 was raised
- iii. **Stanton Parish Council bespoke training inv: £12.20:** a cheque no:275 for £12.20 was raised.
- iv. **No further invoices had been received**

20. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

Cllrs Barker and Miles thanked everyone for all their work and help on the Trash and Treasure, it was a wonderful community event and had raised over £10,000. Cllr Barker thanked Cllr Miles for the use of his venue for the event. The Trash and Treasure and Truck Rallies have raised over £100,000 over the years and the final event was a good way to finish. Cllr Miles hoped to put photographs from the event into an edition of the Newsletter for all to see. Cllr Fitch advised of an overgrown hedge in Elmswell cul-de-sac had been reported to him. Cllr Fitch had spoken to the resident who has agreed to cut it back.

21. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 28th January, 2016 in the Lord Thurlow Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Great Ashfield Parish Council
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Date: