

GREAT ASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 29th September 2016 at 7.30pm
At the Lord Thurlow Hall**

Mr. A. Peake – Chairman*

Mr. R. Barker – Vice-Chairman

Mrs. N. Calderbank*

Mr. B. Fitch*

Mr. R. Watts*

Present: All marked*

Mrs S. Austin took the minutes. Four members of the public attended

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Record Councillors' apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Barker

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest received

3. Visiting Speakers

- i. County Councillor: Cllr Jane Storey attended and gave her report which included the budget, adult care and the possible combining of fire and police. Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council may be moving staff into Endeavour House in Ipswich, Council briefly discussed.
- ii. District Councillor: Cllr Roy Barker did not attend and no report had been received

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 26th May 2016 had been circulated, and were signed as a correct record of proceeding.

5. To consider Co-Option of Councillors

All Councillors in agreement to co-opt Donia Stick who dually completed and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Stick was given a new Councillor pack. A resident to consider whether to put themselves forward to be co-opted as Councillor; to be sent an agenda for the next scheduled meeting.

6. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- i. General Highway issues – **cyclists on rural roads**: Council discussed and agreed Clerk to write to Stowmarket cycling club asking them to remind all cyclists of the dangers of narrow country roads and not to ride abreast on them.

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heavy traffic through Daisy Green: Council expressed concern at the large amount of heavy vehicles, a number of them Blacks lorries, which have caused a number of cracked drains and caused flooding of the road. Cllr Storey was asked if an environmental weight limit of 7.5 tonnes could be imposed, Cllr Storey to question the process for getting a weight limit. Council discussed the matter and agreed the clerk to write to Blacks asking them to take more care through the village, highlighting the broken drains and flooding and asking if there is an alternative route their lorry's could take. Cllr Storey advised that following SCC cabinet in September a new speed limit policy was in force where all requests for speed limit changes from communities are directed to the local County Councillor and, if they are supported, that all costs of developing the changes, including preparations for the Speed Limit Cases Panel be funded from Councillors local Highway Budget. Cllr Storey was asked if a speed limit of 30 miles an hour could be imposed on School Road where slow signs had recently been added. Cllr Storey agreed there was a case to be made for a speed limit round Daisy Green. Council discussed and agreed to put a notice in the next Newsletter asking residents if they were happy to have a 30mile an hour speed limit from School Road through Daisy Green. It was asked who was responsible for the maintenance of road signage; it was advised this was Highways at SCC. It was advised a street light was obscured by tree foliage, Cllr Finch to inform clerk of the pole number. The clerk to inform UK Power Networks asking them to cut the foliage back. A member of the public left the meeting.

- ii. Code of Conduct update: The clerk had sought guidance from SALC and Council could not impose or encourage Councillors to stand down after serving a period of time.

7. Clerk Update

The clerk reported it was good practice for Councils to have an internal control statement, a model template had been adapted for Great Ashfield Parish Council which was circulated. Council discussed and agreed for it to go on the next agenda for adoption.

8. Annual Review of Newsletter Costs

Council discussed and agreed to further funding for the following year keeping to no more than 2 A4 pages for each issue, the clerk to inform the editor.

9. Update on Village Sign

Cllr Barker was not in attendance to update Council, to place on the next agenda

10. To consider Speeding in Village

An email had been received from a resident on their concerns about speeding in the village, the resident was in attendance and updated Council on her concerns. Council discussed what options were available it was agreed the clerk to write to the Safer Neighbourhood Team at Stowmarket asking for more speed checks to be carried out in the village not only in the daytime but in the early

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hours as speeding traffic was reported from 4am. It was hoped more residents who were concerned about speeding in the village would come forward to join a Community Speed Watch group as the minimum number needed was six. The clerk to obtain information on CSW groups and what was needed to allow them to carry out speed checks with a camera. It was agreed Cllr Storey to look into the costs of white fencing to be installed at the beginning and end of the village, similar to that installed in Hunston and Stowlangtoft. Cllr Storey was asked whether any funds could be made available she advised from May the locality budget she received was approximately £7,500 - £8,000 over 12 villages. To place on next agenda.

11. To consider Broadband provision in Village

Cllr Storey advised Better Broadband Suffolk had signed a second contract which should achieve over 95% coverage by the end of 2019. Residents who do not have high speeds may go on the Better Broadband website as they may be able to apply for a voucher towards other options for faster broadband. Council discussed, those with poor broadband to advise Cllr Storey of their telephone number and postcode and she will be able to give a rough idea of when faster broadband will be available. To place on next agenda.

12. Update on recently planted Trees in Village

Cllr Barker was not in attendance to update Council, to place on next agenda.

13. Correspondence

Correspondence to circulate: Clerks & Councils Direct x 2 and The Local Councillor x 2

An invitation had been received for SALC's AGM on Monday, 14th November

An email had been received from SCC and Community Action Suffolk. SCC will no longer host the OneSuffolk website, CAS were taking it over for an annual subscription of £50 + VAT. An email had been received from a company Suffolk.Cloud who were also able to host the OneSuffolk website at £100 annual subscription. Council discussed and agreed to using CAS at £50 + VAT and review next year. The clerk to organise, Council agreed if payment was needed before the next meeting a cheque could be raised for £50 + VAT.

A thank you letter had been received and was read to Council

- i. SALC survey on public services: Council discussed and completed the survey
- ii. Precept Consultation: Council did not wish to respond

14. Planning

- i. **Any applications decided:** Application No: 2098/16 Land adj Willow House, Wetherden Road notification for prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Class C3) – Refused 22 June 2016

15. Finance Report and to consider payment of invoices

All Councillors in agreement for the payment of invoices

- i. **To accept annual return & external auditor certificate:** All in agreement to accept annual return & external auditor certificate

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- ii. **Clerks salary and expenses:** a cheque was raised Cllr Peake proposed a raise of the clerks salary this was seconded by Cllr Calderbank all in agreement.
- iii. **HMRC payment:** a cheque for £50 was raised
- iv. **Insurance premium:** 3 quotes had been received Council discussed and agreed the Hiscox's insurance a cheque was raised for £165
- v. **Ladywell Accountancy Services:** a cheque for £25 was raised
- vi. **N. Calderbank inv for £15 flowers for annual meeting:** a cheque for £15 was raised
- vii. **To confirm payment of Newsletter print:** It was confirmed a cheque for £25 had been raised
- viii. **No further invoices had been received**

16. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

A notice to be placed in the next Newsletter: Reminder to all residents to please cut back their hedges that may encroach the pavement or highway.

17. Date of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting was confirmed at Thursday, 24th November 2016 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Great Ashfield Parish Council

Date:

Signed: