

GREAT ASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 31st March 2016 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

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman were not in attendance.

Council elected Cllr Barker as Chairman for the meeting who signed a declaration of acceptance of office.

1. Record Councillors' apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Orford and Cllr Miles

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Barker declared an interest in item 9i

3. County Councillors Report

Cllr Storey did not attend a report had been received and was circulated.

4. District Councillors Report

Cllr Barker gave his report which was circulated to Councillors.

5. Suffolk Constabulary Report

No Officer attended and no report had been received. Cllr Storey had attended a meeting on the reorganisation of Suffolk Constabulary her notes from the meeting had been circulated by email and a copy was added to the circulation folder.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 8th February 2016 had been circulated, and were signed as a correct record of proceedings.

7. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- i. General Highways – Suffolk County Council have been carrying out drainage works on Ashfield Road, Norton from its junction with the A1088 to its junction with Norton Road. This work is necessary to install a new surface water drain. The pot holes on Elmswell Road the works have been completed. The passing place on School Road has been installed. It

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was reported the drains needed jetting between 14 Elmswell Road back towards School Road, the clerk to report to SCC.

8. Clerks Report

There have been three legislative changes which affect Financial Regulations. The clerk will amend the financial regulations to reflect the changes and update standing orders where necessary and place on next agenda.

9. Correspondence

For circulation: Clerks & Councils Direct, The Local Councillor x 2, letter from SALC on the services they provide, Cllr J Storey's March report and a copy of the notes made by Cllr Storey at the recent Suffolk Constabulary meeting.

A letter and poster has been received from Jo Churchill MP. Poster to be placed on noticeboard and her contact details have been passed to the editor of the Newsletter for inclusion as requested. An email received from UK Power Networks offering posters and sign up leaflets for the Free Priority Services register for those who may need more support in the event of a power cut. Clerk has requested a poster and sign up leaflets the email to be circulated to those on the village hall distribution list. The leader of Suffolk County Council Cllr Chris Noble is holding a question and answer session on Saturday, 2nd April 10 – 2pm in the foyer of the Apex in Bury St Edmunds.

- i. Update on former amenity land: an email had been received from a resident advising they had lost their case with the Local Government Ombudsmen. The resident hoped to find an alternative piece of land to use as an open space/amenity land. Council discussed and agreed the clerk contacts MSDC to ask if they would be willing to buy a small piece of land and maintain it for the community.

10. To consider adopting complaints procedure

A copy had been circulated to Councillors. Council discussed and agreed to adopt the complaints procedure.

11. Update on HM The Queens 90th Birthday Village Celebrations

Cllr Calderbank updated Council everything is going forward. The clerk had received a commemorative medal which is available to purchase this was passed to the working group if they wished to go forward with it.

12. Village Hall Update

Cllr Barker advised one toilet had been completed and they were now on the next phase with the entrance doors and a new hatch to match the doors. It is taking longer as they have to fit the works between village hall bookings. Cllr Peake asked who owned the village hall, Cllr Peake and Cllr Barker to look into this and report back.

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13. Village Sign Update

Cllr Barker didn't have anything to report to place on next agenda.

14. Planning

- i. **Application No: 3918/15 Former Grampian Harris site, St Edmunds Drive, Elmswell – application for approval of reserved matters pursuant to outline planning permission 0846/13 relating to appearance, landscaping layout & scale:** The Planning Officer had received further information/revised plans in respect of the above application and asked Council to take this additional information in account when replying: Council discussed Cllr Peake proposed objecting seconded by Cllr Calderbank all in agreement with the following comments: Due to the scale of the proposal this will increase the traffic congestion in the vicinity. It is already difficult to travel from Great Ashfield to the A14 through Elmswell due to the existing traffic congestion; this will be further exacerbated with the single access from this site together with the increase in train traffic. Safety concerns at the entrance to the co-op retail store will be intensified with the increase in use. The Council also felt the local health clinic at Woolpit will have difficulty coping with the large increase in population.
- ii. **Any applications decided:** Application No: 4449/15 Odessa, Westley Way – alteration and retention of existing annex – granted 16.3.16

15. Finance Report and to consider payment of invoices

All Councillors in agreement for the payment of invoices

- i. **Clerks salary and expenses:** a cheque no: 281 was raised
- ii. **HMRC payment:** a cheque no: 282 was raised
- iii. **Village hall rent:** a cheque no: 283 for £100 was raised
- iv. **No further invoices had been received**

16. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

To place on next agenda: HM The Queens 90th Birthday village celebrations, Amenity land and Village sign update.

17. Date of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting was confirmed at Thursday, 26th May 2016 following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Great Ashfield Parish Council

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