



CREETING ST PETER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held **online via Zoom on Monday, 18th January 2021 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors: M Valladares (Chairman)
R Hitt
M Peacock
T Taylor
D Mason

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
District Cllr M Norris

CSP043/20/21 – PUBLIC FORUM

There were three members of the public present.

CSP044/20/21 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

None had been received.

CSP045/20/21 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

CSP046/20/21 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

CSP047/20/21 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 16TH MARCH 2020 AND 16TH NOVEMBER 2020

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 16th March 2020 and 16th November 2020 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

CSP048/20/21 – MOTION

In line with Standing Orders 9(a) Cllr Valladares proposed the following motion:

This Council pledges to:

1. Declare a climate emergency.
2. Ensure that, in its decisions, it takes into account the impact of its actions on the environment.
3. To work with local government partners towards the aspiration of making the county of Suffolk carbon neutral by 2030.

The motion was unanimously agreed.

It was AGREED: That the motion be passed.

CSP049/20/21 – POLICE REPORT

The Police were not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

CSP050/20/21 - TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR GREEN

Cllr Green was not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

CSP051/20/21 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS – CLLR NORRIS

Cllr Norris' report was circulated prior to the meeting and stated the following:

COVID-19: SUPPORT PAYMENTS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE TOLD TO SELF-ISOLATE ON LOW INCOMES - More residents on low incomes or benefits could now get financial help if they were told to self-isolate due to COVID-19 as Suffolk councils extended support payments to help more people. Previously Test and Trace Support payments could only be given to people meeting certain criteria, including on benefits. Now Councils across Suffolk had extended this, using their discretion, to help those on low incomes but not on benefits.

Councils across Suffolk were helping administer the Government grant scheme to help people remain at home and do their bit to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Details about the Test and Trace Support Payments could be found on District and Borough Council websites and how to apply for it. It was part of a range of measures that councils across Suffolk had introduced to support communities and businesses during the coronavirus pandemic, which included the new Suffolk Support and Advice Service phone line to help those facing financial difficulty.

COUNCILS LOOK TO SLASH FLEET EMISSIONS - Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils were considering proposals to cut their fleet's carbon emissions by up to 90% – supporting the councils' carbon neutral aims, by moving their vehicle fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). The proposals formed a major step in the councils' Carbon Reduction Management Plan, which set out how net zero carbon emissions aimed to be achieved by 2030. If approved, the move would see a significant reduction in pollutant emissions for the fleet, including up to a 90% reduction in CO₂. It would also support a circular economy, as the HVO fuel was produced from sustainable feedstock, including waste cooking oil. Currently, the councils' vehicle fleet represented 26% of the councils' total CO₂ emissions, approximately 880 tonnes per year. The fleet included the councils' 35 waste lorries, as well as some vehicles used by the public realm and housing services. Moving to the new fuel would initially cost around £50k per council. An estimated further £56 - £97k per year, per council, over the next three years, would also need to be agreed to cover fuel costs. However, by using HVO, lower maintenance costs and longer engine life for the vehicles were expected.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION FOR 2021! - The new look Regal Theatre in Stowmarket was starting to take shape with the construction of two additional auditoria and a new café area in recent months. The Regal was benefiting from a £3.6m investment including a comprehensive expansion and refurbishment programme which would see it boast three modern cinema screens, improved audio-visual experience, as well as a new front of house, café and bar area. Works were also being undertaken to restore and preserve many of the original features of the existing building built in 1936. Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the project managers, Northmores, and the main contractor Mixbrow, had maintained progress on site with a significant proportion of the structures, electrics and utilities having been installed. The final elements of the project including new seating, cinema screens and interior design features were due to be completed early in 2021. The Regal Theatre Project, being led by Stowmarket Town Council and Mid Suffolk District Council, would be a key attraction forming part of a wider vision for the development of Stowmarket. The project and the wider vision sought to attract more visitors to Stowmarket who could enjoy the shopping, leisure activities, bars and restaurants on offer in the town.

GREEN LIGHT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES HUB FUNDING - Mid Suffolk District Council recently approved £431,740 in funding from housing growth to progress plans for a shared Emergency Services Hub in Stowmarket – paving the way for collaborative working and enhanced 999 services.

RESIDENTS IN BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK ARE SET TO BENEFIT FOLLOWING RECENT GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT ITS GREEN HOMES GRANTS - The Green Homes scheme, which was designed to help make homes more energy efficient, offered vouchers to households to get energy saving work done, and also invited councils to bid for funding to run home energy efficiency projects. A Suffolk consortium bid, including Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils, had been awarded over £1 million from the Department of Business Energy and Industry for five projects to be installed by 31 March 2021.

Cllr Norris had nothing to add.

CSP052/20/21 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk asked members if they felt a Newsletter should be produced to include the Gateway 14 information at the current time.

It was AGREED: That a Newsletter be produced. **Clerk to action.**

b) FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk reported on the Council’s current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance in the accounts on 11th January 2021 was £19,672.49.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jan)	£195.45
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Expenses (Jan)	£36.71
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Expenses (Feb)	£28.33
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Feb)	£195.45
Parish Newsletter Printing	Newsletter printing (July)	£39.95

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £300.44 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

It was noted that the following receipt had been received:

Lottery	Ticket Sales	£250
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d) PRECEPT FOR 2021/22

It was AGREED: That the Precept of £5,176.00 be approved for 2021/22. **Clerk to action.**

e) FINAL BUDGET FOR 2021/22

It was AGREED: That the Budget for 2021/22 be approved.

CSP053/20/21 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/20/05244 - Change of use of agricultural land to form extension to existing industrial premises - Poundfield Products, The Grove, Mill Lane, Creeting St Peter

Mr Drake, resident on Fen Lane, reported that he had a continual problem with dust from the Poundfield site resting on his property and cars. He felt it was an environmental issue and appropriate investigation needed to be carried out.

He also questioned the working hours of the site as he had witnessed staff arriving from 5.30am as well as lorries, when his understanding was that working hours commenced at 8am.

Mr Booth, resident of Clamp Farm, was concerned about the HGV traffic and stated that the proposed extension of the site would increase the volume of traffic entering and leaving the site adding to an already major problem. Mill Lane was too narrow and not made to take two lorries passing each other. He added that the increase in staff, of 10 people, would also add to the daily traffic.

Mr Stott, resident in the village, reported that he had witnessed Poundfield lorries driving though the village. He was also concerned that the proposed land would be used for something else in the future and not what was being proposed.

Mr Roddy, Managing Director of Poundfield made the following points:

- The company had acquired three pieces of land with this one at Grove Farm being the largest.
- The company were not in breach of working hours or use of the land, as all in line with Mid Suffolk District Council. In the current circumstances with Coronavirus split shifts had been introduced and social distancing guidelines adhered to.
- Some of the proposed land was already in use and if approved would be used to store material only as the site needed extra storage solutions.
- In terms of working hours, there were currently no restrictions until the end of April, due to the current circumstances with Coronavirus.

Cllr Peacock asked Mr Roddy if he had taken into consideration the closeness of the proposed site to the river.

Mr Roddy confirmed that he would give support to the River Gipping Trust to help with whatever needed to be done.

Mrs Taylor, Tree Warden and resident in the village, expressed her concern about the preservation of the trees and hedgerows adjacent to the site, which were already overhanging and were in danger of being damaged further.

Mr Roddy stated that he would be happy to meet with Mrs Taylor onsite to discuss what could be done.

Mr Staples, resident in the village, reported that previous promises of signage informing lorries to turn left out of the site and also lighting to be switched off at a reasonable time had not seemed to been carried out.

Mr Roddy confirmed that a sign informing drivers to turn left had been installed on the gateway within the site and was lit up when dark. As for the general lighting on the site, it was currently being switched off at 8.30pm apart from low lighting near to the offices to aid people going in and out of the site.

Cllr Mason asked Mr Roddy if the site had CCTV at the entrance. He also asked if the proposed site would have the required bunding/screening to hide it from the adjacent residents.

Mr Roddy stated that the entrance did not have CCTV but he would look into installing some. The screening he confirmed would be installed.

With a show of hands three members objected to the proposal due to the concerns above, with two abstaining.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council object to the application. **Clerk to action.**

CSP054/20/21 - PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

CSP055/20/21 – GATEWAY 14

Mr Stott, member of the Campaign Group, reported that the group had met with Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) during the previous week. The planning application would be received soon and the group would issue guidance and help to residents.

He reported that the meeting held with MSDC was a positive one and they were interested in the Campaign Group's concerns. MSDC would be happy to keep in contact with the Group once the project was underway and they were willing to fund investment into the community. The best ways to keep in contact would be discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr Mason expressed his thanks to Mr Stott and the Campaign Group for all they were doing in relation to the Gateway 14 project.

Cllr Valladares reported that he had had a 'virtual' meeting with Roy Emmerson, Communities Team at MSDC, and his colleague Richard Kendrew, Infrastructure Team at MSDC to discuss possible Community Infrastructure Levy and S106 agreements in relation to Gateway 14 and they had agreed to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council in March. Cllr Valladares confirmed he would share any information with the Campaign Group.

Mr Roddy expressed a wish to contribute £7,000 to the parish to spend as they wished. Cllr Valladares thanked Mr Roddy for his generosity but stated that the Parish Council would have to take legal advice as to whether the contribution would be allowed to be accepted. **Clerk to action.**

CSP056/20/21 – WATER LEAK – POUND ROAD

The Clerk informed members that she had received an update from Anglian Water who had confirmed investigations were ongoing.

CSP057/20/21 – RIVER GIPPING TRUST

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council become a Corporate Member of the River Gipping Trust. **Clerk to action.**

CSP058/20/21 - PLAY AREA

The Clerk confirmed that during this lockdown the play area should be open for villagers to use and therefore the 'Closed' signs could be disposed of.

CSP059/20/21 – FEN ALDER CARR NATURE RESERVE

There was nothing to report.

CSP060/20/21 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Item for Newsletter – Church path in a poor state due to cycles and quad bikes being ridden over it.
- Mr Stott explained that a new resident had offered to make signage free of charge for the village.
- Broadband – needed a contact for Openreach
- Potholes and degraded edge of road at Creeting Hall. Report to County Councillor and Highways.
- Contribution for the Campaign Group to be put onto the next Agenda.

CSP061/20/21 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting was due to be held on Monday, 15th March 2021 at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm.

Chairman: Dated: