

CHATTISHAM & HINTLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Meeting Room of the Community Hall
On Thursday 14th December 2023 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Ian Bryce (Vice Chair)	Caroline Bates	Jamie Bostock
Stephanie Coupland	Ben Cox	Trevor Martin
Diane Chase	Peter Eaton	John Whyman
Debbie Archer	Jim Hammond	

APOLOGIES:

Les Cole (Chair)
Councillor Busby

IN ATTENDANCE:

Liga Sendall (Parish Clerk)
3 members of the public were present

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone. Cllr Caroline Bates agreed to submit the report for the Village Link this month.

CHPC668/24 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENSE

Apologies were received from Les Cole and Councillor Busby prior to the meeting.

CHPC669/24 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED 14TH DECEMBER

The minutes from the December 14th 2023 meeting had previously been circulated to all Parish Councillors via email. The Vice Chairman asked if everyone present was happy with the minutes. Stephanie Coupland proposed minutes and Ben Cox seconded them. The minutes were signed by the Vice Chairman at the end of the meeting.

CHPC670/24 – DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ANY ITEMS ON AGENDA

The Vice Chair asked if there were any declarations of interest for any items on the agenda. Cllr Ian Bryce and Cllr Jamie Bostock signed the interest book regarding NG pylons.

CHPC671/24 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES DATED 9TH DECEMBER 2023

The Vice Chair asked council members if they had any matters arising from the minutes.

Cllr Chase questioned the directory comments that arose from the previous meeting.

Cllr Coupland undated on Barclays Bank account that was discussed previously, there are still some ongoing issues. Forms had been sent, but some old members still logged as signatories.

Update on PPP – meeting has been arranged with Jo Woods on 19th of January. All councillors are welcome to attend. Cllr’s Bates, Eaton and Coupland have confirmed their attendance in advance. In regards to PIIP, from the previous meeting follow up, it has been decided to have white gates in 3 locations, 6 gates in total. Les Cole has got some prices for this and has attempted to obtain further quotes, he will update on return.

CHPC672/24 – ADJOURNMENT FOR REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Councillor John Whyman circulated his report prior to the meeting and it had been distributed to all Council members together with the agenda.

District Councillor Report – January 2024

Dear Councillors,

December seemed to arrive early and disappeared in a flash..! There has, of course, been a lull in BDC activity over the seasonal period, I've also been a little unwell with a significant dose of something akin to Covid/Flu etc which laid me low over the lead up to and Christmas. I suspect I'm one of many in that category. It did lead me to try and understand the level of Covid infection over the UK which was 1 in 24 per head of population in England which surprised me based upon what I surmised might be our current vaccination rate in the Autumn. Maybe we aren't as eager to be vaccinated as we were?

Activity

- Planning Support – This remains one of my principle 'inbox items' - Requests for additional consideration of balancing planning policy weighting from residents & architects. Inevitably, some are 'un-winnable', but many just need a fresh look with a different set of eyes and a reflection upon perspective, particularly the resident/householder applications.
- Brockley Wood Mineral Extraction Site Application to SCC – As the applicant requested to defer consideration of this Planning Application (SCC/0105/22B) from the meeting schedule for the SCC Development and Regulation Committee, I didn't attend this meeting. My understanding is that the amendment will include the removal of the proposed concrete batch plant.
- BDC Timperleys Residents – Following concern from residents over the pace of repairs and other medium to longer term housing issues, I agreed to meet with the community on the 4th January to understand the issues and potentially agree solutions with officers.
- In Capel, I'm still talking with Persimmon Homes on the footpath (Butchers Lane). The solution to this is being considered by SCC ROW along the lines of a sustainable/durable surface dressing. I'm also, with the help of Persimmon, helping residents find their definitive (LR) boundaries where the development meets Boundary Oaks. Finally, on Persimmon, we are asking to be fully informed on the 'legacy' green space areas and the plans for the future with the management company they intend to instruct. Its important we have a sustainable plan in place.
- This point forms part of the Persimmon note above for Capel – I've now met with several residents on this issue in establishing land ownership.
- Helping/support of a funding application for Capel School Association.
- Ongoing meetings with, several residents, across a range of social housing and environmental issues.

Babergh Notes

I mentioned in my December meeting notes the BDC financial forecast for Q1 23/24 and the potential deficit of £921k. The outlook hasn't changed since the time of writing my notes, having said that we haven't yet heard the outcome of the authorities funding outturn from government. It's unlikely to have escaped your notice that BDC are looking at all an 'all options on the table' to plug the gap with any or all means at our disposal. You will know from the press and media that we are looking to review/restructure our 'free' car parking facilities across the district along with further consideration of 'empty and second homes' council tax rates and, least palatable, cuts to services. Just to add a quick bit of perspective, over the last couple of years inflation and general council costs have increased by over 10%. These, as you would imagine, include significant increases in energy costs. This isn't restricted to Babergh, but includes our colleagues at Suffolk County Council along with our Police & Crime Commissioner – Tim Passmore – all finding themselves in challenging financial situations. On the incendiary subject of car parking, firstly let me say, I'm not 'anti-car' and completely understand the current need for 'independent' transportation. I also prefer to park my car without incurring a charge as, I suspect, we all do. We

do, however, need to be realistic when considering an 'asset' owned by the community and what value we place upon it. The reality of the matter is we don't all use 'free parking' and some residents (and business's) use it much more than others. We need to find a fair solution that works for the vast majority of our residents and businesses, but that does mean the status quo has to change at some point. I know comments like this are potentially unpopular, but we can't turn our backs upon making tough decisions for the sake of short-term political favour. There are so many important things that need to be done, in the community, but aren't possible because our access to good basic funding resources are slipping away for a plethora of reasons.

On Babergh planning committee, we met on the 29th November. Two applications were heard by the committee. The main application was for a 38 'Holiday Homes' development on the outskirts of Raydon (Brett Valley Golf Club). John Ward (Brett Vale Ward Councillor) put forward the case to support the officer's recommendation for refusal. The application was heard utilising JLP part 1 policies, as points of consideration, and planning policy weight along with the strong local objections from all neighbouring parish councils. The application, recommended for refusal by officers, was ratified by committee members.

The second application related to The Red Lion at East Bergholt. This included the development of 4 homes (2 Bedroom units) in the grounds/garden, construction of a new store to replace a temporary unit, construction of 2 '2B&B' units and reconfiguration of the car park. This application followed a previously unsuccessful application (now at appeal) for a larger number of new homes. Cllr Sallie Davies (East Bergholt Ward Councillor & Cabinet Member for Planning) put forward a compelling case based upon the East Bergholt Neighbourhood Plan to overturn the officer's recommendation to grant permission. Again, we considered the application based upon JLP considerations and, of course, the East Bergholt Neighbourhood Plan. It wasn't an easy consideration as the EBNP was made in 2016 and elements of their housing demand considerations weren't entirely current. The recommendation for approval was validated by committee on a fairly closely split vote.

The BDC Overview and Scrutiny committee hasn't met during December, but is due to meet on the 22nd January. The forward programme will be to consider a 'Review of Savings & Pressures, and the Updated Position – General Fund & HRA Accounts'. I remain open to any members who would like to be briefed on specific anonymised examples of the council's work, in this area, please let me know. Equally, and its worth remembering, these meetings are open to councillors and members of the public wishing to attend.

Full Council meets on the 9th January to consider much of the financial points set out above. Again, its open to councillors wishing to attend or members of the public.

District Councillor Resident Surgeries

My regular meeting opportunity for residents in Capel library. The next meet up will be Tuesday 9th January, 10.00am to 12.00am and Tuesday 13th February. No appointment is necessary, but if residents need more of a confidential chat, please let them know beforehand so I can arrange some privacy. I'm also available 'on demand' at the PC office in conjunction with Julie/Chris and or Capel parish councillors.

John (Whyman) Cllr - Babergh Council Member – Capel St. Mary.

District Cllr John Whyman said there have been queries and attention in regard to projected loss for the next year. Carparking issues and charges questions have been raised. Current position in regard to car parking is that there is a very large net deficit due to business rates and equipment costs. Review of the tariffs has been proposed. Decision is expected in about 2 months.

Cllr Eaton raised a question how it would be expected to be paid for if agreed to be chargeable. This would still be up for discussions.

Cllr Whyman said there have been many planning application queries.

Timperley's have had some maintenance queries and may potentially start looking at insulating some houses.

Flooding has been raised and addressed as an issue in the area.

Members of public.

Vice Chair invited members of the public to express their points. Public in attendance have expressed interest in planning item DC/23/05701. Vice Chair suggests will discuss planning first then reopen meeting for public to express their concerns in relation to planning DC/23/05701.

CHPC673/24-PLANNING

All planning applications had been sent to parish councillors on the agenda prior to the meeting. The Chair introduced this section.

DC/23/05701

Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/21/03710 dated 19/08/2021 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) as per revised plans - Side Garden Of The Cottage Duke Street Hintlesham Suffolk IP8 3PN

Cllr Peter Eaton opened planning meeting. Read out description and opened the room asking if everyone understood what it means. Explained that drawings are for 3 bed house with garage. The new application states one single dwelling. Suggested we have obtained extension for submitting our comments in regard to this item.

The Vice Chair closed parish meeting and opened to public again.

Member of public Frances Self introduced herself and said she lives next door to this dwelling and has come to represent her and neighbours as well.

This new proposed plan suggests an overdevelopment of the plot. Proposed dwelling is about twice the size of the neighbours property. Ms Self said has not objection to existing approval, but the new proposal is 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. Style of the proposed property is not in line with the neighbourhood. Plan does not have a garage so there are concerns about parking. Also mentioned highways and increased traffic in regards to this plot, suggested highways should have had a more thorough review of the proposal.

The Vice Chair thanked the members of the Public for their full contribution to the meeting and closed the public session and took the meeting back to the parish.

Councillors discussed the new proposed plans in comparison with the previous proposal.

Cllr Eaton has been trying to establish if Highways have attended the site.

Vice Chair asked if Parish Council are looking to object to the planning – everyone is in agreement.

All objections finalised: new proposal not fitting in with the street scene, proposal appears to be twice the size and double the size of its neighbours thus resulting in overdevelopment of the plot.

Cllr Eaton will prepare objection report and Clerk will send this to Planning in the morning.

Granted

DC/23/05370

Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/21/05992 - Condition 8 (Landscape Management Plan) - Red House Farm Duke Street Hintlesham Ipswich Suffolk IP8 3PW

DC/23/05152

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed Use or Development - Confirmation that works to the vehicular access in accordance with Condition 5, 8, 9 and 10 of Planning

Permission DC/21/05755 (Allowed under Appeal Decision APP/D3505/W/22/3292199) would constitute a Lawful Commencement of Development

Chair explained two granted applications. No action is required from council.

CHPC674/24– CHATTISHAM PLAYING FIELD UPDATE

Update from Les Cole received, this has been actioned and passed down to solicitors(Bricketts), they will proceed with required actions. This can be removed from agenda now until further updates.

CHPC675/24– DRAFT PRECEPT 2024/25

The Vice Chairman asked the parish councillors if everyone has reviewed the proposed budget which had previously been circulated, and discussed in previous meeting. No amendments required. Cllr Archer proposed, Cllr Coupland seconded, everybody in favour apart from Cllr Bryce. The new budget has been passed with precept funds of £9,422.00 being requested from BDC.

CHPC676/24– FINANCE

The Vice Chairman read out the items on the finance section of the agenda;

Chairman expenses - £50

Clerks salary and expenses- £203.07

It was agreed on block that the finance items be paid. Jim Hammond proposed and Stephanie Coupland seconded. Agreed by all.

CHPC677/24– REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Coupland discussed footpaths, suggested she had applied for an improvement for the flooded footpath nr 13 In Chattisham, but need to wait until water clears to establish what to do with it.

All footpaths seem to be flooded and not much can be done at the present time.

Cllr Bryce said he had a conversation with RSPB regarding the fallen tree, there has been ash dieback in their woodland and there may be couple more trees being taken down because of this.

Cllr Hammond pointed out that some road signs are falling down. It was suggested this is council responsibility.

Cllr Martin pointed out a part of Lower Barn road has caved in. This needs to be logged in on the Suffolk county. Cllr will obtain a photo and forward to Clerk to report to council.

Cllr Chase noted some footpaths and potholes had been repaired, but seemingly some others had been left right next to them unrepaired. Suggested will circulate notes from Suffolk Police forum from previous month.

Cllr Eaton asked if we can we write to Cllr Hudson regards road closure in Aldham to obtain potential date when it will get repaired. This will be forwarded to Clerk to distribute to Cllr Hudson.

CHPC678/24- CORRESPONDENCE RECIEVED

All correspondence received by the council had been circulated to members prior to this meeting. Nothing further was introduced for discussion.

CHPC679/24– ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Update from PPP – people and place plan update coming.

CHPC680/24- DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8th February 2024

The Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 8.21 pm.