

Bildeston Parish Council

Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held Monday 11 April 2022, 19:00hrs,
at the Sports Field Pavilion, Consent Lane, Bildeston

Present: Cllr Andrew Guttridge, Cllr Ashley Hubbard, Cllr Peter Hutchings, Cllr Richard Lester, Cllr Ray McCann, Cllr Virginia Tuck. 3x residents. Clerk – Angela Chapman.

C236/21/22 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies. Cllr Andrew Guttridge chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chairman. Apologies: Cllr Alex Banks, Cllr Sarah Leigh-Hunt, CC & DC Robert Lindsay. Apologies accepted.

C237/21/22 Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests. Non-pecuniary – Cllr R Lester St Mary's PCC, treasurer, Trustee of Kings Pightle Nature Reserve.

C238/21/22 Requests for dispensations in respect of pecuniary interests. None.

C239/21/22 Minutes of Last Meeting held 14 March 2022- approved as a true record.

C240/21/22 Adjournments. Meeting adjourned 1902hrs to receive reports from County and District Councillors, and consider any matters raised by local parishioners.

CC/DC Robert Lindsay – Report from District and County Councillor Robert Lindsay

20mph scheme design

Do let me have your thoughts on this and if necessary, we can arrange a zoom call with SCC and PC reps.

Dropped kerb by former Post Office

Highways have now determined that the north side of the junction does not require a dropped kerb. So the cost would be £3600 if I contribute half and it is timed it so it is done with the 20mph road closure and £6,800 for one if they have to get a separate road closure. I am prepared to contribute half for the cheaper option. However, it will mean I will then have less to contribute to the 20mph scheme.

Newberry Farmhouse

Site meeting held, officer is to have another look at whether a bollard of some kind can be used.

Suffolk's Bus Back Better bid fails

Suffolk's bid for £77m from the Bus Back Better fund has failed with the county receiving not a penny. The Government's original £3bn pot was cut massively and in the end only just over £1bn was handed to councils. However our political group from the start said that the county's bid was unambitious and appeared to be cobbled together in a hurry. The county urgently needs a strategy for public transport in the county, and for encouraging people to leave their cars at home and take the bus instead. The DfT made it clear that they were looking for bids that encourage everyone to use the bus, not just those that couldn't afford a car.

Sunnica and pylons

Suffolk's cabinet met on March 1 to recommend the Government reject current plans by Sunnica to build the country's largest solar farm in Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire. The report for cabinet says the application fails to properly mitigate the impacts of such a large project.

In addition, the Cabinet voted to recommend, subject to satisfactory answers on environmental impact, the National Grid's project for a new pylon route from Bramford to Twinstead. National Grid says the pylons are needed for Sizewell C and offshore windfarms.

Ukraine, full County Council meeting 24th March

Full Council presented a rare show of solidarity between Councillors, as our Group and the Conservatives shared a single motion in support of Ukraine. The motion condemned the actions of the Russian government, as well as agreeing a commitment to supporting and welcoming refugees as they become a part of our Suffolk communities. However we did raise the Government imposed bureaucracy surrounding current attempts of Suffolk residents to house Ukrainian refugees.

Freeport East

Suffolk's Cabinet met this week (29th March) to vote on a plan to establish 'Freeport East'. This is part of a controversial national attempt to generate economic activity through tax incentives with freeports across the country. Felixstowe Port, Harwich Port, and Stowmarket's 'Gateway 14' Business Park are set to become part of Freeport East. My Green group believes this project is more likely to benefit foreign owned businesses seeking tax havens onshore than existing home grown businesses. It will also generate huge quantities of lorry and other traffic and be unlikely to fit with zero by 2030 targets.

Businesses on the Freeport sites will be exempt from business rates so development at the three sites will be, in my view unfairly, funded by business rates levied on all businesses within a 25km radius of them.

Cycling and walking plan

Thanks to a motion I introduced to the county council nearly four years ago, and after a Green colleague at Babergh proposed a similar motion at that council in 2019, Babergh have now unveiled a list of cycling and walking improvements which will require funding from developers and any Government grants. Most are in Sudbury and surrounds, which is logical since that is where there is the most potential for people to switch from driving to cycling. Our group will push to ensure these get funded partly by pushing developers seeking planning permission.

Jubilee Celebrations/ Fun Day - Chris Clarke gave a report on the Jubilee celebrations, being held at the Sports Field & Pavilion on Sunday 5th June 2022. Every group in the village is doing something towards the day. Walkie talkie radios to be purchased and held by PC for future events. Henry Morphew fund, Cllr Richard Lester advised an agreed general donation of £400. Chris Clarke advised a door to door collection for the tombola by the church will be carried out, B Natural will provide the music and the bar; The Hanger will do the BBQ, there is a sponsor for the meat; Sports Field & Pavilion will receive a donation for hosting the event; there will be various games, the Ladies Club will do teas & cakes; there will be ice creams, face painting, craft, allotment pull the stick game, Kings Pightle Nature Trail; a first aider will be on site; there will be a competition for the best decorated house in village; Wayne Bevan/ Radio Suffolk will open the event; bunting to be provided by B Nat; gazebo borrowed from church. Donation from PC requested.

Meeting reconvened 1916hrs.

C241/21/22 Planning applications

Planning Appendix A – Items for comment by Bildeston Parish Council

APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/22/01578

Proposal: Application for Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce and shape 1no Willow (T1), 1no group of Poplars (T2), side prune 1no Horse Chestnut (T3) back to boundary and reduce remaining crown.

Location: Levells Hall, 31 Chapel Street, Bildeston, Suffolk IP7 7EP

No objection.

Planning Appendix B – Items determined by Babergh District Council

DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S)

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Proposal: Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/21/06502- Condition 5 (Archaeological Evaluation)

Location: Bildeston Village Stores And Post Office, 118 - 122 High Street, Bildeston, Suffolk IP7 7EB

Approved.

C242/21/22 Projects and Progress Reports

- a) **Joint Local Plan examination and representation.** Cllr Guttridge advised nothing new.
- b) **20mph project/design costs/funding** – plan received from SCC, Cllr Ray McCann, Cllr Andrew Guttridge & Graham Rankin (SCC) met and done as much as suggested, including a 30mph buffer zone, including Wattisham Rd to Chamberlin Close junction.
Cllr Richard Lester propose the Parish Council accept the plan and design.
Agreed unanimously to accept and progress the project. Clerk to ask SCC for a timescale.
- c) **'Heating Bildeston'.**

We were informed on 17th March that our application for RCEF Stage 1 funding (the feasibility study) was successful. We were granted all the budget positions we asked for totalling £32,950.

1. Feasibility Study as per RCEF guidelines £27,200
2. 10% Contingency for Feasibility study (refundable if not used) £2,720
3. Community Engagement led by Heating Bildeston (Website, Leaflets, Questionnaire, Distribution, Public Meeting, Media, Local parish magazine Bugle Ads, Video Explainers) £1,000
4. Technical, Legal and Administration tasks for Heating Bildeston (All Travel (also to Equipment providers, Samples, Example demonstration equipment, visit to Swaffham et al., Basic Legal Advice, Structure of Organisation going forward, Meeting room costs, home printing, Copying and use of laptops, phones, network etc. £1,750
5. Miscellaneous and rounding £280

Total £32,950.

We are promised the Payment Milestone schedules and the Funding Agreements by the 14th April. After review these will need signatures from the Parish Council. Angela Chapman has agreed to collect these as before.

The all-important Engagement Letter of the Consultants (Scene Connect Ltd) has been received in draft and our comments, especially around control of budget, are included. This will also need signature, so the consultants may formally start.

To not lose too much time, Scene Connect Ltd have arranged a kick-off video call on 12th April with Heating Bildeston, even before the documents are signed.

The accounting and administration/control processes for the funds have been worked out and documented by Angela Chapman and Helen Carey to be in line with PC standards.

HB has been working hard on a "Questionnaire" which will be ultimately offered to all interested properties in the village asking about current energy usage. This may be found on the heatingbildeston.uk website. As not everyone may be familiar with technology or indeed where to access the answers to the questions, we will be offering both online and paper-based options (with assistance as needed). This will be rolled out in April if possible, to give the Consultants the best possible basis to work towards.

Feedback from the people we speak to in the parish continues to be highly supportive.

I am happy to take questions and once again thanks for your continuing invaluable support.

- d) **Dropped kerb, next to Old Post Office, High Street.** See C240/22/23 above, CC Robert Lindsay's report. £1,800 for dropped kerb nr Old Post Office if carried out when 20mph scheme. Parish Council agreed to go ahead with the scheme when the 20mph scheme is implemented.
- e) **Newberry Farmhouse** – Cllr Andrew Guttridge had a site meeting with CC Robert Lindsay, and SCC Highways representative to find possible solutions to the continued damage to the porch on the property, visibility from the Hadleigh end is poor, but when speed lowered this will help. Bollards bolted to extended concrete kerb are being considered.
- f) **Consider quote for replacing street light lanterns from SCC** – Cllr Andrew Guttridge asked SCC for the revenue saving if the scheme was to be carried out. Add to next agenda.
- g) **Update on village amenities** –
 - Grove cemetery** – application for a tree and bench approved. Also approved was the location of the bench near the memorial tree.
 - Village sign** – progressing. Clerk to request an update on delivery.
 - St Mary's church** – PCC still waiting for confirmation of the closed churchyard.
 - Sports Field & Pavilion** - Social Sundays started and were very successful. No gathering on Easter Sunday but will recommence on Sunday 24th April and will be held every Sunday until further notice. There are regular hirers of the Pavilion.
 - Tree planting** – trees to form a small copse – the Jubilee Copse - and hedging around the main car park completed.

C243/22/23 Administrative, Finance and Governance reports

- a) **Payments for approval.** All approved, apart from The Village Sign People, to be paid when sign received. Cllrs Tuck and Lester to authorise. The increase in grass cutting from Tye Farm Contracting, due to fuel costs, approved.
- b) **Scribe** monthly accounting reports checked, approved and signed by Cllr Ray McCann. Approved.
- c) **Review of Parishes/ BMSDC** – email distributed.

C244/22/23 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

It was reported one or maybe 2 large trees have been taken down by a storm, into the Mill Lane culvert, beside the footpath. This to be reported to SCC, as it is blocking the water way and could cause flooding in the future.

It was noted vehicles continue to park on the grass triangle at the junction of High Street and Ipswich Rd. It has been proposed to plant up the area and there are residents who are willing help with this. Add to next agenda.

Footpath at Needham Lane is blocked, Cllr R Lester to report.

It was noted the railings outside The Crown have been damaged.

Chairman Peter Hutchings resigned from the Parish Council with effect from the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May. A new Chairman will be elected at this meeting.

C245/22/23 Items for next agenda

Project to tidy/ plant up grass triangle junction of High Street and Ipswich Rd.

Street lighting revenue saving

Meeting closed 2030hrs.

Date of next meeting: Annual Parish Meeting, Monday 25 April 2022, 19:00hrs, Pavilion, Sports Field, Consent Lane, Bildeston.

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, Monday 9 May 2022, 1900hrs, Pavilion, Sports Field, Consent Lane, Bildeston.

Village website: www.bildeston.org