

Milden Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 24th April 2018

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th April 2018 in Milden Pavilion at 7pm

Chairman: Simon Frost
Treasurer: Sandy De'Ath
Clerk: Sara Godfrey

Present: Bryn Hurren, Stephen Morley, Joy Morley, Dick Histed, Myranda Cundey, Mark Isahak, Sally Miles, Bridget Hawkins, Pearl Gee, Tissa Rigby, Denise Thomas, Justine Turner, Sarah Bingham, Christopher Hawkins

1. Apologies for absence

were received from John Rigby, Jan Ditheridge, Tony Ditheridge, James Finch, Christopher Hawkins, Joe Coulter, Juliet Hawkins, Julie Isahak

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 28th November 2017

The minutes had been distributed before the meeting. These were accepted as an accurate record of that meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Joy Morley Seconded: Stephen Morley

3. Matters arising from those minutes.

Sara Godfrey reported that Justine Turner was progressing the lottery grant application and technical specification for the defibrillator and hoped to have something to report in the new year.

4. County Councillor's Report.

In Councillor Finch's absence there was no report. He is under continuing doctor's orders to rest and is not expected to resume his County Council responsibilities before Christmas. Dick Histed asked whether we therefore had any representation at the County Council. Councillor Jane Storey (Jane.Storey@suffolk.gov.uk) is covering Councillor Finch's portfolio in his absence, although she is not attending parish meetings on his behalf.

5. District Councillor's Report

Councillor Hurren reported that it had been a period of momentous change for Babergh District Council.

The council have moved to Endeavour House in Ipswich, with shocking consequences. Approximately 50% of council staff have left. The move has not proved feasible for many long-standing and experienced workers with family/personal commitments in Hadleigh. Wage costs have increased by £3,000,000 (redundancy, training new staff etc). The move is supposed to have saved costs. The council is also paying rent at Endeavour House, whilst it owned the previous property at Corks Lane. In addition, it is costing £100,000 p.a to maintain the, now empty, original council buildings in Hadleigh and Needham Market.

Milden Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 24th April 2018

The decision to move was made by the 7-strong Council Cabinet against the recommendation of a consultant. The consultant recommended Babergh stay at Corks Lane, the consultant's fee was £48,000. There is a public meeting of the Council at Endeavour House on 19th December. Anyone can attend and raise concerns they may have.

Dick Histed asked what was to become of the buildings at Corks Lane. Councillor Hurren replied that they would probably be developed into housing, possibly by Babergh itself. Apparently, a lot of the communications systems have already been ripped out in preparation.

Local devolution has been kicked into the long grass. Norfolk did not want to team up with Suffolk and other options were not progressed. Councillor Hurren is not in favour.

The Local Plan – Planning Development Framework is out for public consultation. It involves developing policies both locally and nationally for house building and land supply. An expert review will follow with a further consultation period. 80% of the proposed house building was rejected by Babergh in the initial draft. It will have no effect on Milden, we remain as open countryside with no right to build.

District Council seats in Babergh are going to reduce from 43 to 32 for the 2019 district elections because of a Boundary Commission Review. The current proposal which is out for consultation leaves Milden in the Boxford ward and adds Kersey into the ward. Councillor Hurren felt that this made eminent sense and supports the proposal. The parishioners agreed, and Sara Godfrey will comment in favour on behalf of Milden Parish Meeting on the online comment form. Individual parishioners are also encouraged to leave their views. The link to the online comment form is

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/9231?bbox=574498,224822.5,631448,264122.5>

There have been no contentious planning issues in Milden since the last meeting. There has been no activity at Pound Farm and it is believed that the deadline for the applicant to appeal has passed. Councillor Hurren said that Babergh Planning Department had rewritten the planning policy, and this had been upheld in similar applications. It appears as if the lessons from the Pound Farm debacle have been learned.

In Boxford the application to build 24 new homes (Goodlands Phase II) behind Swan Street has been turned down. Councillor Hurren has vigorously supported local people in their opposition to this given the dreadful traffic issues in Swan Street. A bus was hired so local people could attend the planning meeting at Endeavour House. The application will probably go to appeal.

The Konings application is for two large new sheds, doubling the size of the site. They will be green and largely invisible from the road. Little impact on Stone Street as PepsiCo already have permission, granted in 2007, to double the traffic from the site to the A134 via Stoke Road.

Dick Histed raised an issue that is of importance to those who live in Listed buildings. There has been a recent change in the process of getting Listed Building Consent. Building works at Listed properties require a Heritage Report. This requires a visit/consultation with a Heritage Officer, which is now being charged at £328 per consultation. He thought this was an unfair burden on owners of listed properties.

Milden Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 24th April 2018

The new mobile telephone mast on the bypass on Boxford was now live. It supports O2 and Vodaphone, although parishioners on those networks had not noticed an improvement in their signal in Milden, there was a marked improvement closer to the mast.

Councillor Hurren has been active in trying to progress superfast broadband for Milden, with no response to him from the County Council or Better Broadband Suffolk. See item 8.

The chairman extended the meetings thanks to Councillor Hurren for working so hard on our behalf.

6. Finance Report

The Treasurer reported that the annual audit had been completed and returned.

There are no matters arising from the auditors.

She thanked Howard Webb for once again acting as our internal auditor.

The meeting accepted the audited accounts. Proposed by Denise Thomas, seconded by Tissa Rigby.

The current bank balance is £1660 after a couple of outstanding bills have been paid, this is about £300 more than last year. We seem to be covering our expenses and have a bit to spare so the Treasurer suggested that the precept should remain the same this year to give us a total sum of £925 for the parish.

7. Pavilion/Recreation Ground.

2017 has been another successful year in the life of the Milden Pavilion, with reasonable bookings and a series of excellent fund-raising events taking place. These included the quiz night earlier in the year and the Milden Singers putting on a fine show in November which raised a total £945, including £313 donated to Over The Rainbow children's charity. The Milden Ball was again a great success despite the last minute panic regarding the band!. In addition to raising funds for the Pavilion there is also a donation of £500 to the Church fabric.

The Cricket Club had another great year as they won Division 4 and are now promoted to play in Division 3 for the 2018 season. That's two promotions in a row. Membership is in good shape with rumours of a second team being formed.

Pavilion funds remain healthy with approximately £7000.00 in the bank. Money is being allocated to general maintenance including re- surfacing the car park, cutting back trees and replacing the rear fire door.

At the recent Trustees AGM Tissa Rigby resigned as Chairman after many years of sterling service and most significantly being the instigator of building this new pavilion. The rest of the Trustees thanked her for all her hard work. Sara Godfrey has taken over her position.

8. Superfast Broadband

Milden Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 24th April 2018

Mark Isahak and Dick Histed reported that they had experienced a frustrating time trying to progress superfast broadband for the village.

Their only named contact at Better Broadband Suffolk, Jonathan Chown, had left and it was proving very difficult to communicate with a named individual. James Finch had been asked for help but was unable to because of illness. Councillor Jane Storey has stepped into his shoes, she also sits on the board of Better Broadband Suffolk and therefore may be in a better position to help. Mark Isahak has been in regular contact with Jane Storey, an anonymous response from Better Broadband Suffolk was received by Councillor Storey on the 13th October said that we are in the plans for better broadband Q1 next financial year (between April and June 2018). But it didn't say what service will be getting.

In recent weeks fibre optic cable has been spotted dangling from poles up Swingleton Hill as far as Chancels Croft (it would appear that Moat Farm and Chancels Croft may be getting fibre to property) and also up Powney Street from the B1115 as far the telephone box at Church Road. It is not clear whether this will continue up Powney Street or if a cabinet will be located near the phone box. There is no sign of activity in Church Road beyond Chancels Croft and up Drury Lane or indeed down to Milden Hall. Consequently, there is some activity but no information from Better Broadband Suffolk and it would appear that different parts of the village may be getting different levels of provision, if any at all. This would be inequitable. The lack of communication is very frustrating.

Dick Histed has been pressing James Cartlidge MP with no response and also various high-level individuals at BT Openreach.

It was agreed that the village should get up a petition. Mark and Dick to write and Sara Godfrey offered to walk around the village to collect signatures. Dick will continue to press James Cartlidge MP and Mark will continue working with Councillor Jane Storey. Councillor Hurren also offered to keep up the pressure.

Many thanks to them all for their efforts.

9. Correspondence

The annual report of SALC (Suffolk Association of Local Councils) had been received and was made available to the meeting.

10. Any Other Business

The Chairman reported that he had been approached by some residents of Swingleton Hill, which is currently in the parish of Monks Eleigh, saying that they would much rather be in the parish of Milden. The current parish boundary runs just to the east of Moat Farm. Village boundary reviews occur regularly, Councillor Hurren believed that the last one was in 2002/3 and therefore he thought that another one might be due soon. He offered to find out. Furthermore, he thought it might be possible to change the village boundary, but it was far more likely to succeed if all parties agreed. There was general agreement from the Milden parishioners present and from Pearl Gee who lives on Swingleton Hill.

Milden Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 24th April 2018

It was agreed that Angus Cundey would speak to the instigators on Swingleton Hill (Braithwaite and Dansie) and suggest that they canvass opinion to see if all residents of Swingleton Hill agreed. Monks Eleigh Parish Council would also have to agree.

Sara Godfrey informed the meeting that we would be subject to General Data Protection Regulations from May 2018. We are required to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO) to ensure that we are compliant and to act as a point of contact for any parishioner requiring information on what personal data the parish meeting holds for them. Currently the only information held are email addresses which have been voluntarily given. Denise Thomas kindly volunteered for this role as she has related experience. Sara Godfrey and Sandy De'Ath offered to help her settle into the role.

Sara Godfrey read out an email from Juliet Hawkins of Milden Hall.

*“We have created a wide ride/path through ‘Maggie’s Wood’ and grass margin along our hedge and arable field edge that links up to Pound Farm Wood. Once we have seeded this with grass and wildflower early in 2018 and it has established, we will create a **permissive footpath** for the villagers to use responsibly which should make a nice off-road circular route around the village and as a permissive route we will be able to close it at any time we choose. Until then it is very muddy and not accessible I’m afraid. We’ll update you all in 2018.
Christopher & Juliet Hawkins”*

The parishioners present all welcomed the announcement.

Hare coursing has once again returned to the village. Stephen Morley reminded everyone not to engage with the individuals concerned but to either walk or drive on and when out of sight to call the police on 999.

Election of New Chairman

Angus Cundey announced that after 9 years as Chairman of the Parish Meeting that it was time for him to retire. He remarked that he had been very fortunate to have been assisted by an excellent Treasurer and Clerk. Simon Frost had volunteered to replace Angus as Chairman.

Angus Cundey proposed the motion, it was seconded by Adrian Miles and Simon Frost was unanimously elected by all present as Chairman of the Milden Parish meeting.

On behalf of everyone Sara Godfrey thanked Angus for all the hard work and dedication in his time as Chairman.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.20pm.

The date for the next meeting in May 2018 will be advised in due course

Milden Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 24th April 2018