

Milden Parish Meeting – Tuesday 13th November 2018

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 13th November 2018 in Milden Pavilion at 7pm

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

Present: PC Kevin Stollery, Bryn Hurren, James Finch, Stephen Morley, Joy Morley, Dick Histed, Mark Isahak, Bridget Hawkins, Pearl Gee, Denise Thomas, Sarah Bingham, Christopher Hawkins, Angus Cundey, Adrian Miles, Geoff McClintic, Anne McClintic, John Fulcher

1. Apologies for absence

were received from Jan Ditheridge, Justine Turner, Joe Coulter, John Harrison

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 24th April 2018

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: Stephen Morley Seconded: John Fulcher

3. Matters arising from those minutes.

In Justine Turner's absence Sara Godfrey reported that the defibrillator in the phone box was registered with the ambulance service and became operational at the end of August. One training session has been held with another due on Tuesday 27th November. There are 8 spaces still available. Anyone that is interested in volunteering for the VETS (Voluntary Emergency Telephone Scheme) in the village is asked to contact Justine. Sara Godfrey expressed the gratitude of all present (and the whole village) to Justine for her dedication and hard work in bringing the defibrillator to the village.

4. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed PC Kevin Stollery of the Suffolk Rural and Wildlife Crime Team based at Halesworth. There are only two Rural and Wildlife Crime officers for the whole of Suffolk. Their areas of responsibility include heritage crime, such as lead theft as well as illegal metal-detecting, hare coursing and other wildlife related crimes. There was lengthy discussion of hare coursing and particularly its links to serious organised crime. Parishioners were advised to call 999 in the event that they came across hare coursing and not to approach the individuals involved. Denise Thomas raised the issue of communication with the Police and suggested this was not as easy as it could be. The Police Connect System (which Sara Godfrey distributes to the village) keeps villagers informed when relevant crimes have been committed in the local area. Individuals may also sign up to this system themselves.

Christopher Hawkins raised the issue of fly-tipping and whether this was a police or council matter. PC Stollery remarked that it was often difficult to trace the source of the rubbish. The Chairman thought it was the responsibility of the council if dumped on the highway, otherwise it was the responsibility of the landowner.

Milden Parish Meeting – Tuesday 13th November 2018

The discussion moved on to the increase in the number of local burglaries and the fact that the number of PCSOs has been dramatically reduced. The Chairman stated that he thought this was a retrograde step. There is no longer any police presence in the village. This does not fall under PC Stollery's team, these types of crimes are dealt with by the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). Our Parish Liaison Officer is PC John Gerrish, based at Haverhill.

County Councillor's Report.

Councillor Finch very kindly provided his written report prior to the meeting which was distributed to Parishioners and is attached to these minutes.

In addition to the items covered in his report the cutting of the road verges in the village was discussed. These were cut extremely late this year, early September. In many areas they were overgrown and made driving/walking/cycling on the village roads very dangerous. Thanks were expressed to Christopher Hawkins who cut the verges at the Milden crossroads (with the B1115) where visibility can be very poor.

5. District Councillor's Report

The move to Endeavour House has been an unmitigated disaster. A lot of local staff were lost and thereby the link to the local area. Many areas of Council work are understaffed and struggling – particular examples are Heritage and Enforcement. The Council is just about keeping up with Planning. Sickness and stress related absence has increased 30% and 400 staff have suffered mental health issues. This is a serious issue and a member of staff has been appointed to address it, meetings and forums with staff have been held. There are three Customer Access Points in Sudbury, Shotley and Hadleigh. The CAP is in the library at Hadleigh on Thursday afternoons.

The Boundary Commission Review for District Council seats in Babergh has concluded. Milden will be part of the Box Vale ward. We will lose Lindsey and gain Monks Eleigh and Brent Eleigh. The ward will be much larger, around 2,500 electors. District Council Elections will take place in May 2019.

Housing continues to be a major issue with 400 homes per year needing to be built in Babergh. 2000 homes needed for the required 5-year land supply – Babergh have given planning permissions but developers are not moving ahead. e.g. Chilton Woods, Sroughton former sugar beet factory and the former plastics factory at Brantham.

The Goodlands Phase II development in Boxford has been dismissed on appeal on highways grounds. The Swan Street area is already very congested. Councillor Hurren was a leading light in this campaign and is pleased with the result

The 14,000 replies to the consultation on the Local Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk are currently being worked through.

The Community Infrastructure Levy, a charge on developers, is up and running. The Parish receives 15% of this (it is 25% for villages with a Neighbourhood Plan). Milden has £5000 in the pot. Ideas for the use of this gratefully received, Lindsey are considering charging points for electric vehicles.

Milden Parish Meeting – Tuesday 13th November 2018

The Central Government Grant will be phased out completely. The Council is able to borrow £50 million per year from the Government at 2%. They have invested it in investment property outside the area in order to earn a good return. Councillor Hurren does not support this and thinks local councils should be funded properly.

Councillor Hurren apologised for the sporadic bin collections we had experienced recently. He believes collections are now back on track to which there was general agreement. Problems arose due to long term sickness and inexperienced cover. Christopher Hawkins asked whether there was a case to change the contractor, Circo. Councillor Hurren replied that the contract still had two years to run and there was a lack of an alternative as it was not a competitive market. It had been a very good service before the recent difficulties.

The proposal for Joint Sovereign Council was dead. The Council had wasted £20,000 on a telephone poll. Councillor Hurren is against the merger with mid-Suffolk, work-sharing as currently happens works well.

There have been no contentious planning issues in Milden since the last meeting.

Finance Report

The Treasurer gave the Finance Report. The annual audit of accounts was completed and no matters of concern have arisen.

The Treasurer thanked Howard Webb for acting as our internal auditor.

We now have new external auditors, PKF Little John and a slightly different process for auditing the annual accounts. The internal audit now occurs before the Parish Meeting and if satisfactory we can accept the Accounting Statements and Annual Governance Statement at the Meeting and need only send a Certificate of Exemption to the external auditors.

In order to achieve this the Treasurer will need a couple of extra weeks at the end of the financial year before the spring meeting.

Current bank balance is approximately £3100 of which £1000 is left over from the Big Lottery Grant for the defibrillator and will be used for ongoing costs.

In view of our healthy bank balance, it is suggested that the precept is maintained at the current level of £925.29

6. Pavilion/Recreation Ground

Adrian Miles gave the Pavilion report. The pavilion was tidied up and redecorated in advance of the August Anniversary Barbecue, which was a great success. Many thanks to all committee members who helped out with the work. The car park has been resurfaced. Items identified in the playground safety report have been repaired by Stephen Morley. MCC finished 4th in the league, the Sudbury 3rd team may rent the pitch, which would be welcome additional income.

Sandy De'Ath said that the 10 year electrical inspection was due (last done in 2009).

Milden Parish Meeting – Tuesday 13th November 2018

Fund-raising events are planned, including the next Milden Singers Concerts on 17th/18th May. All ideas welcome.

7. Superfast Broadband

FTTC connected to Lavenham 11 cabinet is now live. Residents in the main part of the village can now upgrade. Drury Lane/Church Road due to get FTTP in summer 2019. Simon to keep up communication with Peter Ingram on behalf of the remaining villagers without Superfast.

8. Any Other Business

The ownership of the small parcel of land where the phone box is sited was discussed. Christopher Hawkins had brought a number of old documents to show the meeting. The area was originally the site of the village school and owned by the Powney family. Along with other properties it was put up for sale in 1927. The small area of land was not sold and was gifted to WWII servicemen by the Powney family. Leslie Sparkes in the village recalls this. Christopher and Simon to speak to Leslie. Simon to approach solicitors for advice and to agree a way forward.

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There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45pm.

The date for the next meeting in May 2019 will be advised in due course

**A Summary Report for Milden Parish Meeting on 13th November 2018
From James Finch – County Councillor for the Stour Valley**

➤ **Suffolk students celebrate improved GCSE achievements**

Provisional GCSE results, show continued progress for Suffolk students which were released on 16 October 2018 by the Department of Education. They illustrate that 1% more students in Suffolk are achieving the expected standards in English and Maths compared with last year.

There has been a change to the way that English and Maths GCSEs are graded. Results are now graded from 9 to 1, (previously A to G) with 9 being the highest and 1 being the lowest. The expected standard for pupils to achieve is now a grade 4 and above (previously a C grade and above), with grade 5 considered a 'strong pass'.

Some schools across the county have made significant improvements for pupils achieving the threshold for English and Math compared to last year: These include:-

- Bungay High School: 11% increase to 67%
- Claydon High School: 10% increase to 72%
- Samuel Ward Academy, Haverhill: 12% increase to 64%
- **Thomas Gainsborough School, Great Conard: 9% increase to 70%**
- King Edward VI School, Bury St Edmunds: 8% increase to 76%
- Debenham High School has again reported the highest number of students achieving a grade 4 and above in English and maths at 88%.

Suffolk is now in line with national figures with 64% of students in the county achieving the standard pass in English and Maths. Suffolk is also in the top half of all authorities for achieving the threshold of grade 5 in English and Maths. **Suffolk has risen by 40 places in national league tables for this measure, to 43 out of 151 authorities.**

GCSE progress remains above average and has seen a steep increase this year for Suffolk pupils, with a Progress 8 score of +0.07, compared with the national figure of -0.03. **This figure also puts Suffolk at number 1 among our statistical neighbours (11 other local authorities with similar geographic and social structures).** Progress 8 measures how well GCSE students, of all abilities, have progressed since age 11 by comparing them with students who achieved similar levels in Key Stage 2 across the country.

➤ **Another year of outstanding results for Suffolk students at A Level**

Self-reported A-level figures, released on 16th August, show that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the number of A*-E grades awarded above the national average. Almost 3,000 pupils were entered for A-levels in Suffolk. Although yet to be verified, the figures show that 98.1% of A-levels taken in the county have been awarded an A*- E grade, compared with 97.6% nationally.

Suffolk maintains its position, and continues to be above the national average. Early indications also show that Suffolk's Academic average points per entry has risen by 0.2 compared with this time last year.

Pass rates remain high across the county, with St Benedict's Catholic School in Bury St Edmunds and Sir John Leman High School in Beccles both reporting a 100% pass rate (A*- E grade achieved).

There has been a 3% increase in Suffolk students achieving the top grades of A* or A. Farlingaye High School in Woodbridge made a significant gain with 36% of its students achieving the top grades.

➤ **Support now available for young people in Suffolk leaving residential care**

Thursday 9th August saw the launch of the 'Staying Close' pilot scheme. Young people leaving residential care in Suffolk will now be able to stay closer to their children's home under this new government trial.

The scheme will ensure young people from the age of 15 start thinking about their future and planning for independent living with the assistance and support of residential care workers and those they have established relationships with.

Often this detailed planning doesn't happen until a young person is close to the time they need to move on from the home, which sometimes leads to unnecessary distress and anxiety about the future. Resources are now focused on early intervention of move-on support to reduce this anxiety. The pilot also offers young people the opportunity of keeping in touch with residential care workers and their children's home for emotional and practical support.

Funding for the three-year pilot scheme was awarded by the Department for Education following a highly competitive national bidding process. Suffolk County Council invited The Ryes Children's Home

in Sudbury to join them in piloting the scheme to test how this move on care can be achieved for children who want to remain living close to their home.

For more details <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/children-in-care-and-care-leavers/early-intervention-and-prevention-for-children-living-in-children-homes/>. For further specific information contact the “The Staying Close Team” – Email stayingclose@suffolk.gov.uk or Mobile 07894231586.

➤ **Suffolk’s tourist trade booming as economy hits £2bn mark**

Suffolk’s tourism trade has seen its biggest boom for a decade – with the visitor economy reaching the £2 billion mark for the first time. Interim figures released on 8 August by Visit Suffolk show that tourism grew by at least five per cent in 2017, more than double the year before.

Overnight visits and lengths of stay for tourists were also up by more than 4 per cent. Figures show visitors now spend more money on each trip to the county than ever before, with the value of the day market up more than seven per cent.

The number of jobs in the county’s tourism sector rose by 6 per cent to 42,428. This means 13.6 % of all employment in Suffolk is in the tourism sector.

Amanda Bond, Visit Suffolk’s brand manager, said these results would not have been achieved without the continued backing for the county-wide offer from all the district authorities, Suffolk County Council, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and the Local Destination Marketing/Management Organisations (DMOs).

➤ **Carers celebrate top accolade with ‘Outstanding’ rating from the Care Quality Commission.**

On 19 October 2018, it was announced that the standard of care provided by Mid Suffolk Home First (MSHF), which is provided by Suffolk County Council and provides a short-term reablement service and a longer-term care service, has been rated as “Outstanding” by the Care Quality Commission.

The reablement and care services offered by MSFH support people following a period of ill health or a significant loss in their ability to manage their day to day care needs. It was rated **Outstanding** for being responsive and well-led, and **Good** for being safe, caring and effective. The service aims to help the person reach their optimum level of independence.

During the short-term reablement support period, which may last one or two weeks or for some people up to a maximum of six weeks, people’s progress is monitored and reviewed. The team have been able to support many people to leave the service confidently and without the need for further social care support. All the people who receive Home First reablement and care services are assessed to see if they need to be supported by another service following this short-term care. The full version of the inspection can be found on the CQC website.

➤ **A call for family carers to share their views**

Suffolk County Council is calling for family carers to share their experiences of support by completing a **survey by 22 November 2018**. All answers will be used anonymously.

Sharing their experiences will help Suffolk County Council to:

- understand what currently works well for family carers
- identify any gaps in support for family carers in Suffolk.

Carers can complete the survey online at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FamilyCarers/>

The survey has been created by a multi-agency group that includes Family Carer representatives, Suffolk County Council, Clinical Commissioning Groups, the NHS and Suffolk Family Carers.

➤ **Suffolk County Council launches Budget consultation launches looking to save £25 million in the 2019/2020 year.**

On 8 October 2018, Suffolk County Council launched its annual budget consultation. The consultation closes at **5pm on Friday 16th November 2018**. Resident are being asked to give their views on the services provided by the council as it faces the challenge of making savings of £25 million in 2019/2020.

Like all local authorities, Suffolk County Council faces significant financial challenges in the delivery of essential frontline services to support the lives of the most vulnerable young people and older residents across the county.

Milden Parish Meeting – Tuesday 13th November 2018

As part of its careful financial planning and management in recent years, the council has saved £260million since 2011. It has also established innovative new ways to engage with communities and deliver services in the digital age, but there are still tough calls ahead. The council want to hear residents' views on which services are most important to them.

A proposed budget will be presented at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 29 January 2019 and the final budget will be discussed at Full Council on Thursday 14 February 2019.

Residents can visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/budget2019 to learn more about the budget setting process and to take part in the short survey to give their views. More details are available on Suffolk County Council's Facebook page and its Twitter account @suffolkcc.

➤ **Broadband Progress for Milden !!**

I am very aware of the collaboration Simon Frost and colleagues has been having with my colleague Peter Ingram and the various providers. I would like to thank Simon *et al* for the determination they have given for the support of the village. I hope some of you have now some better news.

My Priorities

Education - Supporting Vulnerable People - Jobs and Growth - Localism and the Stour Valley - Building on Suffolk's Strength all underpinned by strong financial management and low council tax

James Finch County, Councillor Stour Valley Division

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