

## Annual Milden Parish Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at the Milden Pavilion Playingfield at 6.30pm

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

Present: James Finch, Bryn Hurren, Joy Morley, Stephen Morley, Kevin Warren, Christopher Hawkins, Adrian Miles, Pearl Gee, David Herbert, Isabel Herbert, Juliet Hawkins (left after item 5), Christopher Hawkins (left after item 5), Sarah Offord, David Offord, Dick Histed, Joe Coulter, Geoff McClintic, Anne McClintic, Jan Ditheridge, Angus Cundey.

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

were received from Tony Ditheridge, Justine Turner, Amanda Fulcher, John Fulcher, Tissa Rigby, John Rigby, Sally Miles, Myranda Cundey, Mark Isahak.

#### **2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

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: Adrian Miles

#### **3. Matters arising from those minutes.**

Simon Frost updated the meeting on the work regarding the ownership of the land upon which the bus shelter, telephone box and village sign sit. Since the previous meeting it had been established that the Parish Meeting is not a body corporate and is therefore unable to own land. Ownership of the land remains unclear. It was suggested that if ownership were passed to the Pavilion Trustees, a Parish charity, then the land and assets upon it could be covered by their insurance policy. Christopher Hawkins offered to see whether the land could be added to his NFU policy for Milden Hall.

The BT cable behind the telephone box is still dangling. The road was closed but BT did not do the repair. Simon Frost to follow-up.

Sara Godfrey reported that she had received an email from PC 270 Darren Marshall Sudbury Community Engagement Officer in advance of the meeting.

*On the direction of Inspector Kevin Horton who, as of March 2020 is now the Haverhill and Sudbury District Police Commander, I will not be attending your belated A.P.M. later today. It is Insp HORTON's hope and aspiration in the not too distant future and in whatever the "new normal" pans out to be, to bring about some form of ward based on-line meetings with either clerks or parish chairpersons if there is an interest out there. I stress this will not be all 30+ parishes that come under the umbrella of Sudbury but smaller groupings. Going back a few years now... I was the last ever Beat Officer out at Lavenham and the surrounding parishes and I have been to a number of your PM's in the past and have always been made to feel very welcome but those regular personal visits just won't happen anymore as I know we (police) have corporately announced in recent years."*

#### **4. County Councillor's Report.**

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

#### **5. District Councillor's Report**

Councillor Hurren gave his report for the year. He kindly provided a written summary which is as follows.

“While we are seeing some return to normal in business and working arrangements it is generally felt that the new normal will be a long way from what we are used to. All the council staff continue to work from home although planning, environmental and enforcement staff are now allowed site visits to enable them to carry out their basic functions. Across Babergh there have been 277 reported cases of Coronavirus resulting in 59 deaths. Many in our care homes where they should have been safe.

The financial impact on all councils will be huge and felt for many years to come and my own council will be no exception, taking into account the loss of revenue and extra expense incurred the impact upon Babergh will be around two million pounds to the deficit which will make budget setting into the immediate future very difficult. This has brought from national government the call for unitary government across Suffolk upon their terms of course.

As co - chair of the joint Audit and Standards Committee it will fall to myself to see that every penny is spent wisely and that every penny that can be saved, will be. In my first full year in this role I have to say that the Babergh/Midsuffolk officers are exemplary in this task and role and every penny that can be invested to earn a dividend is, even if we only hold it for a brief moment. We also try to buy services locally, although not at any cost, we also try to see that all bills and debts are paid even if as in this time, it takes a while.

We are landlords to 3,400 tenants, this is up about 150 dwellings thanks to an extensive effort at funding and extending our housing portfolio despite the awful RTB still draining our valuable stock. With the continued rise in house prices and the ongoing stampede from our major cities this represents a valiant effort to see that every resident that deserves a home has one and that we can at least provide a home for a future generation of Babergh and this will be the only option for a reasonable priced dwelling for many into the future. Our solar panels continue to provide a valuable income although it was down to about £350,000 this year due to some maintenance issues.

Planning issues continue to make the wrong sort of headlines with consent given to some very unpopular sites in the wrong places with no meaningful infrastructure to cope with them. Coupled with this we have had outrageous and unnecessary delays in settling and completing our Joint Local Plan which would have been so important in obtaining and steering good planning decisions.

Locally in the absence of normal council functions, I have thrown myself into all the local issues such as the Home but not Alone scheme which did so well in making sure that no one

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was left without provisions or medication, some human contact and a number to call if just frightened. This scheme worked brilliantly and has done so much to shore up a neighbourly network as has the much needed foodbanks that have sprung up in some churches and villages across the community and I am afraid that these are here to stay as the last lifeline for many low waged and out of work families.

Locally this has been the busiest time as your councillor but also in so many ways very rewarding as we adjust to what we have in store for our future. I continue as always to support what I think is good and beneficial for the district as a whole and fight what is not.

Thanks to Simon and Sara for setting up this meeting and to all residents for being here. Happy to answer questions and follow up on any themes you wish to develop”

Local planning applications were discussed. A renewed application for Class Q conversion had been made at Pound End Barns for the remaining undeveloped “barn”. This does not meet the criteria for Class Q conversion from an agricultural to residential building and was opposed.

An application had been made to extend the mobile phone mast located behind Wyncolls Hall Farm at the top of Swingleton Hill from 50 foot to 70 foot high. Councillor Hurren considered this an unnecessary blot on the landscape and will oppose.

The Chairman then invited Juliet Hawkins to address the meeting and present the recent application to build two small properties on land to the west of Powney Street adjacent to the Milden Hall back drive. Once the presentation was complete Juliet and Christopher Hawkins left the meeting.

Comments were sought from the parishioners present. There were questions regarding this application within the context of the JLP. Bryn Hurren remarked that the application lay within the proposed BUAB which had been put in place to protect open countryside from development. It was also made clear that there is no “quota” as such for new development within the BUAB. A vote was taken with 12 parishioners voting in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

Parishioners were encouraged to comment individually on these three applications via the Babergh Planning Portal.

### **6. Finance Report**

Howard Webb had completed the internal audit.

The meeting approved the following end of year statements:-

Accounting statement – Proposed: Geoff McClintic    Seconded: Stephen Morley  
Annual Governance Statement – Proposed: Adrian Miles    Seconded: Anne McClintic  
Exemption Certificate (Agar) – Proposed: David Herbert    Seconded: Angus Cundey

Accounts and budget are attached at the end of these minutes.

## **7. Pavilion/Recreation Ground Report**

Adrian Miles gave the Pavilion report.

The Coronavirus situation has obviously had a huge effect on the operations of the pavilion during 2020, with all activities ceased during the lock down period. However we were fortunate to be able to hold the Milden Ball in January before lockdown which raised over £2000.00 and we had a most enjoyable pub night which also made a good contribution. After these all other events had to be cancelled including the singing concert and the cricket which reduced the income to zero.

During this period we took advantage of the Government business rates grant scheme from which we received £10,000.00 after applying through Babergh District Council. This has given the pavilion a more solid financial footing to survive the period of inactivity.

Current funds stand at £14,348.93 with £11,000.00 held in the deposit account as security over the coming year.

Since the easing of lockdown and the Government allowing village halls to re-open under certain restrictions Justine Turner has put in a huge amount of work to make the pavilion Covid-19 compliant. This includes the provision of sanitisation facilities and the generation of a large amount of signage and documentation to enable the building to be hired out within current rules. This has resulted in a couple of hirings for cricket matches.

In addition the cricket club have resumed playing and have about 5 matches in the calendar with the first one attracting a decent crowd of 20 or so people (at a suitable distance!).

So we are pleased to say that the pavilion is now available for use under Government restrictions and despite the complete loss of hire income is in a sustainable position to continue to provide a great facility for the village.

## **8. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence

## **9. Any Other Business**

The Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride Event was taking place on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Seven cyclists had so far signed up, sponsorship forms available from Sarah Offord. St Peter's Milden will be unmanned on the day.

Simon Frost reported that he had applied for a Community Fibre Partnership grant to address the issues of poor broadband for those located some distance from the fibre cabinet at the crossroads. A £1500 grant per resident and £3,500 grant per business was available. He wished to know if others would be interested in taking this forward. Those who wish to do so should contact Simon direct.

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The clerk enquired whether parishioners would be prepared to attend the next Parish Meeting via Zoom. There was a distinct lack of enthusiasm so it was agreed that the next meeting would be held when/if conditions allowed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

**A Summary Report for Milden Annual Parish Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
From James Finch – County Councillor for the Stour Valley  
“Another Year of Working in Partnership”.**

This is a selection of 2019/20 news items from Suffolk County Council that featured over the last 16 months. I have deliberately left out COVID 19 news which has absorbed an enormous amount of local resources over the last 6 months. For further details on any of these items, and more, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/>.

- **County Council approves budget to spend more on services for vulnerable residents**

On 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Suffolk County Council approved its annual budget. The Council will increase its spending power again this coming financial year, particularly in Children’s and Adults services, where demand continues to rise year on year.

In 2020/2021, the Council’s budget will rise to £556million which represents an increase of £37m (7.1%) from 2019/20. Children’s and Adults Services represent around 70% of the Council’s overall spend.

This year’s budget is based on a 12-month financial settlement from government, rather than the three or four-year agreement which is usually offered.

As well as addressing the need to maintain funding for key services, the Council will invest an additional £3.5m into two one-year programmes, the Suffolk 2020 fund (£3m) and a highways investment fund (£500k).
- **Suffolk’s parking problems to be addressed by the District and Borough Councils**

In January 2020 councils in Suffolk will take on responsibility for local parking management from 6 April 2020.

Traditionally, roadside parking offences were a matter for the Police. However, parking has become a lower priority for them, so Suffolk County Council is transferring this responsibility to local district and borough councils under a process known as **Civil Parking Enforcement**, or CPE.

This means each council will be responsible for issuing parking fines, warnings and notices in their area, although a deal has been struck by Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils to have their parking enforced by Ipswich and West Suffolk officers.
- **Suffolk celebrates another CQC success in 2020**

Further to the outstanding rating in October 2018 to Mid Suffolk Home first for the reablement service and long-term care service, in January 2020, Care Quality Commission statistics **showed that Suffolk is now top of the table for comparator local authority areas**. In Suffolk, 89.04% of Adult Social Care locations are rated as ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ by the Care Quality Commission, the national standards agency for adult care.

When it comes to the national rankings, Suffolk is performing equally well. **Ranked as third nationally** for ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ rated care locations, Suffolk shines out as a great area for adult social care. This is particularly impressive when it is considered that **Suffolk has over 100 more adult social care locations than any of the other areas listed in the top ten**.
- **Schools in Suffolk see improvement in results across a range of subjects at GCSE level**

Self-reported results from Suffolk schools, released on 22 August 2019, indicate an increase in students achieving higher grades. This included a 4% increase in pupils achieving at least a grade 5 in all elements of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and a 7% increase in the number of students achieving a grade 4, when compared with the previous year.

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The English Baccalaureate constitutes GCSEs in English and Maths plus GCSEs from the Sciences, Humanities and Languages. This is seen by the government as an important academic foundation for all pupils. These figures also show an increase in the number of disadvantaged pupils achieving grade 4 in English and Maths. There has also been a 2-point increase in the attainment 8 figure for disadvantage pupils, which is likely to see disadvantage students exceed the national average when provisional results are released in October. Attainment 8 takes into account a pupil's overall results across a range of GCSEs.

### ➤ **Council pushes forward creating more places for specialist education in Suffolk**

As indicated in my last annual report, in April 2019, Cabinet approved a financial investment of up to £45.6 million to support the development of a number of local specialist provisions for children and young people with SEND. The investment, which covers new special schools and specialist units attached to existing mainstream schools, will create over 800 new specialist education places in the county.

In December 2019, Suffolk County Council were in a position to announce more details of the development of new SEND units attached to mainstream schools in the county. Following a thorough evaluation process, a number of suitable schools have been identified to develop:

- Two Generic Key Stage 1 Units at Pipers Vale Primary Academy and Burton End Primary Academy.
- Three Communication and Interaction Key Stage 2 Units at Murrayfield Primary Academy, Houldsworth Valley Primary Academy, and Causton Junior School.
- One Cognition and Learning Key Stage 2 Unit at Clements Primary Academy.
- Three Communication and Interaction Key Stage 3/4 Units at Copleston High School, Ixworth School, and Newmarket Academy.
- One Cognition and Learning Key Stage 3/4 Unit at Castle Manor Primary Academy.

In total, this means an additional 168 new specialist placements will be available for children and their families in Suffolk from this September 2020, on top of existing specialist provision. A further commissioning round began in Spring 2020 and will consider further expressions of interest from mainstream schools who hope to open units in September 2021.

### ➤ **Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service rated “Good” in Government inspection**

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has undergone its most comprehensive, independent inspection in many years and has been rated as “Good” for its effectiveness, efficiency and how well it leads and manages its staff. The findings come from a report published on 17 December 2019 by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS). Inspectors reviewed every aspect of the service, from how we respond to 999 emergencies, to looking at policies, and interviewing a wide range of firefighters and staff.

The report praises many aspects of the service, particularly how well it collaborates with other emergency services and agencies, how it responds to fires and other emergencies, how it ensures fairness and promotes diversity, and the financially sound way the service is run.

I was honoured to present some awards with the Lord Lieutenant in September 2019 to firefighters, non-operational staff and volunteers from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service when they were recognised for their bravery and commitment. Over 40 awards were given to the Service's firefighters and staff, including those for good conduct and long service, charity fundraising, teamwork, and actions at 999 emergencies.

### ➤ **The Hold topping out ceremony**

On 25 September, contractors R G Carter, along with senior officers from Suffolk County Council, the University of Suffolk, Ipswich Vision and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, **celebrated the official ‘Topping Out’ of the new ‘The Hold’ building.**

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Located on the campus of the University of Suffolk, within Ipswich's unique and regenerating Waterfront, the building will house the majority of Suffolk's nationally and internationally significant archives.

More than just a new building, 'The Hold' project will also be the engine for a transformed, audience-focused Archives service reaching out to diverse communities in Ipswich, the county and the nation, through its activity and digital programmes, engaging people in new and exciting ways.

### ➤ **Council New street lighting proposed to reduce the county's carbon footprint**

Suffolk County Council is looking to reduce its carbon footprint **by investing £9.8m** in street lighting, after Cabinet approved an LED street lighting replacement project on 25 February 2020. Following a review of its street lighting policy in 2010, and with energy prices set to increase at between 8% and 12% a year, the Council has decided the high energy consumption of its existing lanterns could create further pressure on its resources in the near future. The Council owns and maintains over 60,000 street-lights.

### ➤ **In addition, Suffolk County Council awarded £4.41m for smart street lights**

The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport's (ADEPT) SMART Places Live Labs programme was launched on 31 May 2019.

The £22.9million programme, funded by the Department for Transport (DfT) will see eight local authority led projects develop and test prototypes and applications across SMART materials, communications, energy and mobility.

Projects range from harvesting renewable energy from roads and innovative data analytics to using plastics in road surfacing treatment.

In total ADEPT received 28 bids from local authorities across the country. Suffolk County Council was one of the eight successful projects and has been awarded £4.41m for an innovative project to create *a network of smart street-lights across the county*.

### ➤ **Ofsted confirms that Suffolk County Council's Children's Services are 'Outstanding'**

On 21 May 2019, it was announced that Ofsted inspectors had awarded Children's Services at Suffolk County Council the top grade of 'Outstanding' following their visit in April 2019.

**Only eight other Local Authorities, out of 152, had at that point been judged to be 'Outstanding' overall.** Ofsted's inspection report of Suffolk's children's social care services said: *"Services for children are of an exceptionally high standard. They are child-focused and make a positive difference to children's lives"*.

### ➤ **More Fostering and Adoption Sessions in Boxford and the Stour Valley**



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Following another successful year holding these sessions locally, I have continued up until March this year with local sessions supported by the Fostering and adoption team. From June, because of COVID 19, we have converted these to Virtual Sessions with members of the team.

Therefore, those who would like to find out more

- can refer to the website - [www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk) and / or
- join one of the following events during the next three months which will be conducted **VIRTUALLY** face to face with one of the team following the government guidance:-

*For those wanting more information on Fostering only:-*

**Wednesdays - 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 - all 7:00pm in your home.**

*For those wanting more information on Adoption only:-*

**Thursdays - 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November - all at 7:00pm in your home.**

To book a place **please email** [Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk). She will then send instructions on how to join the virtual meeting. As always, our team will be happy to answer any questions you have about fostering or adoption! They normally will have a foster carer or adoptive parent available to help you too at these events. Please spread the word.

**James Finch, County Councillor for the Stour Valley Division**  
Tel 01206 263649 Mobile 07545 423796 Email: [james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk)

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# Annual Milden Parish Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Sheet1

## Milden Parish Meeting Budget 2020/20<sup>21</sup>

	Current Year (estimate) /£	Previous Year (actual) /£
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Water	115	113
Insurance FIT	100	90
SALC	37	36
Grass cutting graveyard	220	205
<b>Total</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>444</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Carried forward	3069	2238
Precept	943	925
Profit Share Roundabout	0	350
<b>Total</b>	<b>4012</b>	<b>3514</b>

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### MILDEN PARISH MEETING

#### Receipt and Payment Account For year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to March 2020

31/03/19		31/03/2020	
£	RECEIPTS	£	Variance
925.29	Precept from Babergh District Council	925.30	0.00
0.00	Share dividend Roundabout	350.00	350.00
<b>3,513.00</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-31513</b>
4,438.29	<b>TOTAL</b>	1275.30	-3162.99
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
35.70	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	36.39	0.69
112.00	Fields in Trust Insurance	90.00	-22.00
59.97	Anglian Water	113.24	53.27
50.00	Roundabout Magazine	0.00	-50.00
120.00	Milden PCC (half grass cutting, graveya	205.00	85.00
3435.00	Defibrillator and costs	0.00	-3435.00
48.8	Justine Turner paint	0.00	-48
<b>3861.47</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>444.63</b>	
	<b>RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY</b>		
1661.92	Balance brought forward as at 1st April	2238.00	576.08
4438.29	Add total receipts	1275.30	-3162.99
<b>6100.21</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3513.30</b>	<b>-2586.91</b>
3861.47	Deduct total payments	444.63	-3416.84
<b>2238.74</b>	<b>Balance carried forward as at 31st Mar</b>	<b>3068.67</b>	<b>829.93</b>

#### Cumulative Funds Represented by:

2,238.74	Lloyds Treasurers Account	3068.67	829.93
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Signed CHAIR

Date

Approved at the Annual Parish Meeting held on the above date.  
The above statement represents fairly the financial position of  
the authority as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and reflects its receipts and  
payments during that year.