

Annual Milden Parish Meeting 18th May 2021

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2021 at the Tractor Barn at Lower Farm, Milden at 6.00pm

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

Present: James Finch, Bryn Hurren, Joy Morley, Stephen Morley, Christopher Hawkins, Mark Isahak, Bridget Hawkins, Justine Turner, Denise Thomas, John Fulcher, Deb Kerr, Sarah Harrison, Geoff McClintic, Anne McClintic, Jan Ditheridge.

The Chairman thanked Joy Morley and Stephen Morley for hosting the meeting in their tractor barn.

1. Apologies for absence

were received from Tony Ditheridge, Amanda Fulcher, Adrian Miles, Sally Miles, Anne Warren, Juliet Hawkins, Joe Coulter, Rosy Porteous Butler, David Porteous Butler, Julie Isahak.

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 18th August 2020

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: Anne McClintic Seconded: Joy Morley

3. Matters arising from those minutes.

Christopher Hawkins has very kindly added the bus shelter to his farm's NFU insurance. It is insured for £11,500 with £10m of public liability. The Hawkins will cover the cost this year (from 1st April 2021). In subsequent years the cost will be met by the Parish Meeting.

The Chairman sought to establish whether the BT cable behind the telephone box has been repaired. He asked if this was still thought to be an issue if someone could let him know and he would follow up with BT. Many thanks to Joy Morley and Stephen Morley for giving the area a general tidy-up.

The Community Fibre Partnership is untenable because not enough residents were interested in taking up the offer. The 4G dongle route was suggested as a viable alternative for those still struggling with poor broadband service.

The Quiet Lanes application for Church Road and Drury Lane has been completed and we are waiting to hear. Monks Eleigh and Brent Eleigh have applied in the second wave. The Monks Eleigh application for Swingleton Hill And Back Lane will link in with our Quiet Lane.

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. The Chairman congratulated Councillor Finch on his recent re-election.

In addition to the items covered in his report Councillor Finch acknowledged that the Council's upkeep of undesignated roads was not up to standard. He was reminded of a number of potholes in Drury Lane that had been reported on the Highways online reporting tool in January and March of this year which had still not been repaired. He undertook to follow up with Highways again, whilst reminding the meeting that the Covid pandemic had had a significant impact on slowing down the work of the council in other areas.

He was also asked about progress on moving the 30mph limit further south down Boxford Road. This also has been delayed by the pandemic and is not currently a priority. He questioned whether it would have any real impact on those who already speed along this stretch of road.

5. District Councillor's Report

Councillor Hurren gave his report for the year. He kindly provided a written summary which was distributed before the meeting.

"This year for most of us has been a year like no other for all the wrong reasons. Having said that it has also been a year where Babergh, as a small local District Council, has shown a distinct willingness to support their electorate and businesses to the very best of it's ability. We have made sure that all who were entitled to business interruption grants and rate relief have received the best and the most that we were able to give them.

Also, as landlord to close on 4,000 tenants the Babergh/Midsuffolk housing teams have been there to advise and help those that have been shielding, alone, short of supplies and in debt to make ends meet at crucial times, while always trying to see that bills were paid both for rent and other critical utilities before due deadlines.

One thing that soon became apparent was that the much-criticised universal credit system was not suitable for quick fixes and parachute payments as it is cumbersome and slow to administer and bring help and at times it seemed it was designed to be just that.

As a long-time serving Councillor it has been good to see staff at all levels continue in their posts even when distant from colleagues and other team members but there has been a toll I feel, on some of the younger members of staff who have lacked guidance and the mentoring that normally would come from an office environment.

For myself I have put in all the effort that I have been able to summon in pursuit of my elected duties and as joint chair of the Audit and Standards Committee it has fallen to myself to see that money allocated has gone in the direction and cause that it should.

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The death rate from Coronavirus in Babergh has been amongst the lowest in the whole country but still tragic to know that close to 260 souls in the Babergh District have lost their lives to this virus. I was especially saddened to lose a close friend in Eddie Kench who has always been a support and a source of comfort to me especially when writing items for the BRN. If you feel it, write it, was his constant advice and the more controversial the better. I spent time in his house fitting and fixing ramps and steps so that he could push his wife Janet around in the new wheelchair just before I heard that he had become ill and still wish that I had spent more time with him before rushing away to do the next job.

Thankfully at the last district election the public voted to have a council of No Political control which has made it essential that we all work together and for the minority groups to contribute and get on with the work we were elected to do, without a ruling political group going off on vanity trips and chasing political white elephants or even blue ones.

Although planning and heritage issues are still our achilles heel I do feel that all other departments and functions have performed well. With the huge environmental challenges that we all face being tackled despite not really much leadership from the Government we have implemented our own climate emergency and have used CIL monies to start a program of converting our fleet of vehicles to bio diesel fuel and a move to electric rechargeable vehicles for fleet cars. We will also make a start on tree planting and biodiversity on land that we own or on host land for those willing to take part. It is also hoped to switch our investments in bonds that are associated with fossil fuels to more green and environmentally friendly alternatives.

We also try to keep people safe with our food inspections for hygiene and safe working methods and the score on the door system of grading has served us well for restaurants, shops and eateries of all sorts. While one recent case has hit the headlines, it should be remembered that thousands of inspections take place every year to keep us all safe.

Plans are also in place to enact a decision to take back our public realm function in house, this hopefully will mean better control of work and hopefully more work carried out with less taxpayers money. I hope that we will then have access to a scraper for our road cleaning duties which will mean that we will no longer have to wait for County Highways to get the mud off the roads before we can effectively sweep them. Hopefully this will mean we do not have a repeat of the stand-offs that occurred this past winter.

Locally I have done my very best to be here for you whenever needed and have always tried to throw my weight behind you, which it certainly has been on a few occasions this past year. I look forward to expanding on this report and answering your questions when we meet on Tuesday evening.

Thank you to our clerk and all residents of Milden. I look forward to continuing to work together for the next two years”

6. Finance Report

The Treasurer had circulated the accounts and budget prior to the meeting.

Howard Webb had completed the internal audit.

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The meeting approved the following end of year statements:-

Accounts – Proposed – Denise Thomas Seconded – Stephen Morley
Accounting statement – Proposed: Denise Thomas Seconded: Stephen Morley
Annual Governance Statement – Proposed: Denise Thomas Seconded: Stephen Morley

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

We have £4,898 CIL monies available.

7. Pavilion/Recreation Ground Report

Adrian Miles provided a written Pavilion report, which was distributed before the meeting.

“It’s been a stop start year (mainly stop) for the pavilion in the last year with various lock downs starting and then easing. The latest easing of restrictions now allows people to use the building and for the cricket to continue in a relatively normal way.

We should give huge thanks to Justine for all the hard work she has undertaken over the last 12 months in keeping the pavilion COVID secure and sourcing all the necessary documentation, posters and sanitising equipment to keep it that way.

There are numerous new statutory policy requirements needed to run the pavilion. Special thanks must go to Justine and Debbie for producing these. In addition, Management and Trustees have gone through DBS checks and some have attended safeguarding courses to remain compliant with the rules. It’s not easy running a pavilion these days!.

Despite the lack of hire income we have applied for the Government backed business rates grant scheme from which we have received a number of payments. In addition we have just received a re-start grant of £8000.00 from Babergh. As a result current pavilion financial assets amount to about £31,000.

This gives us some security for the future as we ease out of the COVID situation and also gives much needed finance for some large investments needed to keep the pavilion going. This will include work to the cesspit and refurbishment of the changing rooms which is much needed.

Milden Pavilion is now available for hire as community building and as is a Covid secure venue. From 17th May all our regular groups may resume and we look forward to welcoming them back. The Pavilion can also be hired for small group events and we are pleased we already have a family birthday booked. Inside the maximum number of people we feel is appropriate is 20 however if you use the outside space you may have up to 30 people in total. We are pleased to announce Shanty Folk are inviting everyone to an afternoon of shanty and folk songs on Saturday 17th July from 2pm. There will be a licensed bar and refreshment available so please bring along a picnic blanket or deck chairs for a relaxing afternoon.

We continue to offer free table tennis to all Milden Residents please get in touch with Pearl or Justine

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Cricket has resumed and MCC won their opening match. As you can see the Milden Groundhogs have made a splendid job of maintaining the playing field for us all and preparing the cricket wicket. Spectators are now allowed so we encourage you all to attend.

There is a vacancy on the committee for someone to look after the Pavilion accounts. Tasks involve recording of financial transactions and organising payments in and out of the bank accounts. The role does not need a qualified accountant and currently involves relatively simple spread sheet work. If anyone is interested please raise your hand at this meeting or contact Sara who will pass on my contact details.

In conclusion we are pleased to say that the pavilion has come through this difficult period in good shape and a sustainable position so it can continue to provide a great facility for the village.”

8. Correspondence

A letter from EACH had been received seeking volunteers to work in their shops. The clerk will distribute by email. All other correspondence, which is mainly received by email, is distributed as and when received.

9. Any Other Business

Geoff and Anne McClintic have offered to set up a village lending library in the bus shelter. The telephone box cannot be used because of the defibrillator. Geoff will build some shelves and Anne will run it. The meeting was in favour of this going ahead.

Sarah Harrison is running a churchyard tidy up at 1.30pm on 19th May. All welcome to help.

James Cartlidge is running a constituency surgery In Hadleigh at the end of June. Booking essential. Clerk to distribute flyer by email.

Justine Turner shared three items of any other business.

Firstly, grit bins. SCC no longer provide grit piles due to environmental concerns. We therefore require grit bins to replace the former piles at the Powney Street/Church Road junction and at Rectory corner. These cost between £150 and £400. SCC refill for free. James Finch offered his assistance, suggesting that the larger grit bins were better and that we need to keep in mind the accessibility with regard to ease of refilling. The meeting agreed to the plan in principle. Exact locations to be determined and circulated to the village for approval. It is possible to have a village Grit Monitor who will receive training, be responsible for spreading grit and be covered by SCC public liability insurance. Alternatively we can spread the grit ourselves on an ad hoc basis.

Secondly, Pound Lane. The deeply rutted surface is treacherous and has been a cause of concern for some time. Many villagers have fallen and some now avoid the route entirely. The damage has been caused by vehicles using the by-way. Justine had been in contact with SCC PROW team who have recently erected signs discouraging vehicular use when the ground is soft. James Finch suggested we write to him and he will get Clare Dickson at the PROW team involved. Solutions discussed included filling in the ruts with soil/road planings, bollards set

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1.5m apart at either end and reassigning the byway as a bridle way. Any solution must retain the rural character of the byway.

Thirdly, a generous villager has donated a lovely wooden bench to the village. This will be located to the left of the phone box. Bryn Hurren has offered to provide metal brackets to secure the bench to a concrete pad which will be installed by Reg Turner and Simon Frost. Bryn also offered to rout "Milden" into the back crosspiece of the bench.

Denise Thomas raised the issue of flooding in the area of Powney Street near her home. The flood management team at SCC have designated the area as an extreme risk flood area. Denise expressed concern about the outline planning permission for four houses granted on the two paddocks to the north of the old council houses as she believes this area absorbs a lot of the flood water. This issue will have to be addressed when the full planning application for these houses is considered.

10.Date of next Meeting

We will aim to hold the next meeting in November, Covid regulations permitting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.20pm.

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From

James Finch

County Councillor
Stour Valley Division
Endeavour House
8 Russell Road
IPSWICH
IP1 2BX

Rose Cottage, 5 Fen Street, Nayland, Suffolk CO6 4HT
Tel: 01206 263649 Mobile 07545 423796 Email: james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk
17th May 2021

Suffolk County Council Summary Annual Report 2020/21 for the Milden Annual Assembly on 18th May 2021 on the Cricket ground

· The Year of COVID 19

The year has been dominated for all of us at National and local level by pulling together to overcome the

unprecedented incident of Coronavirus throughout the year. The County Council with the Suffolk fire Service reacted from the very beginning back in March 2020 in many ways to the National guidance given

by the Ministry of Health and the NHS. These are just some examples of actions taken by the Council: -

- Immediate response supplying the elderly and vulnerable with food packs so that they were well fed and nobody suffered because of the 1st lock down and were unable to visit the shops.
- The collection and dissemination of local data and advice to guide the local policy for best practice control.
- The organisation of Home Schooling with the local authority in maintained schools
- The introduction of “Home but not Alone” free phone line for the lonely.
- Support Lines for those with Financial Worries.
- The follow up to Test and Trace and now recently totally co-ordinated at the local level since March 2021.

· Local co-ordination of the Vaccination programme with Clinical Commissioning Groups via the Director of Public Health – Stuart Keeble.

There will be lots of lessons learnt for this last year and no doubt our future modus operandi both in work

and leisure will be different in the future.

We should all thank each other for the collaboration that has been achieved. My belief is that there is “always good that comes out of bad”.

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· Resurfacing of 25% of the Suffolk Highway

On 5th August it was announced that Suffolk Highways completed its 1000th resurfaced mile following the Council's commitment to relay new road surfaces on a quarter of Suffolk's road network. In 2017 Suffolk County Council's Cabinet committed to resurfacing 1,000 miles of road across Suffolk over a four year period in a bid to improve the quality of roads and reduce the number of potholes. There is still more to do.

· Electric Vehicle Charging Points

In September it was announced that 100 fast charging points for electric vehicles were to be built in rural parts of the county. The council have reached out to interested parish and town councils and non-profit organisations to put in fast chargers where there are currently none. The funding will cover the installation and set-up costs, meaning very little expense for the hosts and possibly creating a source of income for them. The up take has been good.

· Fostering and Adopting in Suffolk

In October the Council launched Adopt East, a regional adoption agency which has been established to recruit adopters across the East of England. Adopt East will work across local authorities to find families for children who are waiting to find their forever home. The target has also been doubled for increasing number of new foster parents from 30 to 60 for 2021/22 as a result of the predicted extra numbers required following the Pandemic.

From

James Finch

County Councillor
Stour Valley Division
Endeavour House
8 Russell Road
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IP1 2BX

· Choice of Schools for September 2021

On National Offer Day 98.57% of Suffolk children were offered a place at one of the schools preferred by their parents. Suffolk County Council received 7,602 applications from parents indicating which primary school they would prefer their child to join in September 2020. Some 7,116 children received offers for

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their first preference school and 7,493 children received an offer for one of their three preferred schools.

· Suffolk' Response to the Climate Emergency

In response to its declaration of a climate emergency, SCC aims to lead the way with an unparalleled range

of activities and policy changes to support its ambition of being a 'net zero' authority by 2030. The council's cabinet reviewed and agreed an extensive programme of recommendations to achieve this ambition including dozens of changes and new ways of working. Being 'net zero' means the council will remove its carbon emissions where it can; if it is unable to do so, it will compensate for those emissions

· Investment in Suffolk's Natural Environment

The County Council will be investing in tree-planting, restoring hedgerows, and improving roadside verges

for wildlife. £228,000 from the Suffolk 2020 Fund will enable Suffolk County Council to enhance its work

to protect and encourage biodiversity in the county. The authority will do this through a number of new

schemes, as well as building on existing work.

· Suffolk Archives New Home "The Hold" Welcomes First visitors in 2020

Monday 28 September saw the public able to access The Hold, Suffolk's flagship new heritage facility on

Ipswich Waterfront. This versatile new building will be the permanent home of the Suffolk Archives Ipswich branch and is shared with the University of Suffolk, who have dedicated teaching spaces within the building. The creation of The Hold, and its associated countywide programme of events and activities,

has been made possible thanks to a grant of £10.3m from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, and further

funding support from other national organisations and local Suffolk heritage groups.

· Better Broadband for Suffolk reaches 100,000th customer as the 3rd phase contract is agreed with the UK Government.

By June 3, more than 100,000 households across Suffolk were using faster broadband, thanks to the council-led Better Broadband for Suffolk programme. The partnership - between Suffolk County Council,

Openreach, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the New Anglia Local Enterprise

Partnership (NALEP) and local councils – has made faster broadband available to around 150,000 premises

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so far, since being launched in 2010. It means the current total superfast broadband coverage in Suffolk

now stands at more than 98 per cent coverage.

The team has plans to go even further, after today announcing an additional phase of work, to provide connectivity to approximately 5,000 more premises, including over 550 businesses, in some of the most

rural parts of Suffolk under Phase 3.

- Suffolk County Council secures £3.1M for building decarbonisation initiative.

Suffolk County Council (SCC), working in conjunction with property specialists Concertus, has secured £3+M of funding from The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to promote capital energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation projects within buildings used to provide frontline public services. Working with Concertus, the council has been preparing a range of packages to support

the decarbonising of various buildings in the Council's estate including applications for the council's headquarters at Endeavour House in Ipswich, four rural fire stations, Beacon House, Waterloo Centre and

Leiston Children's Centre. All this is to help reduce the County Council's running costs for the future.

- County Council Elections – 6th May

I am honoured to have been elected as your County Councillor for a 4th term. May I thank Milden residents

for the confidence they have shown in me for the next 4 years. As before I am here to represent everyone

who live in the Stour Valley Division at the County Council and will continue to do so to the best of my ability.

James Finch, County Councillor for The Stour Valley Division - 17th May 2021

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MILDEN PARISH MEETING

Receipt and Payment Account

For year 1st April 2020 to March 31st 2021

31/03/20		31/03/2021	
£	RECEIPTS	£	Variance
925.30	Precept from Babergh District Council	943.79	18.49
925.30	TOTAL	943.79	18.49
	PAYMENTS		
36.39	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	37.40	1.01
90.00	Fields in Trust Insurance	90.00	0.00
113.24	Anglian Water	173.29	60.05
205.00	Milden PCC (half grass cutting, graveyard)	160.00	-45.00
444.63	TOTAL	460.69	
	RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY		
2238.73	Balance brought forward as at 1st April	3069.40	830.67
1275.30	Add total receipts	943.79	-331.51
3514.03	Total	4013.19	499.16
444.63	Deduct total payments	460.69	16.06
3069.40	Balance carried forward as at 31st March	3552.50	483.10
	Cumulative Funds Represented by:		
3,069.40	Lloyds Treasurers Account	3552.50	483.10
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 31st March 2021 and reflects its receipts and
payments during that year.

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Sheet1

Milden Parish Meeting Budget 2021/2022

	Current Year (estimate) /£	Previous Year (actual) /£
Expenditure		
Water	150	173
Insurance FIT	100	90
SALC	38	37
Grass cutting graveyard	200	160
Total	488	460
Income		
Carried forward	3552	3069
Precept	943	943
Total	4495	4012