

Milden Parish Meeting 23rd November
2022

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 23rd November 2022 at the Milden Pavilion at
7.00pm

Chairman: Simon Frost
Treasurer: Sandy De'Ath
Clerk: Sara Godfrey
District Councillor – Bryn Hurren
County Councillor – James Finch

Present: Joy Morley, Stephen Morley, Justine Turner, Sally Miles, Tissa Rigby, Joe Coulter, Bridget Hawkins, Denise Thomas, Deb Kerr.

1. Apologies for absence

were received from Amanda Fulcher, John Fulcher, Tony Ditheridge, Jan Ditheridge, Sarah Harrison, John Harrison.

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2022

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: Justine Turner Seconded: Stephen Morley

3. Matters arising from those minutes.

The repairs to Pound Lane undertaken by a contractor for SCC are inadequate. An insufficient amount of road planings were delivered and only used to fill in a muddy depression at the main road end of the lane. The deeply rutted section in the middle of Pound Lane was not touched. Deb Kerr had been in touch with Claire Dickson of SCC PROW team and, having inspected the work, she agreed it was not satisfactory and remedial action would be taken imminently. This has not occurred and Deb has not had a reply from Claire Dickson to her two most recent emails. James Finch has agreed to follow this up with Claire Dickson. Unfortunately off-road vehicles have been spotted using the lane recently, which will only make the situation worse.

A new noticeboard, picnic tables and grass gridding have all been purchased with CIL money as agreed at our last meeting. The noticeboard has been installed and is a major improvement. The picnic tables and grass gridding are currently in storage and awaiting installation. Stephen Morley will coordinate this in due course. Volunteers to assist will be sought. Many thanks to Justine Turner for all her work on this.

4. County Councillor's Report.

Councillor Finch gave his report for the year. He kindly provided a written summary which is attached at the end of these minutes.

The ongoing saga of uncut verges along Church Road and Drury Lane was discussed. The east portion of Church Road was cut recently by Stephen Morley. The remainder still requires

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cutting. James Finch undertook to raise this again with SCC Highways. These verges have not been cut at all this year.

Councillor Finch also provided a number of SCC's Cost of Living Leaflet. These had been sent out by email to parishioners before the meeting, copies were left in the Pavilion and also placed on the village noticeboard.

5. District Councillor's Report

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

"Since we last met in May of this year, the District Council has reverted back to face to face council and committee meetings with our staff where applicable adopting a system of hybrid working, with a mixture of office and home working. This of course does not apply to refuse collection and trade teams.

We are still in recovery mode from the coronavirus pandemic and to date have given out just over £40m in recovery and hardship grants across the Babergh District and this may increase during this coming winter due to the huge escalation in fuel and utility costs.

These are also hitting the council badly with the wage settlement being above what was expected and the cost of all raw materials for repairs etc going through the roof. On the positive side our Sifco assets are performing well and bringing in just over £2m per year and along with our green diversifications; solar panels, EFW and vegetable oil conversions) doing well, we are looking somehow to balance the books without setting a crippling council tax rise for residents. Since the autumn statement, not to be confused with the mini budget, we are allowed to increase the council tax by up to 5% this year. Although this might seem to be an easy option for local government, it lets the national Government off the hook and passes the buck to us, I am of the view that on top of everything else, this would be a step too far. I am sure that as part of this debate, complete amalgamation with mid Suffolk, car parking charges and a rise in charges that we can make will all become part of the debate.

There is also now an ever increasing chance that the political governance of Suffolk may change with a move towards, I hope, a unitary elected council for the whole of Suffolk with an elected leader, who could be of a different political persuasion to the council itself. This is at the moment only in an embryo stage and will require much work and consultation.

Our housing function continues to do well in these troubled times, although we have many more people to house than houses, we have had to take our share of refugees as well which has increased pressure and also house some tenants who are normally picked up by other agencies. Like all other large landlords we have had an epistle from the Government demanding that our houses should be mould-free following the tragic death of the child of a tenant in another area, about 98% of our houses do meet the national decent homes standard and we are working constantly on the ones that do not.

On a more positive front, Gainsborough House was reopened last week and will become a major tourist attraction for Sudbury along with St Peters Church and hopefully will help the general well-being of our largest market town in the district. The land for the new visitor centre

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was originally donated by the district council to start the project off and the project has also been in receipt of considerable CIL monies to refurbish the original Gainsborough House.

With regard to the CIL scheme itself, BDC has up to this date collected £17m and distributed just over £12m to local community projects across the district.

With regard to planning matters, Babergh/Midsuffolk continue to plod on with our joint local plan which seems to be taking forever but is now gathering weight and hopefully will enable us to decide our own path and what development we need and want and where it goes.

Our tree for life scheme has been a resounding success with over 400 trees given out last year to this scheme, also we have extended an offer to all councils to access free trees, shrubs and wildflower seeds to help with our biodiversity and tree planting efforts across the district.

Babergh District Council remains under no overall political control and is governed by a combined cabinet drawn from Independent Conservatives, Independents, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat Councillors. This was especially evident last evening when an open debate resolved to send an invite to Anglian Water to come to the council to explain why sewage was discharged into the rivers and waterways across our district on 288 occasions so far this year. We will see where that goes.

This has been a rather whistlestop tour of events and my part in them across the district and I am more than willing to develop upon them and anything else tonight, or after this meeting in a private forum”

6. Finance Report

The Treasurer gave the finance report. “The precept for last year was £962.65 and I will be asking for a 2% increase which will take next year’s precept to £981.89

Proposer: Sally Miles
Seconder: Tissa Rigby

The latest bank statement for October shows a balance of £4,773

CIL Money.

We started the year with £4,898

We purchased:

Picnic bench	£720
Grit Bins	£324
Ground matting	£1,093
Notice board	£420

Remaining balance £2,349

It is anticipated that CIL money from the Powney Street development will add significantly to this total.

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Justine Turner raised the issue of speeding in Powney Street. She had been in contact with SCC Highways regarding cutting back vegetation which is obscuring the 30mph repeater signs, they have refused to do it citing budget constraints, She had also been in contact with other local villages who have SIDs (speed indicator devices) and has gathered a lot of information. These are expensive, at around £3,000, but one unit could be alternated between two posts, one at either end of the straight part of Powney Street. Approval has to be gained from SCC, the police as well as those who live near to the location of the SID. James Finch commented that they have proved to be effective in other locations, especially if the location of the SID is regularly changed, he also indicated that he may be able to help us financially using local highways budget funds. Bryn Hurren said he would check with Babergh that a SID would qualify as a capital asset for CIL expenditure. The Parish Meeting unanimously supported progressing the acquisition of a SID sign for Milden. In the meantime Justine will buy some wheelie bin speed stickers for those that would like to use them.

No other suggestions for CIL expenditure were raised.

7. Pavilion/Recreation Ground Report

Adrian Miles provided a written Pavilion report, which Deb Kerr presented to the meeting.

“It has been good to see the Pavilion back in unrestricted use this summer with a number of cricket matches, Charlie and the Dig and the excellent Platinum Jubilee event held on 2nd June. A special mention to Justine Turner for doing the lion’s share of the work putting this together.

The Milden Singers are still rehearsing, but would welcome new recruits, please contact Pearl, you can do this via the website (see below).

The pavilion remains in good financial shape, we are taking advantage of this by using some of the capital to invest in essential maintenance including internal decorating. As a result of an independent survey we will be trimming some of the trees around the perimeter to keep them safe. We have also upgraded the pavilion chairs as the existing ones were getting very tired. The committee are also looking at the costs of installing Broadband into the pavilion as many potential hirers have expressed the need for this service.

One event planned for next year is to celebrate the Coronation day on Saturday 6th May 2023. More details will follow about the afternoon and evening which will include live music and dance for all to enjoy, along with a BBQ and Bar. So for now please save the date and your family and friends are welcome as we join together to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III in Milden style!.

On Saturday 21st 2023 January Christopher Hawkins will be sharing his Milden archive, consisting of old maps, documents and photographs of Milden and the local area, all are welcome between 2pm and 6pm.

There is still 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 Godfrey who will pass on my contact details.

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A reminder of the new website address is <https://www.mildenpavilion.co.uk/> it is being developed to promote future events and will contain reports on past events. There is also an online booking form and contact details for communications regarding hiring etc.

In conclusion we are pleased to say that the pavilion remains in a sustainable position so it can continue to provide a great facility for the village.”

8. Any Other Business

Simon Frost advised that a Planning Application and Listed building Consent had been received for repairs and change of use to the old barn at Serens Hall. Comments should be sent to him by COB December 8th for the Parish Meeting response.

Justine Turner reported that the two grit bins were now in place at Rectory Corner and the junction of Church Road and Powney Street. Eight volunteers (including 4 Turners!) had signed up to be grit spreaders, covered by SCC liability insurance. Three further parishioners signed up at the meeting but more volunteers are required, particularly those who live close to the bins. Please contact Justine if you wish to sign up.

Stephen Morley said that he thought there might be a burst water pipe adjacent to Pyghtle Cottage garden on Church Road. Sara Godfrey agreed to report to Anglian Water.

Justine Turner is planning to organise an emergency first aid course at the Pavilion as those certificates awarded to villagers at the previous course in 2017 will have expired. Potential cost £10ph. An email will be sent out to the village soon to gauge interest. Students and under 18s will be free.

Justine Turner also suggested having an open afternoon at the Pavilion once a month, possibly on a Thursday afternoon. Warm room funding is available to support the cost of this. All agreed that Justine should go ahead and apply for funding.

Joy Morley asked that no dog waste is placed in the bin at the telephone box. The Morleys empty this bin voluntarily. Dog waste bags should be taken home and disposed of in the dog owners' own black bin.

All Milden Parishioners are invited to Carols in the Barn at the Old Rectory on Wednesday 14th December, by kind invitation of Gilly and Antony Watson.

Denise Thomas asked to address the meeting regarding the recently commenced development of four new houses on Powney Street. She expressed her disappointment that Planning Approval was granted despite 20 objections from villagers and concerns about localised flooding. Simon Frost explained that flooding issues do not have to be addressed by the Planning Authority if the development has fewer than ten houses. He suggested that Denise keeps a record of the works on the site to ensure the developer adheres to the requirements Babergh have imposed on him.

9.

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10. Date of next Meeting

We will aim to hold the next meeting in May, date to be advised nearer the time.

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

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A Report for the Milden Assembly 23rd November 2022

From James Finch – County Councillor for the Stour Valley

Tel: 01206 263649 Mobile 07545 423796 Email: james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk

- Suffolk proposes already-planned developments for Investment Zone status by Govt.

The Government launched the process in early October to invite councils to submit their bids by 14th October. Suffolk Councils have been working in partnership with landowners, the Local Enterprise Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce and key local stakeholders to identify sites that meet the Government's criteria.

Suffolk County Council, in partnership with the district and borough councils, submitted on 14th October an Investment Zone expression of interest to Government based around sites which are already in existing local plans or have otherwise been identified for development.

The proposal will seek Investment Zone status for sites along Suffolk's key transport corridors of the A14, A12 and A11 and near the gateways to the county in Lowestoft, Sudbury and Mildenhall. No new greenfield sites and no new sites adjacent to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty have been brought forward. The sites in our local area include a cluster around

1. Ipswich including land adjacent to Copdock Interchange, the Eastern Gateway, Europa Way,

Hadleigh Road and Seven Hills

2. Sudbury including the Delphi site, the Hamiton road Quarter and Chilton Woods.

These sites submitted are all supported by Suffolk's MPs. We have chosen locations that will not only benefit most from regeneration, but will also allow sustainable, balanced development while protecting the environment and the AONB. We feel the proposed clusters in Copdock and Sudbury have enormous potential, with the possibility of bringing thousands of jobs to the area. It is also important to note these contain locations that are, apart from one, either brownfield sites or sites where planning permission has already been granted.

- More Special Educational Needs (SEND) places funded at October Cabinet Meeting.

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet agreed a new wave of funding to continue its programme to provide much-needed specialist places for children and young people with SEND.

The £3million agreement marks the start of Phase 3 of the Capital Programme to create three additional specialist units providing 42 additional places for students with special educational needs and disabilities. This follows Phase 1 of the programme which created 825 new places across Suffolk and Phase 2, which was signed off in June 2022, and will create up to 73 new places.

So far, £45m has been allocated by Suffolk County Council to deliver the new places for Phase 1 and Phase 2 - £15m of which has been provided by the Department for Education making a total of an extra £63m investment for Suffolk.

- Cost of Living Support for households in Suffolk up to 31st March 2023

The government has announced on 9th September the following immediate, short-term action to support households:

- Replacing the price cap with a new Energy Price Guarantee

- The Energy Price Guarantee will ensure that a typical household in Great Britain pays an average £2,500 a year on their energy bill, up until 31st March.

The consumer saving will be based on usage, but a typical household will save about £1,000 a year

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(based on current prices from October). Energy suppliers will be fully compensated for the cost of the Energy Price Guarantee.

This is in addition to the £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme. This will be paid in 6 instalments from October. The most vulnerable UK households will also continue to receive £1,200 of support provided in instalments over the year.

Suffolk County Council County Council has also summarised for our residents' potential sources of help for those facing hard times this next winter and beyond. I plead with all in our parishes to keep your eyes and ears open to ensure that those who do need help are supported in going to the right place to help them. Attached to this report is a summary of some of those sources for that help.

- **Cost of living to impact Suffolk County Council's budget**

Suffolk County Council is keen to hear from Suffolk residents, businesses and local communities, as it decides its budget for next year. An online survey has been launched, and a number of focus groups will be held, for you to have your say on the services which are important to you -

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/7BQY0J/>

A summary of your responses will be included in the report considered by the council when agreeing the budget in February 2023. The budget setting process includes your thoughts, advice from council officers, elected members from political groups, businesses and partners in health and other public service organisations across Suffolk.

Setting our budget each year is always challenging, but we always strive to offer taxpayers the best possible value. We work hard to maintain all our services and invest where we can, which is what we were able to achieve last year.

However, this year is going to be much more difficult. Many people that I speak to think that councils are not affected by the increase in the cost of living – unfortunately this is not the case. A proposed budget will be presented at a County Council Cabinet meeting in January 2023 and the final budget will be discussed at Full Council in February 2023.

- **Could you help a Ukrainian family in need?**

Suffolk has a proud history of supporting people in need and in the last six months, we have seen people and communities across our county come together to do all we can to help those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.

More than 1,050 Ukrainian guests have now arrived in Suffolk via the Homes for Ukraine scheme and I want to say a huge thank you to each and every person and family who has taken Ukrainian guests into their homes and into their hearts. You are making a real difference every day, supporting and welcoming Ukrainian families into our communities.

Sponsors originally signed up to host guests for at least 6 months, with the option for those who are willing and able to continue beyond this. The Suffolk County Council team are extremely grateful to those who are able to continue to provide this invaluable support to families beyond this initial period, however they fully understand that some will be unable to, due to changes in their circumstances in this time. Again, thank you to all in my division for everything you have done - supporting a person or family fleeing conflict is no mean feat and it cannot be underestimated how much of a difference you have made in these people's lives.

Guests on the Homes for Ukraine scheme who are not yet ready to leave sponsorship and move into their own alternative accommodation, but who cannot stay with their current host after 6 months, can move to a new host.

We also sadly continue to see more people fleeing the conflict each day. We are therefore asking anyone who thinks they may be able to help a family in need to sign up to the Homes for Ukraine scheme."

For more information see this link: [Support for Ukraine | Suffolk County Council](#)

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- **The Hold's autumn exhibition, Picture Books For All, showcases work of influential printers, W.S. Cowell**

The Hold's autumn exhibition, Picture Books For All, opens on Friday 21 October, and explores the history of Ipswich-based printers W.S. Cowell Ltd. "A prospect of Ipswich in the county of Suffolk'

by W.S.Cowell" . A visually rich selection of books, prints, original artwork and journals will chart the local, national and international importance of W.S. Cowell.

The free Suffolk Archives exhibition on Ipswich Waterfront will also look at where Cowell sits in the history of modernism in Britain and examines their significant contribution to literature and society through design.

- **Deadline to apply for Secondary School Places has passed – still apply though.**

Parents and carers can now apply for primary and secondary school places for September 2023.

The deadline for applications to secure a place at a Suffolk secondary school is Monday 31 October 2022. The deadline for applying for a primary school place, including infant and junior schools, is Sunday 15 January 2023.

- **Ipswich Register Officer moves to Endeavour House**

The Ipswich Register Office will be moving to new state of the art facilities at Endeavour House, from October. The Ipswich Register office at St Peter House closed on Friday 30 September and has reopened

fully at Endeavour House, Russell Road, on Tuesday 4 October.

- **Launch of 'Childhood' – short film to raise awareness of the need for Foster Carers**

In a ground-breaking national collaboration, 56 Local Authorities across England have worked together to share ideas and jointly fund the creation of a short film to raise awareness of fostering. It is aimed at finding more people who may be interested in becoming foster carers and providing nurturing, positive homes for children and young people across the country who need them.

The new film, simply called 'Childhood', highlights the impact of neglect on children, particularly brothers and sisters who may be left at times to try and care for each other. It shows the journey of 'Sophie' and 'Charlie' who are in a very difficult home situation where their needs are not being met, to being nurtured and supported through foster care to attend school and be able to enjoy their hobbies and interests. In other words, have a childhood. The film can be viewed by copying this link into your browser at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arYodXGnYsU>. /HERE, The readers of this column know the personal interest I have taken in this subject.

For more information, A Foster Carer Recruitment Event is held the 1st Wednesday of every month, and an Adoption Event is on the 1st Thursday all 7:00pm in your home online. To book a place please email Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk

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 fair council tax.