

Milden Parish Meeting 21st November
2023

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 21st November 2023 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, Bridget Hawkins, Adrian Miles, Sally Miles, Denise Thomas, Joe Coulter, Christopher Hawkins.

1. Apologies for absence

were received from Tony Ditheridge, Jan Ditheridge, Sarah Harrison, John Harrison, Juliet Hawkins.

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2023

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: Adrian Miles Seconded: Denise Thomas

3. Matters arising from those minutes.

Christopher Hawkins confirmed that the bus shelter continued to be insured under his farm NFU policy.

Justine Turner confirmed that the SID (speed indicator device) sign discussed at the last meeting could be purchased with CIL money.

A speed radar survey, conducted by Suffolk police, was carried out in the first week of November. The radar was located in Powney Street near the former council houses.

The data collected shows the levels of prosecutable speeding i.e. 35mph or above, does not meet the police's current criteria for setting up an enforcement site. The average speeds were below 30mph, and the highest recorded speed was 45mph. The percentage of vehicles over the 30mph speed limit was 19.6% (NB final figure, lower provisional numbers were presented to the meeting). This was an unusual week being affected by half term and also flooding on local roads to the north. The survey has demonstrated a persistent level of speeding with 1 in every 5 cars breaking the speed limit.

It was agreed that the two preferred locations in the village, at the northern and southern ends of the 30mph zone, would have to be agreed with nearby home owners. Two posts would be installed by SCC Highways and the SID alternated between the two. Justine will initiate the process with SCC as this may take some time. In discussions with other villages Justine has

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established that battery powered is better than solar powered and therefore there are decisions to be made about charging the batteries, it was suggested this could be done at the Pavilion. James Finch advised that signs displaying the actual speed were the most effective. James also offered his expert to review and advise on our proposal once we had reached that stage. He also said that his locality budget might be able to help with some of the costs.

Justine had obtained two quotes for a range of sign designs from two companies, Westcotec and Messagemaker, the quotes fall in the range £3500 to £4000. She will clarify some of the extras and work to get the most competitive quote. The Meeting agreed to proceed with the purchase of a SID sign and to install two posts, there will be a cost associated with this too. There was a vote and it was unanimously agreed to go ahead with a cap on the capital expenditure of £4000 from CIL money. Further clarification was required on running costs, insurance, servicing, any other costs.

4. County Councillor's Report.

Councillor James Finch provided a written report which was circulated before the meeting and is attached at the end of these minutes.

During the discussion on flooding it was noted that during the period of extreme weather in October the flooding concerns in Powney Street did not materialise, many thanks to Christopher Hawkins for keeping the ditches clear and Denise Thomas for keeping a watching brief. The bad flooding at Wells Hall on Milden Road was mentioned and, although outside James Finch's Division, he promised to raise it with the relevant individuals and reminded us all to log any such concerns of the Suffolk Highways online reporting tool.

<https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

At the last meeting Stephen Morley had raised the issue of obstacles left on the verge to prevent vehicles driving off the highway. James Finch advised that this constituted a safety hazard and was not allowed within one metre of the highway. People with logs/poles/stones in too close to the highway were advised to move them.

It is hoped that the road signs left behind the grit bin at Rectory Corner will be retrieved when roadworks are done on November 28th.

5. District Councillor's Report

Councillor Bryn Hurren gave his report to the Meeting.

"Firstly, some positive news, the much vaunted and long awaited Babergh Joint Local Plan has been examined by the Government Inspector and accepted with an amendment that the percentage of affordable housing gained from larger developments should be 25% and not 35% as the council had asked for.

This is regrettable but as developers were constantly winning appeals on viability issues, maybe not such a blow as it at least makes delivery more certain. While we have suffered from

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some mass building on our green belt land, we do now have a secure land supply within the BUAB for the foreseeable years ahead, mainly as infill and on brownfield sites.

On the back of this Babergh/Mid Suffolk has launched a consultation into heritage aspects of listed buildings and dwellings. The coalition at Babergh/Mid Suffolk are minded to relax restrictions on work to make Listed Buildings more sustainable and economic to live and work in. I hope this is a start towards more progressive thinking on insulation and heat retaining measures, such as double glazing of windows and doors. The consultation will run until 29th December and residents are encouraged to contribute their views.

https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/time-to-make-our-listed-buildings-ready-for-the-future-?p_l_back_url=%2Fsearch%3Fq%3DLISTED%2BBUILDING%2BSURVEY

Climate change issues are now at the forefront of all our lives with extreme weather events, especially rain and gales at this time of year. The state of our roads is now at an all time low and the share out of some of the HS2 cash could at least be of some benefit and relief to frustrated motorists. At Babergh/Mid Suffolk we have some monies for household repair and refurbishment after flooding. Please don't be afraid to ask. We will do our best to distribute fairly, please contact Bryn directly or go to the Council website.

Babergh/Mid Suffolk has invested over £1M in our housing function, mainly to plan, carry out repairs and improve our housing stock. This has not gone well since we took this function back in house, with issues on compliance as well as backdated and overdue repairs. There is much more work to do to catch up and get to grips with these issues. There are 150 homeless people across the District, the Council's focus is to give support to those in need before they become homeless, CAB are also doing a great job.

The budget is very tight for the next financial year 23/24. We will get by with adding another £5 on everyone's Council Tax, but this is just a sticking plaster. If we carry on in the same way we will be £2M in debt next year, 24/25. We have no direct funding from national Government, so it will be down to higher taxes, increased charges or cuts in services. Options are parking charges and complete amalgamation with Mid Suffolk. Solar panels, CIFCO and investments continue to do well but it is not enough anymore.

Please support Monks Eleigh Post Office and Community shop as footfall counts, most banking transactions can be done at the PO.

The Catesby appeal for 64 houses on the bypass at Boxford is to be held at the Spinney in Boxford on 12th December.

Public transport continues to disappear but the 112 bus is still running between Bildeston and Sudbury on Tuesday and Thursday and will come up to the Milden crossroads on demand. Babergh District Council, with its new green ambitions, has funded an all electric bus for GoStart which may run in the local area from its Sudbury base

6. Finance Report

The Treasurer gave the finance report.

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It was agreed that the precept would be increased by 2% for the next financial year from £981 currently to £1001.

Proposed: Sally Miles. Seconded: Justine Turner

We have £5041 in the bank account.

We have just under £11,000 CIL monies plus another £4,000 to come in the next few months.

Bryn Hurren said he had some money from his locality budget that he would be happy to contribute to a village project costing in the range of £200-£250.

7. Funding of Village Defibrillator

Justine Turner explained that the running costs of the defibrillator in the phone box were initially covered by the grant funding for the first four years. This period has now come to an end and we need to agree how to fund it in the future. The running cost covers replacement pads, insurance, battery, a loan one if stolen etc.

The options are to either pay annually £165pa +VAT (£198pa inc. VAT) or for 4 years in one go at £825 inc. VAT. It is therefore cheaper to pay annually, provided the annual cost does not escalate significantly. As this is a revenue cost we can't use CIL money. Adrian Miles suggested that we use the proceeds of one of the raffles held at village events to fund these costs, as on average these raise about £200. It was agreed that this was an excellent idea and the Meeting voted unanimously to fund the defibrillator on an annual basis with funds raised from a village event raffle.

8. Pavilion Report

Adrian Miles provided a written Pavilion report, which he read to the meeting.

"The Pavilion has been quite busy since the last Parish Meeting with a number of good events being held here helping to fund the pavilion running costs and making some donations to local charities and facilities.

These included The Milden Singers and Shanty Folk in June, which had a great mix of music and humour. The raffle raised £217 for the Bildeston food bank.

The interactive Murder Mystery Evening by Six Acre Productions who performed "Murder at Milden Manor" in September to an enthusiastic audience who also enjoyed some excellent food provided by the good people of Milden. The raffle raised £125 for the Monks Eleigh community shop.

Just recently the Milden Singers performed an entertaining range of songs and poems with the raffle raising £201 going to the Bildeston food bank and a profit of about £560 to support the pavilion funds. Huge thanks must go to Pearl for this event and all the previous concerts which over the years have raised around £20,000 in total to support the pavilion and a few thousand more supporting local charities.

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The next event is with Suffolk historian Charlie Haylock, this time we have asked him to give a talk about the History of English Surnames on Friday 19th January from 7pm for 7.30pm.

As always Charlie will provide a fun and informative evening, starting with Anglo-Saxon and Viking names and nicknames. He will also research your family names, if you can please advise names when booking. Tickets are £10, which includes a cheese board there will also be a licenced bar and charity raffle to support The Befriending Scheme at Red Rose Community Farm, Lindsey. Tickets can be purchased directly through Milden Pavilion or via Eventbrite.

Other plans being discussed for 2024 are to have a Quiz again in the Spring with Andrea and Laure plus some other events including The Milden Ball. If anyone has any other ideas for community events and/or fund raising please approach a member of the pavilion committee.

To bring the pavilion up into modern times and to cater for the hiring demands we have installed high speed broadband in the pavilion which is now fully functioning, many thanks to Justine for persevering with this as it wasn't easy!.

The cricket club had an average season but membership seems to be reasonably healthy and they hope for a better season next summer.

The Pavilion is still in reasonable financial health with about £11k in the current account and £11k in the deposit for long term back up. There are several maintenance and enhancement projects that need to be undertaken which will be discussed with a view to using some of the CIL money available to fund village investment. The main one being the installation of a new area at the front of the building.

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 who will pass on my contact details.

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."

The septic tank at the Pavilion had been recently surveyed. There is some minor corrosion to the steel frame of the lid. It was agreed that this should be repaired/replaced as soon as possible.

The Pavilion Committee had obtained a quote to upgrade the area outside the Pavilion at the front. This would involve concreting the area which is currently laid with decking and installing a balustrade made of composite material. Total costs were in the order of £10,000. Bryn Hurren advised that village hall improvement could be funded by District CIL money and he would provide the necessary forms and support the application.

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9. Any Other Business

Christopher Hawkins has retired as Village Recorder for Milden. We are looking for a replacement. The role involves keeping a record of all events of interest that occur in Milden including maintaining an archive of relevant material.

We have nominated Justine Turner as our Community Champion, very little happens in Milden without Justine's commitment and enthusiasm and we are all very grateful to her. Justine and Sara, along with their husbands will be attending an event with James Cartlidge MP on Friday 24th where she will be presented with her award. Justine thanked us for nominating her and for our support. She added that when organising events, she had the Pavilion Committee's help and support, She couldn't do any of it without all of us!

An evening of carols was taking place in the barn at the Old Rectory on December 13th. This annual event is not to be missed and kicks off the Christmas season. All Milden Parishioners welcome. Drinks and nibbles.

We previously requested a volunteer to co-ordinate with Monks Eleigh and Brent Eleigh on the light touch Neighbourhood Plan. So far no one has come forward. Bryn Hurren to find out how it was progressing with the Monks Eleigh volunteers. We are still looking for someone to get involved and represent Milden in these important planning matters.

Simon Frost had been contacted by Angelo Smith's jewellers in Sudbury who had discovered a silver trophy while clearing out their store room. This was presented by Mr and Mrs Thomas Chaplin of Serens Hall for the best kept garden in Milden. It had been presented in the late 50s and early 60s to Archie Bigg who lived at East View. There was some discussion about what to do with it, Thomas Chaplin was the cousin of Philip Morley. No decision was made and the trophy will be stored at the Pavilion in the meantime.

10. Date of next Meeting

We will aim to hold the next meeting in May 2024, date to be advised nearer the time.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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A Report for The Milden Parish Meeting on 21st November 2023

From James Finch – County Councillor for the Stour Valley

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

· The Government has allocated £1.8m for 2 years to Suffolk to enhance the local bus network.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) have £1.8million to spend each year in 2023/24 and 2024/25 on enhancements to the current passenger transport network in Suffolk. There will be 3 areas of funding:-

1. Some of this will be going to the bus companies in order to support existing services,
2. Some will be going into design work on Bus Priority schemes to get them ready for delivery when capital funding is available.
3. To support new or improved services at a local level where demand can be proven.

Parish Councils, Bus Companies and other groups are now being asked to submit ideas and suggestions for these improvements. Our preferred method for this is via an online application form which can be found here: [Suffolk on Board - News / Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus: Where should the money be spent?](#) We believe that the web page and form are self-explanatory, but will be able to answer questions if required. Additionally, there is a standing invitation to all parishes to attend meetings of the Enhanced Bus Partnership Passenger Group.

I have submitted an outline of our wishes for an improved service in conjunction with the local parish councils and attended a consultation meeting with the local bus partnership group and await now feedback of feasible options. For more information: [Suffolk on Board - News / Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus: Where should the money be spent?](#)

· Financial aid for flooded properties in Suffolk imminent as numbers hit over 800.

Suffolk residents who experienced exceptional property flooding during Storm Babet will start receiving financial support during November. Following the recent Government announcement of grants and council tax reductions through the Flood Recovery Framework, councils in Suffolk have received 750 reports of internal flooding to homes or businesses, and this number is expected to increase.

Suffolk councils are working together, with Suffolk County Council collecting information and assessing the reports, and the district and borough councils distributing the funding to eligible property owners.

All reports of property flooding need to be submitted via the Suffolk County Council reporting tool now.

Households and businesses that suffered internal flooding between 19 - 25 October 2023 due to Storm Babet may be eligible for:

- A grant (£500 for homes and £2,500 per business) to assist with initial recovery costs.
- Households and businesses that suffered internal flooding between 19 -25 October due to Storm Babet may be eligible for 100% discount to council tax / business rates for a minimum of 3 months.
- Flooded property owners will also be able to apply for up to £5,000 to help make their homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding. Suffolk County Council is working to set this scheme up at the earliest opportunity, but it is not currently available. Suffolk County Council is working in partnership with Babergh and Mid-Suffolk, East Suffolk, Ipswich and West Suffolk councils to ensure these discounts and payments start during November.

Reporting your flood damage is the first step to receiving a potential payout. If you have experienced flooding to your property as a result of Storm Babet, you need to visit: <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk>; Click on: 'Report It' & follow links to Drainage and flooding

For those who aren't able to submit their report online, please call 0345 606 6171.

· New fund delivers digital boost for Suffolk.

Almost £250,000 of funding was announced at an event on 25th October, giving a boost to the county's

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ambitions to reduce the number of people excluded from the benefits of digital technology. Suffolk County Council has contributed £100,000, with £143,000 coming from District and Borough Council funding, earmarked for digital inclusion projects.

Suffolk's Digital Inclusion Fund will be open to bidders from early November for initiatives that will support people of all ages, but particularly those who are at risk of being disadvantaged by being excluded from accessing digital support and information.

The fund has been created as a collaboration between Suffolk County Council, district and borough councils, voluntary and private sector partners and Suffolk Community Foundation. It is a direct result of Suffolk County Council's Policy Development Panel, held in 2022, which recommended a series of actions to reduce digital poverty and its effects in Suffolk.

The event called on key partners to support the new fund, making a further commitment to playing their part in the ambition for a digitally enabled Suffolk. Prospective bidders are encouraged to apply through Suffolk Community Foundation's website www.suffolkcf.org.uk

Evidence suggests that by not having the skills or the means to use online services – everything from online shopping, looking up important information and advice and using transactional services such as applying for bus passes – people are at risk of poorer health, reduced income and even a lower life expectancy.

· New highways services arrive in Suffolk as multi-million-pound partnership goes live

Suffolk Highways' new partnership has been launched as Milestone Infrastructure and Suffolk County Council join forces to deliver highways services fit for the future as from 1 October.

The new contract, which is worth in the region of £800 million - £1 billion, will deliver highway projects and improvements across Suffolk for up to 20 years, including maintaining roads, pavements and rights of way, improving drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new road schemes, snow-clearing and gritting and much more.

Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, was awarded Suffolk's new highways services contract back in February and since then has been working with Suffolk County Council to mobilise the new contract.

· Council seeks your views for next year's budget

Suffolk County Council is keen to hear from Suffolk residents, businesses, and local communities, as it decides how it will spend money next year.

An online consultation has been launched, and focus groups will be held, to explain the council's current financial situation, along with the chance for Suffolk residents and businesses to have a say on Council Tax proposals.

When this survey was ran last year, there was an excellent response from around 2,700 Suffolk residents and businesses. I would welcome even more people completing this year's short survey, to contribute to our decision-making. It gave an excellent insight into the public's priorities, with social care services for adults and children being high on that list. This aligned with the council's thinking, and we invested an additional £50m in these areas for this current year.

The council's budget consultation helps to explain the council's finances, what it has been doing to save money, and how it can generate more money to spend on public services.

The two main ways in which the council can increase the budget, are an increase in the money it receives from government, and/or through Council Tax.

Therefore, the three key questions are:-

1. Which services have you recently used,
2. Your thoughts on providing a greater contribution to Council Tax to help fund public services,
3. On which service area you would like to see more money spent.

· Developers risk "treating Suffolk communities with contempt" as the latest round of large-scale energy projects in Suffolk emerge

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Energy developers who are bringing forward large-scale energy projects without speaking to councils or communities, were criticised heavily by Suffolk County Council following the latest publication of National Grid's Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) Register.

The TEC Register is a list of projects, which often end up as large nationally significant infrastructure projects (called NSIPs), that have secured the right to connect to National Grid's network if they are consented, under the Planning Act 2008 by government, not local councils. These connection offers, which form a legally binding contract with National Grid, are routinely published and made, prior to the development and consenting of electricity generation or storage projects.

The current list of connection offers published by National Grid shows that new projects have been offered connections at National Grid's sites in Suffolk, at Bramford near Ipswich, and at Yaxley, near Eye, in north Suffolk. These new projects are large-scale solar panel and battery storage proposals in the same style as the recent SUNNICA scheme in West Suffolk, which is a proposal to create a 2500-acre Solar Farm on the Suffolk Cambridgeshire border.

· Statement on Haughley rail junction funding together with Ely Junction

On 4th October the Government has confirmed funding for upgrades to Haughley and Ely rail junctions. This has been a longstanding top priority for both Suffolk County Council and Transport East. With the collective voice of our partnerships in the East of England this has been the reason why the Government has prioritised this investment in Haughley and Ely rail junctions over so many other investment needs within the UK.

When complete, this will ease congestion on our roads by increasing capacity of rail and enabling more container traffic to go by rail as well as provide a significant boost to the local economy.

· New and independent fire control centre gives the best deal for Suffolk.

A new fire control centre fitted with state-of-the-art communications for mobilising and managing Suffolk's firefighters would be in the best interests of the county, a report to councillors says. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) announced in June it would be withdrawing from the shared control room arrangement in place since 2011 with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire and Rescue Service, based in Huntingdon.

The report was approved at Suffolk County Council's Cabinet, on 12th September, stating that fire control would now be brought back into the county by the end of 2024.

An initial capital investment of £1.588m would be required for project delivery over three years. Additional revenue service of £1.615m annually will need to be provided to support the operating cost of the control room.

· More than 800 properties flooded by Storm Babet in Suffolk.

True number could be much higher as councils urge people to report all flooded premises and government funding available to those who report flooding. Interim figures show more than 750 properties in Suffolk were flooded by Storm Babet.

The number of flooded premises, including businesses and homes, is expected to be higher as Suffolk councils and emergency planners work together to compile a full list. If there are local domestic properties flooded internally, please register this urgently. To report a flood go to [this link](#) on the SCC Website. Alternatively, you can call the customer service number on 0345 606 6171.

· Suffolk Residents invited to help shape the future of library services.

A public consultation has been launched today (Monday 30 October), encouraging Suffolk Residents to tell Suffolk County Council what they want from their library services in the future.

Suffolk County Council's contract with Suffolk's Libraries Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) Limited, the independent charity that runs the library service, comes to an end on 31 May 2025, with a new contract set to

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begin in June 2025. The Council is therefore seeking views from the public about what is important to them, ahead of awarding the new contract.

The 13-week consultation will be followed by a competitive Tender Process, before the new contract is awarded in November 2024.

· **Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley**

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. 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.