

INGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Adrian Dawson

Clerk: Mr J Milward

Jusanna, the Street, Ingham

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Ingham Parish Council held on 27th March 2018 in St Bartholomew's Church, Ingham

Present: Clr A Dawson (Chair), Clr L Anslow, Clr E Dawson, Clr L Tibbert, Clr J Beedie, Clr Kovacic-Graham, Clr P Scase, Clr Susan Glossop (St Eds BC), John Milward (Clerk), and 1 member of the public.

Public Question Time Ken from the Post Office asked what the current position was on the proposed pedestrian crossing. Clr Tibbert had been in contact with John Simpson of Highways who had given an update. This was covered under item 5b (working party report). The subject of a proposed development on Stennett's land was also raised and discussed in general but no decisions on this will be taken until a formal planning application is submitted.

County Councillors' Reports

a. Clr Susan Glossop presented a detailed written report which is included as Annex A. On the subject of warding in 2019 she confirmed that there was great objection to the proposed move of Ingham to Pakenham/Troston and it was her opinion that this would not happen.

b. Clr Rebecca Hopfensperger not in attendance. Written report received and included as Annex B.

Parish Council Agenda

1. Apologies Nil

2. Declaration of Interest The chairman gave members the opportunity to declare any interest in items on the agenda. None were declared.

3. Dispensations Nil required

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd January 2018 **Proposed** by Clr Tibbert and seconded by Clr Scase that the minutes be accepted as a true record. Agreed unanimously.

5. Progress Reports

a. Clerk's report

(i) Steve Flack has confirmed that he will be giving a quote for repairs to the Lych Gate in April

(ii) Refund of £2000 from SCC as grant towards purchase of VAS has now been received.

(iii) Grass cutting. Contract had been sent out to 4 potential firms and 4 quotes received back. All quotes considered by the council. Proposed by Clr A Dawson and seconded by Clr Scase that the contract be awarded to the firm currently holding the contract. More control over cutting times required and clerk to speak to contractor regarding this.

Chairman's signature

(iv). Data protection Officer. No clarification received regarding the appointment of Clerk or Responsible Financial Officer as DPO. Culford's suggestion of combining both councils (Ingham with Culford, West Stow and Wordwell) and then seeking the services of LPCAS to provide DPO was discussed. However, Clr A Dawson will probably be acting as DPO for the firm for which he works and

is prepared to act as DPO for both councils for a fee of £50. This arrangement was agreed unanimously by the council.

b. Council Working Party

Clr Tibbert reported on the meeting held in February. She had been in contact with John Simpson of Highways. Basically there was no funding available for the pedestrian crossing and the situation would be unlikely to change unless there was a fatality involved. It was agreed that this should now be taken off future agendas.

6. Items for debate and decision

a. Playmeadow Update given by Clr A Dawson. Hoped that lease should be forwarded within the next few weeks.

b. Highways Nothing new to consider

7. Finance

a. The following cheque payments were agreed:

HMRC £55.00, Clerk's wages £220, Viking Direct £39.58 and Clerk Expenses £10.60

b. Section 137 payments for 2018/19 were discussed and it was decided that decision would be deferred until May meeting.

8. Planning Application

Application No DC/18/00346/HH – The Old School, Ingham – Two Storey Cart Lodge. Approved

9. Clerk's report on Urgent Decisions since the last meeting Nil

10 Correspondence for information All correspondence had been distributed by email.

11. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

a. Question was asked by Clr Tibbert as to when we could expect the defibrillator to be moved into the telephone box. Clerk to write to the brothers concerned for clarification.

b. Clr Anslow expressed despair at current one Suffolk web site which is so hard to work with. She will liaise with clerk to see whether or not it would be beneficial to go to back to Suffolk.cloud with Kerry Burns.

c. Agreed that Clr Kovacic-Graham would explore the setting up of Facebook for Ingham

Meeting closed at 8.40pm. Next meeting 22nd May 2018

Chairman's Signature

Annex A to Parish Council Minutes March 2018

Borough Councillor's report for the parish council meeting Update on the Formation of a single council amalgamating St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath as from May 2019 .

Parish councils will be consulted on the proposed new wards in early March, there will be a reduction of Councillors from 72 to 64

An order to create a new council to drive prosperity and jobs in West Suffolk will go before MPs after an historic unanimous decision made by Council Cabinet members.

Members of both Forest Heath District and St Edmundsbury Borough Council cabinets met to agree the order following backing from both full councils last week.

The new authority, which also has strong support from local residents, businesses and public services, would replace both current councils.

A programme of engagement saw 70% of residents back the initiative in an independent poll and public feedback helped shape the final business case.

Both councils put the proposals forward which were also supported by The Rt Hon Sajid Javid, MP, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government earlier this month.

The new council would better drive jobs, deliver services and continue investment to support local communities than the current arrangement. In addition it would generate around £800,000 in savings and efficiencies and help protect the additional £4 million of annual savings already produced by sharing services.

At the same time a new council would also better support, invest in and meet the challenges facing communities, such as increased population, demand on health care and housing as well as reduced funding nationally.

Both councils have also been making a strong case to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make sure strong representation of local communities is maintained.

Forest Heath District Leader, Councillor James Waters, said: "This decision is a historic moment for our authorities as we create a new West Suffolk Council. I was pleased to see the amount of support there has been for this new council from councillors as well as partners and our communities. The speed at which this has moved from May last year to going to parliament following gaining the support of the Secretary of State has is a clear indication of the strength of our case. We are now leading the way in transforming local Government, ahead of some councils that started before us. It is also a strong recognition of the part we play now and in the future in helping drive the economy. Doing what is right for our communities is at the heart of what we do. Staying still is not an option if we are to meet future challenges and better champion our communities, both locally and nationally, as well as continuing to deliver high quality services. This means we are not only in a better position to have a louder voice but a real opportunity to find even more effective ways to work more closely and support our local organisations and residents. I look forward to hearing the debate in parliament and helping create this new single council."

St Edmundsbury Borough Council Leader, Councillor John Griffiths, said: "This is a new chapter in our work to find better ways of supporting our communities and driving jobs and prosperity. There has been overwhelming support for these proposals which puts us in a better position to meet the aspirations of our communities. We have listened to local residents and organisations who agree lines on a map or council structures should not get in the way of providing services or hamper us from seizing opportunities for continued investment in our communities. The case for creating a new single council was compelling and once again puts us at the forefront of transforming how local government works to benefit directly the people we serve. Not only can we continue to deliver high quality services but we can better champion our area, drive the local economy, jobs and prosperity in West Suffolk while tackling the challenges facing all public services. We now ask MPs to listen to local opinion and agree the order."

It is hoped that the orders will be laid in Parliament in March this year and elections for the new council held in May 2019

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government confirmed that he is going to start the legislative process in Parliament to create a single District Council for West Suffolk.

If Parliament approves the orders to create the new council for West Suffolk then a new set of wards will need to be created before the first elections to the West Suffolk Council in May in 2019. This review will be carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

The LGBCE is responsible for setting the ward boundaries for a new council and we and our communities have an early opportunity to shape the LGBCE proposals by putting in our own options for the new ward boundaries at the start of the process.

We have been working with the Future Governance Steering Group to draw up some initial options for the new ward boundaries, and as part of this process we have aimed to deliver acceptable electoral equality for voters so that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters (give or take 10% from the average, in accordance with the LGBCE guidance). We have also used feedback from our previous consultation, which many elected members and parish and town councils took part in, to ensure that the options for the council wards reflect, as far as possible, the interests and identities of communities across West Suffolk.

The public consultation on the ward options runs from 7 March to 28 March 2018. We realise that is not a long period, but the timescales involved are out of our control. The consultation is open to anyone who wants to have their say on, and help shape, the council's own options for the ward boundaries and ward names for the new West Suffolk Council. An email has been sent to all parish and town councils and residents associations, we would be grateful if parishes and towns respond to the consultation. As highlighted, when we informed Parish Councils in January that we would be consulting during this period and if they have not got a meeting, there is still the opportunity to provide informal views or individual councillors may submit comment.

The ward options, background information and a feedback form can be accessed on our website at www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/wardoptions. Hard copies of the maps will also be available to view at the Council offices in Brandon, Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Mildenhall and Newmarket.

The Future Governance Steering Group will consider all responses to the consultation and will submit revised ward options for all members to consider at their Full Council meetings in April 2018. Subject to approval, the ward options will then be submitted to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

Brown bins

Garden Waste Collection Service customers will shortly be receiving a reminder to renew their subscription which is £40.00 per annum

This will be the third year of the service and we currently have around 30,000 customers who have paid using a variety of methods.

- A little over 9000 customers pay by direct debit and will receive an automatic email warning them that the subscription is soon to be taken from their account.
- We have email addresses for a further 12,000 customers and will be sending them a message with a link to sign up for the next year.
- The remaining 9000 customers for whom we have no email address will receive the letter attached

Our focus at this stage is to retain our current customers and encourage those not using it to move to direct debit. Here is the link for signing up on line:

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/gardenwaste

In three weeks' time we will be giving non-customers the chance to sign up when we distribute the Easter Collections leaflet. This contains two pages of information about the Garden Waste Collection Service and will be put under the black bin lids of all 76,000 households in West Suffolk. It asks current customers to check that they have not already renewed to keep the number of refunds that may be necessary to a minimum. A copy will be sent to you for your information.

Council Tax

St Edmundsbury Council have set a freeze on Council tax for 2018/2019 at £182.16 for band D properties.

The parish councils have set their own council tax requirements for 2018.19 with an average band D parish council tax of £60.83

Suffolk County Council has set its precept at £43,341,465.01 resulting in a band D council tax of £1,242.54 a 4.99% increase including 3% for adult social care

Suffolk Police Authority set its precept of £6,890,221.18 resulting in a band D council tax of £188.82 a 6.8% increase on the 2017/18 figure of £176.85

Proportions of the Council Tax bill will be
Suffolk County Council 74.21%
St Edmundsbury Borough Council 10.88%
Suffolk Police Authority 1.28%
Parish/Town Councils 3.63%

Post Office

Architects are drawing up draft plans for the post office building together with improving the link between the Market Place and the Arc. There will be public consultation on the proposals when the working party have agreed the designs

Winter night shelter

West Suffolk councils, working with Havebury Housing Partnership, have recruited staff for a winter night shelter in part of Northgate Lodge, Bury St Edmunds. This will now open this evening and will replace the emergency shelter that we temporarily set up with the support of The Garland Street Baptist Church at The Elven Centre.

We are very grateful to have had the support of the church and its volunteers over this past week or so while finalising arrangements for the Northgate Lodge shelter.

I would also like to acknowledge the great work across many departments of the Council in pulling together to get this emergency provision in place. It was West Suffolk at its finest.

Equally our staff in housing, colleagues from other departments and from partner organisations including the Bury Drop-In Centre have all stepped in to run this emergency provision to ensure there was a shelter in place for those who both needed and wanted to use it. They have done a marvellous job.

The shelter has been open every night during this spell of freezing cold weather. We also continue to also make use of other temporary accommodation – all the while working to help people get the necessary support that they need in order to find more settled homes. The number of rough sleepers that we have here in West Suffolk – at the last count, just under 30 – and the complexity of their needs means that we will continue to need all of these options available to us as and when required.

The new shelter will now be in operation through until the end of March. The centre will be by referral to the housing team on 01284 757178. Just as with the temporary centre, the Council will continue to assist rough sleepers through referrals via the Bury Drop-In Centre and through speaking to people sleeping rough on the streets.

As with the temporary shelter there will be rules of use – this is to safeguard the people using the shelter and those who staff it. We will also write to nearby neighbours and include contact details should they have any questions, concerns or issues that they wish to discuss.

None of this means the end to people sleeping rough on our streets and woodland areas. We know from experience that some people, for a variety of reasons, will not accept the help that we, or that other local organisations offer, although we will continue to try. We also know that there are some people that our local residents see sitting on our streets who are not homeless. In many cases we have found accommodation for them and that is one of the reasons that we prefer people give their money to those local charities that help the people who are homeless.

If you have any questions, please contact: Davina Howes (Assistant Director): davina.howes@westsuffolk.gov.uk

Cllr Susan Glossop

Annex B to Parish Council Minutes March 2018

County Councillor Report

I have chased the street lights in the street with Richard Webster.

I have asked that the drain on the pavement near the post office is cleansed as well as the one which is on the road.

Suffolk to use drone technology to help manage blue light service incidents

On 15 February saw the official launch of the use of two Small Unmanned Surveillance Aircrafts in Suffolk. The technology, commonly referred to as drones have been developed and funded by Suffolk Resilience Forum for use across the county. As part of a multi-agency Air Support Unit, the drones will be used by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue and Norfolk & Suffolk 4x4 Response.

The drones will provide a range of aerial surveillance options to support emergency services and voluntary organisations across a wide range of incidents including:

- large-scale open fires or complex structural fires
- urban area search and rescue
- major incident or disaster response
- investigative support
- hazardous materials response including Environmental Impact Assessments
- road traffic accidents
- significant multi-agency events
- missing persons searches
- pre-planned operations and risk information gathering
- By improving the ability to see and understand what is happening from the air, the drones will **support** emergency services and voluntary organisations to inform the decisions they make when dealing with an incident. They will also help to reduce risks to the public and emergency service workers.

The drones will provide important visual information which will be used alongside experienced operational commanders to complete the decision-making picture and help resolve incidents as quickly and safely as possible. The drones have already been used a number of times, most recently at the fire at Saxmundham train station to not only provide pictures of fire spreading and possible collapse in areas that may not have been possible for firefighters to access or see, but also to assist the joint investigation team to determine the location and possible cause of the fire.

More than 97% of students receive their preferred Secondary School on National Offer Day

This year, Suffolk County Council received it highest number of applications from parents and carers indicating which secondary school they would prefer their child to be educated at from September 2018 in Year 7. The total was 7,447. Last year it was 7171.

91.61% of applicants received offers for their first preference school and 97.23% of applicants received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools. This percentage figure of 91.61% equates to a total of 6822 pupils.

Families who applied online will be able to log on to the council's Online Service from today to see their school place offer, and will receive an email to confirm this offer. We will also send letters by second class post today (March 1), to all applicants, including those who made a paper application, to give more details about the next steps open to them.

With the current extreme weather, some letters may be delayed by a day or two as the postal service works hard to maintain their services and schedules in this cold spell.

Any parents or carers with children born between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2007 and who have not yet applied for a school place should make an application immediately by downloading the CAF1 application form from the council's website: www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions

For further information, such as how to view your offer online, and for guidance on what to do if you have not received your preferred offer, please read our [School admissions FAQ page](#).

Cllr Beccy Hopfensperger