

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 23rd January 2018 in St Bartholomew's Church, Ingham

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

Public Question Time Ken from the Post Office raised the question of a car which had been parked for quite a few weeks in the lay-by outside the Post Office. He was concerned that the car was taking up space which would normally be used by clientele using the post office with the result that other users were having to half park on land next door to the post office which at times was partially impeding the flow of traffic. The council had no authority to intervene but advised Ken to speak to the owner of the car explaining the position and requesting him to remove it.

County Councillors' Reports

- a. Clr Rebecca Hopfensperger reported on the following:

Suffolk school travel consultation launched

Suffolk County Council has called for unity in efforts to find a long-term solution to providing affordable home to school transport as a major public consultation gets underway.

People who give their views as part of a consultation on the future of school travel in Suffolk will be listened to carefully and have the opportunity to influence the final outcome, the council has said.

The two and half month consultation, which starts today (Tuesday 12 December), invites people to help the council shape the future of school and post-16 travel policies.

Suffolk County Council has already listened to head teachers and included additional options in the consultation document. The pledge today is to do more of the same as the authority seeks help to find a long-term solution to the funding issues facing home to school transport.

In Suffolk, £21 million of taxpayers' money is spent per year getting children to and from school. Suffolk County Council has already introduced a number of efficiency changes to the service saving around £2.6 million.

Now, like many other councils across the country, the authority needs to consider making more significant changes. It is therefore consulting on changing its school and post-16 travel policies so the service can be affordable, sustainable, and capable of meeting growing demand in the future.

The council's current school and post-16 travel policies go above legal requirements, which means around 2400 children and young people receive free/subsidised school or post-16 travel that Suffolk County Council is not legally required to provide and that they wouldn't get in many other parts of the country. In addition, around 2400 children receive free travel to schools further away than legally required to provide. The proposed consultation seeks views on changing these policies and includes three alternative options, pre-and post-16.

Chairman's signature

Option 1: In September 2019, change the school travel policy so that it is in line with the legal requirements. This would mean implementing all the changes in one go, including ceasing free travel to the transport priority area schools where it is not the pupils' nearest.

Option 2: From September 2019, introduce the changes year by year as a child joins or moves school so that it is in line with legal requirements. This means that we would introduce all the changes on a phased basis. This option would cost Suffolk County Council an estimated £8.8 million to implement.

Option 3: Make no changes to the school travel policy but make savings from other services provided by Suffolk County Council.

Suffolk County Council is also asking for feedback on several other matters, including using Rights of Way as part of the way distance to a school is measured and a range of local solutions, such as Local collection hubs and opt-in to travel, which we have developed with a range of schools.

Further details on these options can be found on the consultation website:
www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel (link to go live at 5.00pm)

The consultation will run from 12 December 2017 to 28 February 2018 and there will be a full programme of events and opportunities for discussion. This includes consultation workshops where you can consider themes from the consultation, the proposals and general questions and answer sessions.

Suffolk is chosen as one of only 10 pilot areas to retain 100% of business rates

The amount of money allocated to each Local Authority in England for the next financial year was announced today by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid.

As part of the announcement, Suffolk County Council has been named as one of the pilot areas for a new Government scheme to retain 100% of business rates from Council Tax in 2018/19.

In future, Business Rates will be an even greater income stream for all local authorities and this is an opportunity for Suffolk to influence how it will operate in a two-tier system.

Until more information is released from the Department for communities and Local Government it is not possible to say exactly how much additional income this could generate into the Suffolk system.

Fully funded first-time central heating systems for Suffolk residents

Suffolk's local authorities are now able to provide fully funded central heating systems* to 514 fuel poor households across Suffolk over the next three years. Around 4 million UK households are in fuel poverty, unable to affordably heat their home to the temperature needed to stay warm and healthy. As well as being on low incomes many of these households are also faced with the additional burden of relying on heating systems that are inefficient and expensive to run.

The local authorities working together as the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership have been successful in securing funding from the first round of the Warm Homes Fund for a project worth £4.3 million.

The Suffolk project is being managed by the County Council, administered by Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People based at Suffolk Coastal District Council and supported with further funding from Babergh, Mid-Suffolk, Forest Heath and Waveney District Councils plus Ipswich and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils. Alongside the first-time heating system, households will also be able to benefit from new insulation measures to make the homes more energy efficient as well as grants from the Suffolk Community Foundation's 'Surviving Winter Appeal' where eligible.

The new £150m fund was established by National Grid using part of the proceeds from the sale of the company's majority stake in its gas distribution business. It will fund the installation of affordable heating solutions in fuel poor households which don't use mains gas as their primary source of heat.

Chairman's signature

High Needs Funding Consultation

On Wednesday 13th December 2017, Suffolk County Council launched a consultation, to reform the way in which education providers are funded for delivering high needs support to children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities.

The proposal is to establish a fairer, more transparent and easily understood set of high needs funding policies. Funding is not being reduced, the consultation is to determine the fairest way to use the budget we have.

The proposals have been drawn up working with the Schools' Forum High Needs Funding Group. The Group which has members from across a range of providers, have worked hard over the last six months, to ensure that the proposals put forward acknowledge and respond to the needs of providers.

To find out more about the proposals and consultation please go to:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/highneedsfunding.

The consultation will run from 13th December 2017 to 9th February 2018. Invitations for 1:1 meetings will be offered to those providers who have specialist provision.

If you have any queries, then please email highneedsfunding@suffolk.gov.uk.

Budget

The budget was confirmed by cabinet and will go to full council in February. It reflects £24m in savings and includes the 2% adult care precept introduced 2 years ago.

Lighting along The Street in Ingham

Council confirmed that action had still not been taken in respect of two lights along The Street.

Clr Hopfensperger to follow up with Highways.

Roadworks in Bury St Edmunds

An update was given on the current road works being undertaken in Bury St Edmunds

b. Councillor Susan Glossop (Bury St Edmunds Borough Council) reported on the following:

St Edmundsbury Borough Council will be freezing their council tax but they will have to harmonise with Forest Heath since the intention is for there to be one council from the new financial year.

As had been previously reported the council has purchased the old Post Office. Many plans are being considered with regard to its future use but the popular choice with the public seems to be with regard to the refurbishment of the walkway between the market place and the Arc.

The subject of Data Protection Officer was covered and discussed but further information is awaited on this subject.

Clr Glossop asked for an update on the Playmeadow issue which was given by the Chairman. It covered the revised site which lies behind the church and where the previous Playmeadow area was located. Any funding from her locality budget will not be required before the next financial year.

Parish Council Agenda

1. Apologies Apologies were offered and accepted in respect of Clr Anslow and Clr E Dawson

Chairman's signature

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 28th November 2017 Proposed by Clr Beedie and seconded by Clr Kovacic-Graham that the minutes be accepted as a true record. Agreed unanimously.

5. Progress Reports – Clerk’s report

a. Letter has been sent to the brothers who installed the defibrillator in the Cadogan Arms requesting that it be moved in to the telephone kiosk. They will action.

b As already stated the missing lights along The Street had again been reported but no action taken although notification of our previous report remains on record. Clr Hopfensperger to follow up.

c. Notification of the refund of £2000 from SCC for the VAS had been received and necessary forms returned..

d. Steve Flack has been approached to give a quote for the repair of the lych gate and a reply is awaited

e. Confirmed that public liability cover on the insurance policy is for £10m

6. Items for debate and decision

a. Playmeadow Chairman gave an update on the Playmeadow lease with details of the proposed revised location. This will be taken up with the owner’s land agent .A general discussion followed covering general items relating to the new site.

b. Highways VAS now up and running. Readings of traffic along the A134 indicate that it is having the response that was hoped for.. Furthermore the information obtained will be an asset when discussing the pedestrian crossing need and location. General discussion on highways issues and funding followed. Next step should be for contact to be made with responsible officer to get attendance at a future meeting. Clr Tibbert to follow up. Name of contact person to be forwarded to Clr Tibbert by Clerk.

7. Finance

a. The precept as agreed at the November meeting was signed for forwarding to St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

b. Expenditure for the period 1st September 2017 to 31st December 2017 was presented to the council. It included the cost of the VAS but refund from SCC still to be included. Proposed by Clr A Dawson and Seconded by Clr Tibbert that the figures be accepted as a true record. Passed unanimously

8. Clerk’s report on Urgent Decisions since the last meeting Nil

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

Chairman’s signature

A discussion followed on the subject of the St Nicholas Hospice letter suggesting that parish council might like to participate in a carol singing event through the village as a fund raising event. As the parish council already donates to this charity it would not be participating.

10. Planning Application No DC/17/2642/HH – Two storey rear extension and porch with flat roof – 7 Beauford Road. No objections.

11. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

a. Caroline Pryke, a friend of Clr Kovacic-Graham had offered her services as a first aid helper as and when required. Agreed that she should be included on the list of contacts.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm. Next meeting 27th March 2018

Chairman's Signature