

**MINUTES OF THE HINTLESHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE COMMUNITY HALL ON THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**PRESENT:** Stephanie Coupland (chair), Frances Self, Ian Bryce, Debbie Archer, Peter Eaton, Chris Leney, Ben Cox, Diane Chase and David Marsh, County Councillor Christopher Hudson, District Councillors Nick Ridley & Barry Gasper, Clerk Jo Brown & 4 members of the public

**1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence had been received from John Whyman, Stuart Kellett & Jamie Bostock

**2: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

The minutes were approved by the council, proposed by Ian Bryce and seconded by David Marsh. These were signed as a true record by Stephanie Coupland.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

There were no matters arising from these minutes

**4. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Stephanie Coupland gave the following report.

Welcome to everyone. It is so nice to see you all here this evening supporting your Parish Council. Once again, I feel that I am repeating myself when I give this report, although things have really moved on this year.

Planning - We have once again received a lot of planning applications this year. As always we have to look at each one as an individual application and adhere to the Local Plan. We have not had to hold as many extra planning meetings this year. It has been a busy year regarding planning with lots of different policies etc. to consider when looking at them. This makes the planning side of being a P Councillor more interesting. Thank you to Frances Self for her input regarding our planning. 3 Councillors attended a Babergh update meeting on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) they all found it very interesting. Also a few Councillors attended Babergh Liason Meeting with Parishes, these are also very interesting, it is hoped in the coming year others will be able to attend.

Community Speed Watch - People are still speeding through our Villages, on average each time a speed watch is held at least 15 people are noted as speeding. Most of these figures are coming from PCSO speed checks. Our Community Speed Watch Team has not done so many due to the Speed Gun not available for several reasons. Unfortunately Trevor Self has decided not to coordinate the team anymore, I would like to thank him for all his hard work in getting the Team started in the first place. Les Cole and Peter Beal have taken on the role thanks to them for taking this on. A big thank you to the remaining team for keeping this up.

Village Website and Village Link - Things seem to be going well, it is a very informative site and thanks to Helen Rogerson for her hard work. Please could all clubs etc keep her updated of any changes, she does not know unless she is told. This is very important as I am sure many of us will agree a website is not informative if not up to date. This year Helen went on a refresher course as the company that coordinates the Village websites revamped it. There are several changes but Helen is on top of it.

Traffic - It is a never-ending problem for us. An application had been sent to SCC Highways for a VAS sign, this project is being run by the Road Safety Team at the School with full support from the PC. Parking outside of the school seems to be slightly better due to the fact they now have a drop of scheme for parents, also more people are parking at the Community Hall and walking to school. The yellow lines have at last arrived and have helped with the congestion outside the school.

MUGA - This project has really taken off this year. A Planning application was approved by Babergh District Council so it has been full steam ahead to get grants. The subcommittee from the PC have worked hard with other members of the village to get full funding for the project, which is due to commence end April beginning of May, the hold up has been the bad weather we have been having. Once completed the Parish Council will hand over the project to the Village where a new Committee will be formed to run the Club,

Defibrillators - Following on from last years report, funding via donations from business in the villages and grants we have been able to purchase a DEFIBULLATOR for the phone box in Duke Street. We had to have another session for training as so many people came forward for this. Thanks must go to Adrian Waller who

gave up his time for free to train everyone. Also I would like to thank Les Cole and Colin Tee for installing all three of them.

Samantha Barber our Clerk for the past 5 years left us to take up a full time job. We wish her well and thank her for all she has done for our Parish Council. We were very fortunate to have several people apply for the post and I would like to welcome Jo Brown. Jo has been with us for the past 3 months, she has taken the role of Clerk and also our Treasurer. Jo has already been on a SALC course and come back with some changes which we hope the Parish Council will agree to.

Thanks to all the Councillors for their hard work in one way or another over the past year. Thanks to Nick Ridley, Barry Gasper and Christopher Hudson for their support at our meetings and keeping us well informed of changes and updates of local and district council.

Let's hope the next year goes as smoothly as the last. There always seems a lot of challenges ahead but I am sure all PC's will work their hardest to get us through them.

Thanks was given to Stephanie for all her hardwork and support over the year from all the councillors

## **5. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHER HUDSON**

Report is attached to this document

## **6. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS NICK RIDLEY AND BARRY GASPER**

It would not be an overstatement to say that the past year has been a challenging one for the Council and its Members

Despite that BDC & MSDC have just received Silver Awards from the LGA for working together

Part of that challenge has been the change of Leadership from Jennie Jenkins to John Ward as a result of dissents within the Conservative Group, which was not something to be proud of

The Budget position remains pretty critical for BDC as we now are down to reserves of not much over £1M, with savings required each year of some £1.5M. Despite this Council Tax for BDC only increased by some £3pa for the smallest and £10pa for the largest households

Fortunately, our Housing Revenue Budget is much healthier and has enabled us to build 27 Council Houses, with a further 34 on the way

We agreed to invest £25M in a property company last year and with more than half of that so far invested should provide a return of some £0.75M this year

We moved to Endeavour House in November and the advantages in terms of staff all together for both Councils are already very evident, with a real buzz in the place. A contact point for Babergh is in Sudbury and it may be possible that some form of contact point will be set up in Hadleigh, although the actual daily visits to Corks Lane had become minimal before the move

The old HQ will be redeveloped for Housing and consultation is taking place on that now. In Hadleigh we will be building a new replacement swimming pool alongside the existing Leisure Centre

The Boundary Commission are re-consulting on a likely reduction of seats from 43-32. Brook Ward will be split and part will be retained as a Single person ward

A Joint Local Plan to cover the whole of the two districts has gone through the first stage consultation on proposed allocations. Some of our parishes (In particular Sproughton and Copdock & Washbrook) are severely threatened, while most of the rest are only very minimally covered. The next consultation in June will be of very considerable concern, but the final adoption is unlikely to be until 2020. Planning applications remain a potential threat, while we are without a 5 year supply of housing (that position is being reviewed currently) and without an adopted new Local Plan.

In view of the pretty dire financial position and the proven advantages of working together with MSDC (SCDC & Waveney DC and St Edmundsbury DC & FHDC are already approved for mergers to take effect with the May 2019 elections), we had expected following a favourable response to the ComRes Telephone survey, to have been talking about the BDC position of being forced to undertake a full Referendum. However, the news that Suffolk County Council has announced it wishes to talk about a Single Unitary Council for Suffolk has put a spoke in the wheel. While none of the District Councils is likely to give house room to a single Council for all the 750,000 people in Suffolk, there has always been an interest in a unitary solution to local government in Suffolk. On this basis although some work may still be done on the Business Case for merger any plans for a Referendum or merger with MSDC are presently stalled.

Barry and I have enjoyed working with you over the past year and will be listening to your concerns during the final year of this Council.

## **7. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT FROM THE SCHOOL**

Hintlesham and Chattisham CEVCP School has had an incredibly busy time since you received the last head teacher's report in 2017. Margo Barker, who was the interim head teacher, left in July 2017 and I took on the role of head teacher alongside another school. Small schools are under financial pressure all the time so we have sought a solution by sharing a head teacher - me. In September 2017 the school entered into a working partnership with Kersey CEVC Primary School. The partnership is trialling for one year with a view to continuing on a permanent basis if both boards of Governors agree to its continuation. I am the head teacher at Kersey and I have been seconded to Hintlesham for two and a half days per week. So I share my working week between the two schools. There is a huge amount of parity between the schools - they are of similar sizes and have the same configuration of classes. They have fantastic staff, who know the school incredibly well and they work incredibly hard. In addition to this, Hintlesham and Chattisham joined the Diocesan Multi Academy Trust (DMAT) of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. They joined the DMAT on 1<sup>st</sup> March and as a member of the DMAT have the support of the Diocese with different aspects of Education just as they did with the Local Authority. The children continue to engage in a broad and balanced curriculum including musical tuition, sports and the arts as well as all the academia of maths, science and literacy. This curriculum, through the skill and dedication of the staff at Hintlesham is delivered in a thorough and exciting way. For example this report comes to you amidst 'science week' which is a national event, where schools especially ensure that children experience a range of scientific topics, discipline and activities which enthuse and engage them in their learning. The parental support at Hintlesham is exemplary - they support the school very enthusiastically with their time, fund-raising and by volunteering for reading, going on trips etc. We are all very lucky that the school is included so thoroughly in village life. We regularly use the church for services and we hope the new Reverend, when appointed, will return to leading worship. We have had the pleasure of many members of the church community helping lead worship for key events, which has been very welcomed and appreciated. I have been made to feel most welcome and Years 5 and 6 have enjoyed the continuing tradition of supporting Community Lunches and not just because they get roast potatoes, they have enjoyed chatting to everyone and some shared their brilliant poetry about the sea. The focus on outdoor education is continuing this year as we are fully utilising the donation received last year to develop the school grounds and I have secured further funding through a lottery bid for £10,000 worth of outdoor furniture and facilities to aid outdoor learning event further. There is certainly a lot going on here and we really do look forward to continued partnership with the whole village.

Mrs Liz Donaldson (head teacher)

## **8. TO RECEIVE ANY OTHER REPORT**

There were no other reports

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 8 pm