

Stonham Aspal Parish Council

Approved Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20 March 2018 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Stonham Aspal

Present: Cllr Rob Stevenson (Chair), Cllr Ian Wright (Vice-Chair), Cllr Peter Emberson, Cllr Josephine Mitson and Cllr Jean Timms

Attendance: Cllr Suzie Morley (District Councillor), Cllr Matthew Hicks (County Councillor), Rachel Betts (Recreation Ground), Simon Ashton (Parish Clerk) and two Members of the Public

1. Apologies and Approval of Absences

Apologies were received from Cllr Malcolm Leith. Cllr Charles Tydeman did not attend the meeting.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interest by Members

There were no interests declared by any of the Members.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 20 February 2018

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 20 February 2018 were received and approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. Consideration of Reports by the District Councillor & County Councillor

Cllr Morley delivered her district council report at the meeting. Cllr Hicks delivered his county council report at the meeting. Copies of these reports have been made available at the end of these minutes for information.

5. Contributions by Members of the Public

There were no issues raised by members of the public.

6. Consideration of Planning Applications & Decision Notices

(a) MSDC DC/17/05720: Permission Granted (23 February 2018)

Stonham Barns Leisure & Retail Village, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AT

Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

(b) MSDC DC/18/00206: Permission Granted (28 February 2018)

Morgans End, Debenham Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6BZ

Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

(c) MSDC DC/18/00443: Permission Granted (12 March 2018)

The Owls Hoot, East End Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AS

Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

(d) MSDC DC/18/00444: Permission Granted (12 March 2018)

The Owls Hoot, East End Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AS

Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

7. Finance

(a) Payments were authorised in favour of the Parish Clerk's wages, office and personal expenses (£257.59), HMRC for the Parish Clerk's income tax (£71.40), Suffolk Accident Rescue Service for a Section 137 financial contribution (£50.00) and Ladywell Accountancy Services for payroll services 2017/18 (£72.00). Approval of these payments was proposed by Cllr Emberson, seconded by Cllr Timms and agreed by Members.

(b) The Parish Clerk confirmed that arrangements had already been made to secure the booking of the Internal Audit by SALC during week commencing 23 April 2018.

(c) The Parish Clerk advised that there were no issues which still required attention following the issue of previous Internal Audit and External Audit reports for 2016/17.

(d) Members agreed that the Council's two new Recreation Ground signs needed to be added to the previous year's version of the asset register. A query was also raised regarding the ball stop netting at the Recreation Ground which required investigation.

(e) Following his attendance at a recent event hosted by SALC and as its income and expenditure was not expected to exceed £25,000, the Parish Clerk sought the Council's agreement to submit an exemption certificate to the external auditors at the end of 2017/18 thereby incurring no costs. Approval of exemption status was proposed by Cllr Emberson, seconded by Cllr Wright and agreed by Members.

(f) The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Recreation Ground Locality Award application for £1,000 sponsored by Cllr Morley had been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council.

(g) Approval to make a donation of £50.00 to Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk at the next meeting in April 2018 was proposed by Cllr Mitson, seconded by Cllr Stevenson and agreed by Members. Cllr Wright declared a non-pecuniary interest and therefore did not take part in this item. The Parish Clerk agreed to make contact with them before the next meeting.

8. Governance

(a) Discussion took place regarding the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations and the latest guidance from the National Association of Local Councils in the form of its recently issued toolkit. Further discussion was to take place at a future meeting.

(b) The Parish Clerk reported the completion of updated Register of Interests forms.

(c) Members agreed to items on the Neighbourhood Plan and Neighbourhood Watch for inclusion on the agenda at the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2018. The Parish Clerk agreed to invite the necessary speakers to attend the meeting and to present their report.

9. Highways

(a) Members agreed that there were no current Highways issues needing to be reported.

10. Recreation Ground

(a) The Recreation Ground representative confirmed that she was happy with the work previously carried out by the original supplier and that arrangements were being made to carry out the remaining work as soon as possible. MSDC locality award funding had been allocated to the swing (£500), rocking horse (£200), bin (£150) and fence repairs (£150).

(b) The Recreation Ground representative confirmed that further discussion with the owner of the fence had been postponed.

11. Consultations

(a) Members concluded that there was no impact on the parish following the Local Government Boundary Commission's electoral review of Mid Suffolk District and that a response to the consultation was therefore not required.

12. Matters for Future Consideration

Members agreed to include the following items on the agenda at the next meetings:

- (a) Debenham Major Development Planning Application Progress Update (April 2018)
- (b) Review of (i) Cashbook (ii) Income (iii) Expenditure & Budget to 31 March 2018
- (c) Approval of Bank Reconciliation to 31 March 2018 by Non-Cheque Signatories
- (d) Review of Attendance at Stonham Barns Liaison Meeting on 28 March 2018
- (e) Neighbourhood Plan & Neighbourhood Watch Presentations at APM (May 2018)

13. Dates of the Next Meetings

(a) Members agreed the dates of the meetings to be held in 2018/19 as the third Tuesday of the month with no meetings to be held in August and December 2018. Members also agreed to restrict the agenda to planning applications, authorisation of payments and any other urgent items at the meetings planned to be held in even-numbered months.

- (b) 17 April 2018 (Urgent Items Only & Documents Received by 9 April 2018)
- (c) 15 May 2018 (7.00pm) (Annual Parish Meeting)
- (d) 15 May 2018 (8.00pm) (Annual General Meeting)
- (e) The meeting finished at 9.25pm.

Simon Ashton, Parish Clerk

sapc.clerk@yahoo.co.uk

17 April 2018

Mid Suffolk District Council

Report for The Stonhams Ward – March 2018

Independent Survey finds residents in favour of the creation of a single council. Almost two thirds of residents (62%) are in favour of the creation of a single council for Babergh and Mid Suffolk, an independent survey has found.

As part of wider public engagement activities on the proposal to create a single council to replace Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, ComRes, a leading market research company, carried out an independent telephone survey of 4,000 residents - 2,000 from each district. Respondents reflected the gender, age, ethnicity and socio-economic grades of the local population. The results of the survey, which were presented to councillors from both districts today, shows that in Babergh 54% of respondents are in favour of the creation of a single council and 35% are unfavourable. In Mid Suffolk, 69% of respondents are in favour of the creation of a single council and 22% are unfavourable. Overall, the survey showed extremely high support from electors for five key objectives of creating a single district council:

Long term financial stability to protect the services that are most important to residents (93%) • Delivering services that are better tailored to the needs of local residents (93%) • Meet the challenges facing local government (89%) • Maintain low council tax (88%) • Create better relationships with local communities (88%). The survey found that nearly three quarters of respondents (70%) were aware of the proposals and more than half (57%) knew a little or a lot about it. More than half of respondents (54%) were not concerned about the proposal to create a single council, while 43% were concerned. The survey found that support for the vulnerable is considered to be the most important priority for local government; and residents think that the creation of a single council would have a positive effect on older people, disabled people and young people.

The results of the independent telephone survey will be included alongside all the other responses to the initial public engagement and the costs and benefits in a business case, which is due to be published in the spring.

The Leader of Babergh District Council, Councillor John Ward said: "This independent telephone survey, which asked a representative sample of the local population, shows that seven years on from the previous referendum on this issue, more people in Babergh are now in favour of the creation of a single council than those who are not. Residents are clear that we should be prioritising financial stability and providing better local services that are more tailored to the needs of our residents. Dissolving Babergh and Mid Suffolk to create a new single district council will ensure we can deliver what our residents want.

A lot has changed since 2011 and it was essential that we carried out this engagement to understand current public opinion in Babergh to inform the business case for creating a new council. Once the business case has been drafted and fully debated by all councillors, then it will be put to the electors of Babergh to vote on through a referendum this summer."

Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council, Councillor Nick Gowrley said: "The results of this independent telephone survey reinforces the views expressed by Mid Suffolk electors in the 2011 referendum, and clearly show that more residents in Mid Suffolk are in favour and unconcerned about the proposed creation of a single council than there were back in 2011. Our residents have spoken and they are clear what they want us to do, now is the time to put this to the Secretary of State and make this a reality."

District Councillor Suzie Morley, The Stonhams Ward – 01449 711306 / 07976 927226

March 2018 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

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

This year, Suffolk County Council received its 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 7,171. 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. It is extremely positive to see that we have been able to offer a preferred school to the majority of applicants this year. We use published national criteria to decide who has priority for places so that the process is fair and clear. We do, however, understand that some families may be disappointed or anxious about the offer we have made. When a parent's preference is refused, we will put their child's name on the waiting list for that school automatically and tell them how they can make an appeal, should they wish to do so. Starting secondary school is an important moment for any child, so the more we can do to make the transition right for the student, the better. 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

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service calling for new recruits

For the first time in nine years, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is recruiting wholetime firefighters. The application process opened on Thursday 1 March and closes on Thursday 15 March 2018. Anyone interested in applying is urged to respond quickly though, as the application process will close early if 1500 applications are received. Applications are welcome from all Suffolk residents that are 18 years of age or older and reasonably fit and healthy with a combination of strength and stamina. Applications from black and minority ethnic groups and female candidates are particularly encouraged as the service recognises these are groups of society that are currently under-represented.

Candidates that are shortlisted from the application process will go through a series of assessments similar to the challenges they may face in the role, along with a formal interview and medical assessment. The opening of the application process follows the popular taster sessions that Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service recently held around the county. The role of a firefighter has changed significantly over the years and it is far more diverse than people might expect. From conducting home safety checks, to talking to people about fire prevention, carrying out water rescues and dealing with road traffic collisions. It is a hugely rewarding role that encompasses a great breadth of work including of course putting out fires. If you think you might be suitable for the role and would like to join a team that puts the community first, I would really encourage you to apply. For more information please visit:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/working-and-volunteering-for-fire-and-rescue/wholetime-recruitment/

Great East Run challenge for 50 inactive Suffolk residents

50 Suffolk residents who are currently inactive are being given the opportunity to change their lives. Residents in Suffolk can sign up for a supported run training programme in Ipswich, with the aim of completing the challenge of the Great East Run half marathon on 16 September 2018. Participants will receive an extensive programme of support which will include; advice and guidance by double Olympic long-distance runner Paul Evans; expert weekly coaching sessions; gait analysis and exclusive discounts on running gear at Coes in Ipswich; specialist diet and nutrition support; entry into the Twilight 10k and Great East Run Over the course of 4 months, participants will be supported to develop their stamina, fitness and confidence to take on the 13.1 mile course. The programme which has been developed by Suffolk County Council and supported by Suffolk Sport is open to individuals over the age of 18. Its hoped that the programme will provide an opportunity for participants to embark on a life changing journey, which will see them complete the half marathon alongside 3,500 other runners. We have seen the transformation that mass participation events can have on individuals lives and this programme provides an incredible opportunity for 50 Suffolk residents to take that first step to an active lifestyle and all the benefits this can provide. The inaugural Great East Run last year was a great success with all 3,000 places selling out in a matter of months. To apply for a place on the programme, visit www.suffolksport.com/ger2018 where full details of the eligibility criteria are available, alongside the application form. On application, the programme coordinator will then be in touch directly to discuss the programme in more detail.

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division

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