

Ashfield cum Thorpe Parish Council

Approved Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12 September 2018 at 7.30pm at the Community Hall, Ashfield

Present: Cllr Myles Hansen (Chair), Cllr Robert Grimsey (Vice-Chair), Cllr Ruth Hart, Cllr Geoff Hazlewood, Cllr Ann Langley and Cllr Paul Whayman

Attendance: Cllr Matthew Hicks (County Councillor), Simon Ashton (Parish Clerk) and two Members of the Public

1. Apologies and Approval of Absences

Apologies were received from Cllr Simon Garrett and his absence was approved.

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

There were no interests declared by any of the Members.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 13 June 2018

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 13 June 2018 were received and approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. Reports by the District Councillor and County Councillor

Cllr Hicks delivered his county council report at the meeting. A copy of the report has 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 and Decision Notices

(a) MSDC DC/18/01888: Application Granted (21 June 2018)

Glebe House, The Street, Ashfield cum Thorpe, IP14 6LX

Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

7. Finance

(a) Review of income, expenditure and budget reports of activity to 31 August 2018 were reviewed and noted.

(b) Approval of the bank reconciliation of activity to 31 August 2018 was proposed by Cllr Hart, seconded by Cllr Langley and agreed by Members.

(c) Members noted that a payment of £97.74 had been approved by HMRC for the VAT refund claim for 2017/18 on 3 September 2018.

(d) Following a review of the risks to be covered by Business Services at CAS Ltd and reference to the Council's asset register recently verified by the Parish Clerk, approval of the Council's insurance cover from 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019 was proposed by Cllr Hansen, seconded by Cllr Grimsey and agreed by Members.

(e) Approval of the Parish Clerk's salary scale of SCP20 from 12 October 2018 was proposed by Cllr Hansen, seconded by Cllr Hazlewood and agreed by Members.

(f) Payments were authorised in favour of the Parish Clerk's wages and office and personal expenses (£471.45), Society of Local Council Clerks for an annual subscription (September 2018 to August 2019) (£21.05) and Business Services at CAS Ltd for annual insurance cover (October 2018 to September 2019) (£161.96). Approval of these payments was proposed by Cllr Hart, seconded by Cllr Langley and agreed by Members.

8. Governance

(a) Approval to add the privacy notice presented by the Parish Clerk on the web site was proposed by Cllr Grimsey, seconded by Cllr Hazlewood and agreed by Members.

(b) The Parish Clerk presented the Council's annual risk assessment for 2018/19 which was reviewed by Members. The Parish Clerk agreed to make an amendment to reflect the new GDPR regulations. Approval and adoption of this document was proposed by Cllr Hart, seconded by Cllr Langley and agreed by Members.

(c) The Parish Clerk presented the Council's internal control statement for 2018/19 which was reviewed by Members. Approval and adoption of this document was proposed by Cllr Hansen, seconded by Cllr Hart and agreed by Members.

(d) Members discussed the activities of Ashfield Welfare Trust, acknowledged the retirement of its three trustees, Dick Knight, Simon Wilson and Eric Brown, and encouraged adequate publicity to invite applicants to take part in the scheme. Approval of the recommended appointment of the three new trustees, Sarah Walker, Simon Pryke and Andrew Pitts, was proposed by Cllr Hansen, seconded by Cllr Hart and agreed by Members. The Chair agreed to write to the outgoing trustees to express the Council's thanks in introducing suitable trustee replacements.

9. Highways

(a) Cllr Grimsey provided an update on local highways issues and confirmed that the verges in the village had been cut.

10. Public Meeting on 6 September 2018

(a) The Chair confirmed that a public meeting attended by 20 parishioners had taken place on 6 September 2018 to debate the introduction of a defibrillator, a vehicle activated signs scheme and a dog bin.

(b) Following a discussion on the matters raised at the public meeting, Cllr Grimsey agreed to investigate the subject of dog fouling support from Mid Suffolk District Council and to await information from Cllr Hicks on signs which could be used in the village. Following a discussion about the defibrillator, Cllr Hart agreed to co-ordinate a meeting with a co-ordinator to visit the parish one evening to discuss awareness, advice and training before the end of 2018. Following a discussion about speed reduction, Members agreed to await further information from Cllr Hicks on the painting of signs on the roads. Approval of these outcomes was proposed by Cllr Hart, seconded by Cllr Langley and agreed by Members.

11. Consultations

- (a) Members agreed that they had to comments to make in connection with the MSDC Gambling Act (2005) Statement of Principles (Revision) consultation by 12 October 2018.
- (b) Members agreed that they had to comments to make in connection with the MSDC Joint Housing Strategy consultation with comments due by 1 November 2018.

12. Matters for Future Consideration

- (a) Appointment of Finance & Planning Representatives & Cheque Signatory (2018/19)
- (b) Confirmation of the Receipt of the MSDC Precept (2/2) (£1,350.00) (1 October 2018)
- (c) Review & Approval of the Appointment of the Council's Internal Auditor (2018/19)
- (d) Review & Approval of the Council's Budget, Reserves & Precept Setting (2019/20)
- (e) Review & Approval of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations & LTN 87 Procurement

13. Dates of the Next Meetings

- (a) 12 December 2018 (Agenda Items & Documents Received by 4 December 2018)
- (b) 13 March 2019
- (c) The meeting finished at 9.40pm.

Simon Ashton, Parish Clerk
actpc.clerk@gmail.com
12 December 2018

September 2018 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

Suffolk students celebrate improved GCSE achievements

Self-reported statistics from Suffolk schools, released on 23 August, show that more students in Suffolk have achieved expected levels of GCSE attainment in English and Maths this year. The majority of GCSEs results are now graded from 9 to 1, (previously A to G) with 9 being the highest and 1 being the lowest. The expected standard for pupils to achieve is now a grade 4 and above (previously a C grade and above), with grade 5 considered a 'strong pass'. More than 7,000 students in Suffolk were entered for GCSE results. 80% of schools in Suffolk, 67% of students achieved a grade 4 and above in English and Maths this year. The figures state 2% more students have achieved the expected standard for English and Maths, compared with last year. Some schools have made significant gains compared to last year and Debenham High School has again reported the highest number of students achieving a grade 4 and above in English and Maths at 88%. The figures also show an increase in the number of disadvantaged students achieving the threshold measure in English and Maths. Approximately 3% more students in Suffolk achieved the measure this year compared to last year.

Another year of outstanding results for Suffolk students

Self-reported A-level figures, released on 16 August, show that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the number of A*-E grades awarded above the national average. Almost 3,000 pupils were entered for A-levels in Suffolk. The figures show that 98.1% of A-levels taken in the county have been awarded an A*- E grade, compared with 97.6% nationally. Suffolk maintains its position, and continues to be above the national average, while the national figure reported today shows a decrease of 0.3%. Early indications also show that Suffolk's Academic average points per entry has risen by 0.2% compared with this time last year.

Grit bin changes

A new system is being introduced by Suffolk Highways for re-stocking grit bins and for approving new grit bins. A review of grit bin and grit heap provision was reported to the County Council's Scrutiny Committee on 1 May in a paper entitled 'Winter Maintenance Resilience'. Details of how the new system will operate are being sent to parish/town/borough and district councils. You should be aware that we can no longer stock grit heaps. Salt from heaps leaches into the verge and contaminates the watercourse. The leaching also reduces the effectiveness of the remaining material. Any parish/town which has a grit heap is encouraged to apply for a new grit bin in line with the guidance. The new guidance has been established to make it easier to request grit bin refills, explains the process of applying for a new grit bin and provides clarity of the grit bin process and associated responsibilities. We believe these changes will improve the service to communities.

Suffolk's tourist trade booming as economy hits £2bn mark

Suffolk's tourism trade has seen its biggest boom for a decade – with the visitor economy reaching the £2 billion mark for the first time. Interim figures released on 8 August by Visit Suffolk show that tourism grew by at least five per cent in 2017, more than double the year before. Overnight visits and lengths of stay for tourists were also up by more than 4 per cent. The number of jobs in the county's tourism sector rose by 6 per cent to 42,428. This means 13.6 per cent of all employment in Suffolk is in the tourism sector. These results would not have been achieved without the continued backing for the county-wide offer from all the district authorities, Suffolk County Council, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and the Local Destination Marketing/Management Organisations (DMOs).

Superfast broadband coverage continues to grow

On 24 August 2018, it was confirmed that 98% superfast broadband coverage will be achieved in 2020.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, Jo Churchill, MP for Bury St Edmunds and Clive Selley, CEO of Openreach, were joined by representatives from West Suffolk Council, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, Church of England, Country Land and Business Association (CLA), National Farmers Union (NFU) and the Better Broadband for Suffolk Team to confirm plans to reach 98% coverage in 2020 which highlights our commitment to connecting Suffolk. With this agreement in place, Openreach will continue to ensure that we meet our ambitious goal. In the meantime, we will continue to look for further funding opportunities to work on delivery to the final 2%. To check if a property can now access superfast broadband visit www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com and check the coverage for that area. The roll out is ongoing and Suffolk County Council is committed to delivering full coverage as quickly as possible. It is important to remind people that a switch to fibre broadband is not automatic. Each household or business will need to contact an internet service provider to upgrade their connection.

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division

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