

Ashfield cum Thorpe Parish Council

Approved Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13 March 2019 at 7.30pm at the Community Hall, Ashfield

Present: Cllr Myles Hansen (Chair), Cllr Robert Grimsey (Vice-Chair), Cllr Simon Garrett, Cllr Ruth Hart and Cllr Paul Whyman

Attendance: Cllr Matthew Hicks (District & County Councillor), Simon Ashton (Parish Clerk) and one Member of the Public

1. Apologies and Approval of Absences

Apologies were received from Cllr Geoff Hazlewood and Cllr Ann Langley and their 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 12 December 2018

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 12 December 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 confirmed that Mid Suffolk District Council had carried out research on the five-year land supply situation and had contacted all applicants whether their properties had been built or not. He confirmed that this was to be his last meeting as the parish's district councillor. The MSDC ward was to be affected by a boundary change in 2019/20. Cllr Hicks also 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

The lack of a superfast broadband service in some parts of the village was raised. Members advised the resident to refer this and the area in question to Cllr Hicks, County Councillor.

6. Consideration of Planning Applications and Decision Notices

(a) MSDC DC/18/05590: Application Received (Comments Due 14 January 2019)
Acresfield, The Street, Ashfield Cum Thorpe, IP14 6LX

Members noted that no comments had been submitted on this application.

(b) MSDC DC/18/04258: Discharge of Conditions (12 December 2018)

Ashfield Lodge & Land to the East, The Street, Ashfield Cum Thorpe, IP14 6ND

Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

- (c) MSDC DC/18/04259: Discharge of Conditions (12 December 2018)
Ashfield Lodge & Land to the East, The Street, Ashfield Cum Thorpe, IP14 6ND
Members noted the outcome of this planning application.
- (d) MSDC DC/18/05590: Application Granted (4 February 2019)
Acresfield, The Street, Ashfield Cum Thorpe, IP14 6LX
Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

7. Finance

- (a) Members noted the receipt of the SCC Locality Funding grant of £900.00 for a defibrillator on 7 January 2019.
- (b) Receipts, payments and budget reports of activity to 28 February 2019 were reviewed and noted by Members.
- (c) Approval of the bank reconciliation of activity to 28 February 2019 was proposed by Cllr Garrett, seconded by Cllr Grimsey and agreed by Members.
- (d) The Parish Clerk confirmed that final confirmation was awaited from Barclays Bank regarding the addition of the two requested cheque signatories.
- (e) Members approved the action taken by the Parish Clerk following the previously reviewed issues included in the Internal Audit Report Action Plan (2017/18).
- (f) The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Council's Internal Audit (2018/19) had been booked with SALC for the week commencing 8 April 2019.
- (g) As the Council's receipts and payments were not expected to exceed £25,000, the Parish Clerk sought agreement to submit an exemption certificate to the external auditors (2018/19) which would not attract any costs. Approval of exemption status was proposed by Cllr Whayman, seconded by Cllr Hart and agreed by Members.
- (h) Approval of the NJCLGS/NALC Parish Clerk Pay Scales (2019/20) was proposed by Cllr Garrett, seconded by Cllr Hansen and agreed by Members.
- (i) Payments were authorised in favour of the Parish Clerk's wages and office and personal expenses (£458.74) and Suffolk Association of Local Councils for the Parish Clerk's attendance at the Elections Briefing 2019 and the payroll service (October 2018 to March 2019) (£31.20). Approval of these payments was proposed by Cllr Hart, seconded by Cllr Whayman and agreed by Members.

8. Governance

- (a) Cllr Hart confirmed that a defibrillator funding application for £1,125.00 had been submitted to the Big Lottery Fund on 7 February 2019 in the name of Ashfield Community Council which could take up to ten weeks to be processed.
- (b) Following discussion by Members, approval for Cllr Whayman, as lead, to pursue the village's inclusion in the SCC Highways no-cost vehicle activated signs scheme on rotation was proposed by Cllr Hart, seconded by Cllr Hansen and agreed by Members.
- (c) Members approved the Parish Clerk's attendance at the SALC Elections 2019 Briefing.
- (d) Members had been briefed on the elections process in advance of the meeting by the Parish Clerk following his attendance at the SALC Elections Briefing 2019. He also confirmed that any completed parish council election nomination forms received would be handed in to MSDC Electoral Services at his appointment on 18 March 2019.

- (e) Members agreed the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) on 8 May 2019 at 7.30pm. The Parish Clerk agreed to book the Community Hall and send out an invitation to all the participating attendees.
- (f) Members agreed to continue to hold the Council's quarterly meetings at 7.30pm on second Wednesday evenings in 2019/20. It was also agreed to hold the Annual General Meeting on 8 May 2019 at 8.00pm, or later, immediately following the conclusion of the APM. The Parish Clerk agreed to book the Community Hall. Draft routine agendas for the meetings in 2019/20 presented by the Parish Clerk were agreed by Members.

9. Highways

- (a) Following discussion, Members agreed to support Framsdon Parish Council's A1120 speed limit review including the route to Ashfield. The Parish Clerk agreed to submit confirmation of the support to the Council's Parish Clerk.
- (b) Cllr Grimsey confirmed that the HGV sign in Kenton had been put back in place.
- (c) Members agreed that there were no other Highways issues requiring consideration.

10. Matters for Future Consideration

- (a) Consideration of the Availability & Future Management of the Community Hall

11. Dates of the Next Meetings

- (a) 8 May 2019 (Annual Parish Meeting) (7.30pm)
- (b) 8 May 2019 (AGM) (8.00pm or later) (Agenda Items Received by 30 April 2019)
- (c) 12 June 2019 (Agenda Items & Documents Received by 4 June 2019)
- (d) The meeting finished at 9.15pm.

Simon Ashton, Parish Clerk
actpc.clerk@gmail.com
8 May 2019

March 2019 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

Suffolk County Council 2019/20 budget approved

On 14 February, Suffolk County Council concluded its budget setting process for this coming financial year (2019/2020). From 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, Suffolk County Council will spend almost £10 million a week across all its services following approval of this budget of £519.3 million. Over the period 2011-12 to 2018-19 the Council has made over £260 million of savings in response to reductions in funding from Central Government and increasing demand for services. For 2019/20 the Council has proposed a range of savings totalling around £13 million. These savings are required to help balance the budget - something that the Council must do by law.

Recognising the unrelenting rise in demand and the complexity of support required by vulnerable children and adults in Suffolk, the Council are significantly increasing spending in these two top priority areas. The net budget for Adult and Community Services (ACS) will rise to £243m and the net budget for Health, Wellbeing and Children's Services (HWCS) will rise to £147m. This is an increase of just over £14 million for ACS and HWCS. ACS and HWCS will account for 75% of the total spend in 2019/2020 – three in every four pounds the Council spends. General council tax will rise by 2.99% this year. The Council are also applying the final 1% of the six per cent Social Care precept allowed over the years 2017/18 to 2019/20. The overall increase in council tax is one per cent less than for 2018/19. The four-year investment in surface-dressing our roads continues into its third year and the Council will treat 1,000 miles of Suffolk's roads by the end of 2020 as promised. The Council has also maintained Suffolk Fire and Rescue's budget and protected Suffolk's Library services. The Council is looking to maximise the financial contribution from its medium-term programmes, which focus on transforming how the Council delivers its services and works with other authorities and public sector partners. The Council's transformation programmes have saved over £12 million in 2018/19 and £12-£13 million of savings are planned for 2019/20. There are no easy choices at this point. Every call we have to make on where to find savings is tough, but we must balance the budget by law and it is right to focus our efforts on our highest priority areas to protect and support our most vulnerable residents.

Funding agreed for Citizens Advice in Suffolk

On 11 February, it was reported that Citizens Advice in Suffolk will no longer see any difference in their funding for 2019/20. This is due to a collaboration between Suffolk County Council, NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group,

Suffolk County Council proposes to reduce the funding given to Citizens Advice by 50% (£187k), in 2019/20. Under the joint agreement now in place with the CCGs, a total of £187k will be provided by NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk and NHS West Suffolk CCGs. So, funding for Citizens Advice in 2019/20 will remain the same as the previous year (£374k). Doctor Ed Garratt, Chief Officer for Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG and West Suffolk CCG, said:

"By working together with our colleagues at the Council, we have been able to identify future funding for Citizens Advice. This is a great example of Suffolk's authorities supporting each other to find solutions."

County Council announces timescale to progress the Ipswich Northern Route project

On 27 February, SCC announced the timescale to progress the Ipswich Northern Route project. SCC has outlined the next steps in producing the Strategic Outline Business Case, which will examine and ultimately clarify the feasibility of an Ipswich northern route. Discussions about an Ipswich northern route have been well documented over the years. This announcement confirms the County Council's commitment to explore these formally with a public consultation which will inform the Strategic Outline Business Case to be put to government and published later in the year. The timescale for moving the project forward is: The stage one study and report into possible highways options was completed in 2017; The options assessment and development commissioned in May 2018 is currently being evaluated and prepared for shortlisting, prior to consultation; Public consultation on the route details, alignment options and junction options with the A14 and A12 - to begin in the Summer 2019; Completion of the Strategic Outline Business Case to be shared with government, local MPs and the public - Autumn 2019.

The options assessment, that forms a key part of the Strategic Outline Business Case, is required to look at all other viable transport and traffic mitigation options. This will confirm whether the road alignments published in 2017 are indeed the best solution for the county. After carefully considering the assessment and developing these options further, the next stage is public consultation to begin in summer 2019. The initial study, options assessment and the results of the public consultation inform the Strategic Outline Business Case, which will provide clarity on the feasibility of the project and will determine whether the project can proceed to the next stage. That will be shared publicly for consideration in the Autumn of 2019.

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