

Ashfield cum Thorpe

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 10 May 2017 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, The Street, Ashfield cum Thorpe

Attendees: Cllr Geoff Hazlewood (Chair), Cllr Simon Garrett, Cllr Robert Grimsey, Cllr Myles Hansen, Cllr Ruth Hart and Cllr Ann Langley (Ashfield cum Thorpe Parish Council), Cllr Matthew Hicks (Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Council), Malcolm Pease (Ashfield Community Council), Dick Knight (Ashfield Welfare Trust), Anita Sharpe (Ashfield Village Recorder), Simon Ashton (Parish Clerk) and four Members of the Public

- 1. Welcome by Ashfield cum Thorpe Parish Council's Chair**
Cllr Hazlewood welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Agreement of Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting on 27 April 2016**
Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on 27 April 2016 were received, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.
- 3. Report by Ashfield cum Thorpe Parish Council's Chair**
Cllr Hazlewood delivered his report at the meeting. He confirmed both a quiet year and the difficulties faced having to manage the running of the Parish Council in the absence of a Parish Clerk until Mr Ashton's appointment in October 2016. Steps had been initiated to introduce a defibrillator to the village which had subsequently been referred to the Community Council as owner of the Village Hall. A notice board had also been purchased with the assistance of a grant awarded by Cllr Hicks from his locality fund.
- 4. Report by Mid Suffolk District Councillor & Suffolk County Councillor**
Cllr Hicks delivered his report at the meeting. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.
- 5. Consideration of the Viability of the Installation of Vehicle Activated Signs**
Cllr Hicks outlined the provision of vehicle activated signs if the village wished to consider purchasing this facility which would need to be self-managed and its locations rotated. It could also be purchased in conjunction with another or other parishes and would cost approximately £2,500 to £3,000. Training would need to be provided and consideration given to its net benefits.
- 6. Report by Suffolk Police's Eye Safer Neighbourhood Team's Representative**
Cllr Hazlewood presented a report received from Suffolk Police's Mid Suffolk North Safer Neighbourhood Team at the meeting. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.

- 7. Report by the Parish Paths Liaison Officer**
Cllr Grimsey delivered his report at the meeting. He confirmed the existence of a network of public footpaths and bridleways around the parish for use by both residents and visitors. It was hoped that a relationship could be developed with a new landowner. There had been a problem with closed river crossings and it was hoped that they would soon be reopened by Suffolk County Council's Rights of Way Team.
- 8. Report by Ashfield Community Council's Chair**
Mr Pease delivered his report at the meeting. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.
- 9. Report by Ashfield Ladies Group's Chair**
Cllr Hansen presented a report received from Ashfield Ladies Group at the meeting. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.
- 10. Report by Ashfield Welfare Trust's Trustee**
Mr Knight delivered his report at the meeting. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.
- 11. Report by Ashfield's Village Recorder**
Ms Sharpe delivered her report at the meeting. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.
- 12. Report by Earl Soham Community Primary School Governors' Chair**
Cllr Hazlewood presented a report received from Earl Soham Community Primary School Governors at the meeting. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.
- 13. Public Forum**
Mr Pease confirmed that residents had provided negative feedback about the location and size of the newly acquired notice board. He confirmed that it would be best moved away from the entrance to the Village Hall's car park as it overshadowed the light from the phone kiosk. The meeting finished at 8.35pm.

Simon Ashton, Parish Clerk
actpc.clerk@gmail.com
26 May 2017

Cllr Matthew Hicks 2017 Annual Report for the Thredling Division

SCC freezes council tax for seventh year in a row

SCC's share of council tax is to be frozen for a seventh year in a row. The council has made savings in excess of £200million since the Government's deficit reduction programme began in 2011/2012 and faces the need to make further savings leading to 2020. The budget passed in April saw a ZERO% increase in base Council Tax. We decided to implement the 3% National Adult Social Care Levy and this means with the extra funding from the Social Care precept we will be able to cope with the continuing financial pressures caused by the welcome rise in the national living wage. The administration made a pledge that we would not increase Council Tax for four years if elected, and that manifesto promise has been upheld.

Education attainment in Suffolk

Suffolk County Council continues to drive up educational standards across Suffolk, making sure that every child has access to the best possible education. Validated figures published on the Department for Education's website confirm that Suffolk's GCSE progress has for the first time risen above the national average. Suffolk is now ranked in the top half of all authorities for progress at GCSE level, at 55th out of 151. This is a real improvement since 2014 when Suffolk was ranked 119th for English progress and 108th for maths. It is important to recognise that the way a school's progress is measured has changed this year nationally. Progress 8 is the Government's new way of measuring GCSE results. It measures how well pupils of all abilities have progressed by comparing them with students who achieved similar levels in Key Stage 2 across the country. More information about the new Progress 8 measure can be found on the Department for Education's website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/progress-8-school-performance-measure>.

Across Suffolk, 60.1% of students achieved the national measure of attaining a grade C or above in English and maths. This is 3% higher than last year and marks a 6% increase since 2014. Suffolk students have also closed the gap to the national average state funded schools from 6% in 2014 to just 3% this year. Suffolk continues to be above the national figure of 59.3% for all schools. This is a real sign that Suffolk is making good progress. We are now into the fifth year of the Raising the Bar programme which aims to improve levels of educational attainment and ensure that every child in Suffolk is able to achieve their full potential. Since the programme began in 2012, there has been a more than 20% rise in Suffolk Schools being judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. This rate is currently improving more than twice as fast as those across the country. We will not become complacent and will continue to build on the momentum of the positive results we have seen since the programme started and will continue to ensure that every child and young person in Suffolk reaches their full potential.

EDF Energy's Stage 2 public consultation on the proposed development of Sizewell C

SCC response as part of EDF Energy's Stage 2 public consultation on the proposed development of Sizewell C makes it clear that we support the principal of a new nuclear power station and recognise the benefits for the local economy; including jobs, skills and business. However, at this point there is a lot more work required on the part of EDF Energy to provide much greater detail and demonstrate how they plan to mitigate many of the significant concerns that such a major development brings with it. Particular aspects of the

feedback offered focus on the challenges of accommodation, construction, transport, environment and effect on local communities. The report confirms that some of the proposals are sound; including the temporary extension of rail links and park and ride bus site. The positive economic outcomes are also welcomed. In regards to road improvement the council has made it clear that the preferred option is for the 'SEGway' (the Suffolk Energy Gateway including a 4 village bypass) to be built in time for the development. This means that within EDF Energy's current stage 2 consultation, the option for a 2-village bypass for Farnham and Stratford St Andrew is the absolute bare minimum mitigation that they must fund. The authorities will strive to deliver a SEGWay by seeking government funding to add to what EDF Energy must provide for a two village by pass. The report states that there are aspects of the proposals that require more detail from EDF Energy before we can be content. There is a lack of information regarding potential alternative locations for the borrow pits; spoil heaps (up to a huge 35 metres high) and stockpiling of other materials that will occur as part of construction. There is a significant threat to the surrounding Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). There is also concern about the scale of the site footprint and its proximity and vulnerability to coastal processes. There is similar concern regarding the proposed five storey high accommodation block for construction workers in regards to its location and design. In short, there are many elements of the proposals that really need a greater level of detail. The third element of the report outlines a number of areas of EDF Energy's proposals that simply require much more detail before SCC is even willing to give a view on whether to support or disagree. Further information is required in regards to traffic movement and related volumes that are likely during construction in order to better understand the impact on existing road networks and what additional infrastructure may be needed to help alleviate concerns from the local community including changes to existing road junctions. Without further detail regarding how EDF Energy intend to utilise the different modes of transport available, the councils must assume a worst case scenario at this point, until EDF Energy can clearly demonstrate the benefits of their proposal and how they would deliver this. It is also unclear how social and economic benefits will be delivered to local people and surrounding communities and what part tourism and business plays at this point. The Council will work in collaboration with EDF Energy and Government to look at how such development can be delivered with the appropriate mitigation and level of funding required for such an ambitious project.

Foster & Partners selected to join the Upper Orwell Crossings Project, Ipswich while Lake Lothing Third Crossing, Lowestoft will be supported by Design Council Cabs.

Following a competition run in partnership with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), Suffolk County Council is very pleased to announce that Foster + Partners has been selected as the architectural team to join the Upper Orwell Crossings project in Ipswich. The crossings will be the second project Foster + Partners has undertaken in the town, following the construction of the architecturally significant Willis Building in Ipswich town centre. The Panel, chaired by Sir Michael Hopkins CBE, selected Foster + Partners from a strong shortlist of five internationally renowned teams. Foster + Partners impressed the panel by the quality of their overall approach and thinking, including the initial design concepts. The approaches were considered to have the potential to enhance Ipswich's thriving waterfront, as well as acting as a catalyst for regeneration of the wider harbour area. The county council and key partners, including Ipswich Borough Council and Ipswich Vision, keenly anticipate seeing the initial design ideas developed further with the wider project team and in consultation with

local businesses, communities and residents. Competition concept design images can be downloaded from here <https://www.flickr.com/photos/suffolkcountycouncil/> A video is available at www.youtube.com/user/SuffolkCC

It has also been announced that the Lake Lothing Third Crossing design process will be supported by Design Council Cbe. As a leading provider of independent and expert design advice, Design Council Cbe will help ensure a sound design process for the Lake Lothing Third Crossing in Lowestoft. Design Council Cbe will lead design workshops and reviews with the project design team, using an independent design advice panel drawn from their network of experts. The panel will consist of architects, landscape architects, urban planners and designers and engineers to ensure all elements of the scheme are properly considered. This is another important step in making the Lake Lothing Third Crossing a reality and we are delighted to be working with Design Council Cbe to develop a high quality design for the bridge. The construction of the Lake Lothing Third Crossing will bring significant transport benefits to Lowestoft for not just motorists, but pedestrians and cyclists too. The crossing will also open up further opportunities for regeneration and development in the area.

Design is a really important element of the scheme and we are confident that with Design Council Cbe assisting us means we have the very best team on board.

Design Team announced for 'The Hold'

The design team who will develop the planned heritage centre, 'The Hold' has been announced. Suffolk County Council and the University of Suffolk, who are partners in the project, have announced that following a highly competitive tender process, world class, award winning architects Pringle Richards Sharratt have won the contract to develop the design for the new building. The name of the new shared building has also been confirmed as 'The Hold', and will use the strapline 'Explore. Discover. Connect.' 'The Hold' is one of the commitments being delivered as part of the Ipswich Vision. 'The Hold' will incorporate facilities to house 900 years of Suffolk's historical archives, along with exhibition space, exciting digital technology, a café, an auditorium and education/seminar rooms. The project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) who have provided a grant of £538,000 to help the partners develop their proposals and apply for a delivery grant of over £10m later this year. As well as providing teaching and research space fit for the 21st Century, it will also form a unique visitor attraction and an important cultural resource for the community. The project will drive a new way for the Record Office to extend and deliver its outreach work; a county-wide activity programme called "Mapping Suffolk's Stories" will see Record Office staff and UCS work alongside a wide range of community groups, volunteers and schools, engaging them with Suffolk's rich heritage in new and exciting ways, beginning with researching and digitising historic map collections. The Hold, which is one of the 21 key delivery projects of the 'Ipswich Vision', should open its doors in time for the 900th anniversary of the Record Office's oldest document, in 2019. Suffolk Record Office now offers online resources to help you search for a particular person or piece of information. The new website allows users to access catalogues for the records from the comfort of their own home and means many more people will be able to use the service. More records are being digitised and added to the collection on an on-going basis. To find out more about the services available online, visit www.suffolkarchives.co.uk

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division

Tel : 01728 628176 Mob : 07824474741 E-mail : matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk



The parish of Ashfield-cum-Thorpe has had two reported crimes for the year since the last Annual Meeting. These are as follows –

1 x Theft of 800 litres of diesel.

1 x Criminal Damage.

If you are aware of further recorded crimes in the parish, then I do apologise, as the crime recording system we use now takes a considerably lot longer to locate information which is very frustrating, whereas before it was very simple.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore has announced that he will be asking council taxpayers to pay an average of just under 1p* a day extra towards policing in the county in the next financial year. The PCC presented his precept proposal to the Police and Crime Panel meeting on Tuesday 31st January for their consideration; the panel unanimously supported the proposal. Raising the precept by 1.972% will add approximately £830K to the Constabulary's budget in the next financial year.

Suffolk Constabulary will continue to aim to answer a minimum of 90% of '999' calls within 10 seconds, and respond to a minimum of 90% of emergency incidents within 15 minutes (urban) and 20 minutes (rural).

Your local Police Station is currently still in Eye, from which 42 parishes are covered by PCSO Steven Long and PC Lee Andrews-Pearce.

Inspector Mark Jackson and Sergeant's Mark Beresford and Mark Woodmansee are currently based at Halesworth along with the Response Team for the area.

Regards

PCSO 3172 Steven Long



Mid Suffolk North Safer Neighbourhood Team
Mid Suffolk North SNT
Police station, The Lodge, Castleton Way, Eye, IP23 7BH
Tel:101
e-mail: midsuffnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

www.suffolk.police.uk





SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe

For those of you who engage in Social Media, Mid Suffolk Police now have a Twitter account. This is regularly updated with crime prevention advice, crime information, witness appeals and other local policing news. You can access the account at www.twitter.com/@MidSuffPolice.

(N.B Crime figures are as guide only, official figures are released in April of each year.)

Mid Suffolk North Safer Neighbourhood Team
Mid Suffolk North SNT
Police station, The Lodge, Castleton Way, Eye, IP23 7BH
Tel: 101
e-mail: midsuffnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

www.suffolk.police.uk

**CALL YOUR
LOCAL
POLICE**

101

IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999

Ashfield Community Council Chairmans Report 2016/17

As a committee we have had a fairly quiet year, mostly aimed at fund raising to maintain the hall and improve where required. To this aim we are fortunate to still provide refreshments for the cycling clubs which results in a steady income and almost covers our mandatory outgoings.

In terms of functions, we have arranged a couple of social evenings, a quiz night, a Vinyl evening which is always popular and several village rambles. We also celebrated the Queen's birthday with a party in June.

We have also had frequent outside hall bookings with a local band using the hall for practice on a number of occasions, and government election days, also the hall was used for the Church Harvest Supper.

We were pleased to be able to obtain a grant from the MSDC Locality Fund which we used to replace all the Fascias on the hall and have new guttering fitted which was urgently needed.

I would like thank the members of the committee for their work and support this last year, also to thank Ali for her excellent poster and flyer contributions. My thanks also to the ladies not on the committee who provide us with the cakes for our cyclist mornings. Also to those who help with our gardening tidy up mornings, to Robert for his car park spraying and last but not least to Chris Wilton who very kindly takes care of the grass cutting duties.

Malcolm Pease
Chairman Ashfield Community Council
May 2nd. 2017.

Ashfield Ladies Group

Report to Ashfield cum Thorpe Parish Council AGM - May 2017

The Ladies Group has been going now for 34 years, and continues to enjoy a varied programme each year. We now have a record 26 members, some from surrounding villages.

We hope to have a special celebration in 2018 to celebrate 35 years.

Susan Hansen
Group Organiser

Ashfield
Welfare
Trust

Bramcote,
The Street,
Ashfield,
STOWMARKET
Suffolk, IP14 6LY

Registered Charity No. 209692.

ASHFIELD WELFARE TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2017 (updated)

The Ashfield Welfare Trust is a registered charity that exists to relieve persons resident in the parish who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. The Trustees have continued their recent practice of distributing the interest on its investments to households that support a qualifying pensioner. This year 11 households received a cheque for £35. An adequate contingency fund has been retained, which can be used at the trustees' discretion.

The trustees would appreciate any information on changing circumstances. The trustees are not always aware that some one has reached pension age or that a pensioner has moved into the village.

The accounts for the last financial year, and those for the year ending on the 31st March 2016 have been provided to the Parish Council.

For a variety of personal reasons, and co-incidentally, all three of the current trustees have indicated that we will be retiring from the Ashfield Welfare Trust. We hope that volunteers to become Trustees can be found within the village and would appreciate any help in publicising these vacancies. For more information, please approach any of the current Trustees.

Simon Wilson, Dick Knight and Eric Brown.

Report of Village Recorder

Ashfield cum Thorpe Annual Parish Meeting 10 May 2017

Although I'm not from Suffolk, I've lived here since 1980 and at Merryvale House since 1989. I'm a retired Solicitor with an interest in local history. I've been the Village Recorder since 2015.

In Suffolk, the Local Recorders scheme is administered by the Suffolk Local History Council, whose purpose is to encourage and support the study of local history.

The Recorder's Role

- is to see that the present is adequately recorded at local level and
- to look out for items of historical interest which might be overlooked or lost for ever.

Imagine you are living in Ashfield in 100 years time and wondering what the village was like in 2017?

Village Recording includes noting happenings in the area and being vigilant for older records and to record reminiscences.

As many of you will know, I am Ashfield's second Recorder, the first being Mike Brenton, and I'm grateful to Mike for the work he did. I'm also grateful to Dorothy for looking after and passing over to me Mike's material.

Suffolk Local History Council now ask new Recorders to make an initial report about their Parish on taking up the role, and after that, to make a short annual report. The annual report should give an account of activities and changes of the Recorders area.

The Reports are kept in the Suffolk Record Office, so they become public documents.

Apart from the annual Report, it's really up to the individual Recorder as to how they go about Recording and whether they get take up any other projects.

So far, I have written an initial report in 2015 and two annual reports for 2015 and 2016. These reports were circulated round the village mostly by email and a few by hand to some parishioners not on the village email circulation list. If anyone has been missed out I apologise.

Recording is all about building up a picture of a living community. I am building up a database of historical Ashfield. I started with the material from the Life in Ashfield Project from 1996. I have digitised a lot of the documents that were on display, and sometime, I have to index and copy the photographs from the project. The village is very fortunate to have this information and if anyone is interested in viewing the material, I'd be delighted to assist. I can provide a list of materials upon request.

I have also started some research about the history of my own house and I've started a project to try to work out the historical occupants of Ashfield.

Another potential project is the Village House Photographs – the idea being to photograph the occupiers of houses outside their homes. More information about this will follow in due course (I hope).

To fulfil the Recorders role, I need information, I need parishioners to volunteer information please, for example if there are impending changes in the Village, eg, new buildings, changes to buildings, the Recorder should record the situation before and after. I should record activities, community events, house moves etc. So, this is a plea to the village for information please.

I'm always on the lookout for historical information as well, eg old documents, pictures, memorabilia etc. I can copy some documents. I have an A3 printer and scanner and I have a computer consultant living in my house who can sort out all the technical and inevitable computing issues.

Finally, there are more than 250 active Recorders in Suffolk although some parishes are without a Recorder, and I know that The Local History Council is always eager to fill these vacancies. So, if you know of someone (not Ashfield of course), who might be interested, have a word with me, or just have a look at the Recorders page on the Suffolk Local History website.

Anita Sharpe,

Merryvale House,

Ashfield

Earl Soham Community Primary School

Head Teacher's report for parish Councils: May 2017

1) Number on Role

There are currently 66 pupils on roll at the school.

2) Educational Visits

In March the whole school visited Cambridge Botanical Gardens. This linked closely to our curriculum theme last term 'Bugs, Beasts and Botany'. It was a very valuable educational experience for all of the children. Years 3 and 4 attended the food and farming event organised by the Suffolk agricultural association. This provided the children with the opportunity to see first-hand where our food comes from.

3) Easter School

Some of our pupils love school so much that they were willing to attend school during the Easter Holiday. 6 pupils from Years 6 and 5 attended the maths sessions on Monday and Tuesday mornings and several stayed on to do some writing on Tuesday afternoon. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and a great deal of practice and revision was undertaken in a fun and practical way.

4) School Council and the Food Bank

The school council organised an appeal to raise awareness of, and collect groceries for, our local food Bank. When collecting the parcels the food bank organisers had to return with a van as the 30 plus boxes would not fit into a car. The children's efforts were reported on the front page of the East Anglian Daily Times.

5) Tractor in School

Mr Nesling brought a tractor to school and all children enjoyed looking at it and listening to how our food is produced. Thanks to Him and the Suffolk Agricultural Association for organising this.

6) Visitors in school

Dr Goymer has visited Blue Class several times and talked to them about evolution and environmental sciences. He also led an assembly for the whole school. Dr Dan Poulter (our local MP) visited the school alongside a local councillor. They toured the school and spent time talking about current issues with the school council.

7) Sports and Competitions

The school has continued to take part in a variety of sports competitions. These have included Tag Rugby, Basketball (3rd Place) High 5's Netball (4th Place) and Swimming 4th and 10th places. Our second swimming team included pupils from Year 3 so they did very well competing against much older pupils (Year 6) from other schools.

Peter Lambillion-Jameson