

# Ashfield cum Thorpe Parish Council

## Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8 March 2017 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, The Street, Ashfield cum Thorpe

**Present:** Cllr Geoff Hazlewood (Chair), Cllr Simon Garrett (Vice-Chair), Cllr Myles Hansen and Cllr Ruth Hart

**Attendance:** Cllr Matthew Hicks (District & County Councillor) and Simon Ashton (Parish Clerk)

1. **Apologies and Approval of Absences**  
Apologies were received from Cllr Grimsey. Cllr Langley did not attend the meeting.
2. **Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Members**  
There were no interests declared by any of the Councillors.
3. **Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 11 January 2017**  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on 11 January 2017 were received, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters Arising**  
There were no matters arising which had not been included elsewhere on the agenda.
5. **Report by the District Councillor & 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.
6. **Contributions by Members of the Public**  
There were no issues raised by members of the public.
7. **Purchase of a Defibrillator for the Village Hall**  
The Parish Clerk confirmed that potential funding by the British Heart Foundation had been withdrawn. Following enquires made with the Community Heartbeat Trust, he presented a completed application form in draft in favour of the Big Lottery Fund as an alternative in the hope of being able to have the purchase of a defibrillator and its associated costs, including local training, fully funded. Cllr Garrett confirmed that permission had been provided by the Community Council to host and power the unit at the Village Hall.

**8. Replacement & Relocation of Notice Board**

Cllr Garrett confirmed that he was expecting the new notice board to be delivered on 10 March 2017 and that permission had been sourced from the Community Council for its installation on the grounds of the Village Hall. He would then be in touch to gain assistance from parishioners with the installation in due course. The Parish Clerk confirmed that the grant of £327 had been received from Cllr Hicks' Locality Budget. Cllr Hart advised the need to add the notice board to the Parish Council's list of assets.

**9. Consideration of Planning Applications & Decision Notices**

Details of the planning application not requiring comment, the planning decision notice and the summary of planning activity to date presented were noted by Members.

**10. Finance**

Reports confirming income and expenditure to the end of February 2017 were reviewed and noted. Approval of the bank reconciliation of activity to the end of February 2017 was proposed by Cllr Hart, seconded by Cllr Garrett and approved by Members. Payments were authorised in favour of the Parish Clerk's wages (£223.16), office and personal expenses (£53.22) and income tax to HMRC (£55.80) and Signs of Cheshire Ltd for the new notice board (£654.00). Approval of these payments was proposed by Cllr Hazlewood, seconded by Cllr Hansen and agreed by Members. Members noted that the Parish Council's requested precept for 2017/18 had been acknowledged by Mid Suffolk District Council.

**11. Governance**

Following discussion, agreement to adopt the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct prepared by the Parish Clerk was proposed by Cllr Hazlewood, seconded by Cllr Hart and agreed by Members.

**12. Correspondence Received**

There were no items of correspondence received for discussion since the last meeting.

**13. Matters for Future Consideration**

Items for discussion at the APM and AGM on 10 May 2017 were proposed by the Parish Clerk. It was noted that it had not been possible to locate the previous minutes of the APM. The services of SALC for the forthcoming internal audit were also proposed. Responsibilities were allocated to either provide or request the following parties to deliver an annual report at the APM: Chair of the Parish Council (Cllr Hazlewood), District and County Councillor (Parish Clerk), Suffolk Police (Parish Clerk), Parish Paths Liaison Officer (Parish Clerk), Chair of the Community Council (Parish Clerk), Ashfield Ladies Group (Cllr Hansen), Welfare Trust (Cllr Garrett), Earl Soham School Governors (Cllr Garrett) and The Recorder (Cllr Hansen).

**14. Dates of the Next Meetings**

(a) (i) 10 May 2017 (APM) (7.30pm) (ii) 10 May 2017 (AGM) (8.00pm)

(b) (i) 14 Jun (ii) 13 Sep (iii) 13 Dec 2017 (iv) 14 Mar (v) 9 May 2018 (APM/AGM)

(c) The Parish Clerk agreed to advise the Chair of the Community Council of the dates of the meetings planned to secure use of the Village Hall. The meeting finished at 8.40pm.

Simon Ashton, Parish Clerk

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1 April 2017

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## February 2017 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

### GCSE results continue to improve

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 55<sup>th</sup> out of 151. This is a real improvement since 2014 when Suffolk was ranked 119<sup>th</sup> for English progress and 108<sup>th</sup> 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.

### New report announces vision for mental health in Suffolk

Suffolk's Director of Public Health releases his annual report on 26 January 2017 setting an ambition to improve mental health services in Suffolk over the next 10 years. *Suffolk Minds Matter: Suffolk Annual Public Health Report 2016*. An estimated 1 in 100 people are affected by severe mental ill health in Suffolk and around half of lifelong mental ill health conditions develop before the age of 14. In the same month that the Prime Minister outlined government commitments to better mental healthcare for young people and the wider population, this new report sets a Suffolk-wide aspiration for improved mental health at all ages. The independent report, which has been produced in collaboration with a range of partners, lists seven cross-cutting recommendations to promote good mental health and reduce demand in Suffolk over the next five to 10 years:

1. To work to promote mental health and to reduce stigma and discrimination;
2. Promote emotional wellbeing and resilience in communities throughout Suffolk by working to address the social determinants of mental health;
3. Ensure those with physical health needs have good mental health, and that those with mental ill health have equal support to improve their physical health;
4. Promote the mental health of women and ensure children have the best start in life;
5. Ensure the effective recognition and treatment of depression in older people, especially those at increased risk;
6. Work to promote active healthy ageing programmes to delay the onset of dementia at any age;
7. Reduce suicide in Suffolk by 10% over the next five years using the 2012-14 data as our baseline.

The report is divided into sections that correspond with different stages in people's lives, from pre-birth children to older people's mental health. It recognises that good mental health is a fundamental human right for everyone and that good mental health is essential for good physical health, and vice versa.

### Ipswich to become one of 12 'Opportunity Areas'

The secretary of state has announced that Ipswich is to be one of 12 'opportunity areas' across the country. Ipswich will be among the first areas to access a package of education programmes designed to help young people progress from nursery school through the education system and into employment. The first six 'opportunity areas' were previously announced in October, they are: West Somerset, Norwich, Blackpool, Scarborough, Derby and Oldham. With it, this new approach will bring an additional £6 million funding for the area (a share of £72 million across the 12 areas). This will be used to fund local, evidence based programmes and projects which will explore new methods of addressing specific barriers in the area. One such programme introduced will be the 'Teacher Leadership and Innovation Fund' which will focus on improving quality of teaching and leadership in schools.

**Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division**

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