



STUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.stutton.org.uk

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2023

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30 pm.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Cllrs D Cooper, Leach, Woolard, Garnham, Gray, S Cooper, Pallant, Brazill
District Councillor Mary McLaren,

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Watts

County Councillor Simon Harley

2. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The minutes were signed by the Parish Council Chairman as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

None

4. a) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - PARISH COUNCIL:

Thanks to all members of the Parish Council, our Clerk, our District and County Councillors for the hard work and support over the last year.

The majority of new housing has been built and completed now, whilst our Neighbourhood Plan is very close to referendum status which will be held after the local elections in May. So well done the NP team.

The majority of CIL money has been received and allocated now with the Parish Council focusing on Bill's extension to upgrade the community hall and rec' area, for which £60k has been allocated. Other projects include the widening of the footpath outside the school which has been completed and the Greenway access path which is due to begin once some tree-related issues are overcome.

Special thanks must go to Bill Hewlett and his fundraising as he has secured significant grants to carry this work out with.

We have completed our 2 new Quiet lanes in the village, Alton Hall Lane and Churchfield oad with new signage going up recently.

Thanks also go to Calvin Chamberlain for his re-paint of the phone box which now houses a defibrillator and also for his work to make the old concrete grit bin look attractive.

Speeding is still an ongoing problem here, so continued thanks to our Speedwatch team for their efforts and to Cllr Leach for his regular deployment of SID

The litter pick is this Saturday, PO Corner 10AM so many thanks to the organisers

Upcoming events

April 28th – village quiz here

May 1st – Car boot sale on field

Regular film nights here - next one 21st April - The Lost King

Thanks to all the clubs & associations in attendance

b) COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

See appendix 1

c) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

See appendix 2

5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

Joseph Catts Trust

See Appendix 3

Received and read out in the meeting

Baker's Almshouses Trust -

Received and read out in the meeting

See Appendix 4

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00 pm

Chairman: 

Date: 18/4/24

Appendix 1

Annual Parish Report – 2022/23
County Councillor: Simon Harley

Peninsula Division

Email: simon.harley@suffolk.gov.uk

Ukraine: One Year Anniversary

A year has passed since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It was on the 24 th March that Councillors cross-party shared a single motion in support of Ukraine. Our Group recommended the motion, condemning the actions of Putin, as well as committed to support and welcome refugees to become a part of Suffolk communities.

The 'Homes for Ukraine' programme continues to provide hosts for refugees, but is in need of more households to come forward and offer temporary accommodation. If you think you can still help,

please visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/Ukraine.

Hosts are entitled to £350 per month, which increases to £500 after 12 months.

Full Council: Successful Motions and Conservative Pushback

In 2022, our Group submit 6 motions – one for each Full Council meeting. The largest group have voted against many of our ambitious policy ideas.

In July, we asked Council to declare a cost-of-living emergency in the county of Suffolk.

Rising

inflationary pressures, food shortages, and stagnant wages have meant so many more households

have fallen below the poverty line. With Winter looming, we believed more emphasis was needed

on providing emergency support to the most vulnerable households. This was voted down.

In December, we ask the Council to commit further to Community Transport, as well as investigate

further into why the Conservatives failed in their Bus Back Better bid. Rural bus services have been

frequently cut, and the council's failed bid meant millions for investment in restoring the bus network was lost. The Conservatives voted the motion down.

We put forward a motion that was passed through the Council to promote cleaner rivers in Suffolk.

We believe every community should have access to safe waters. The motion committed the Council

to investigate further into what further work can be done to protect biodiversity and address polluting run-off in rivers, as well as working with farmers to encourage better practice.

Carbon Budget – SCC is Not on Track

At the beginning of 2023, the Scrutiny Committee met to discuss the Carbon Budget. This is a

document that aims to calculate the amount of carbon SCC emits through its services. More importantly, it shows the Council's progress towards achieving Net Zero by 2030 – a declaration

made by SCC in 2019.

This year's carbon budget shows that SCC is not on track to reach Net Zero by 2030. Current forecasts show that SCC will still be producing 10,000 tonnes of CO2 in 2030 – that's still half

of what

we are emitting now. In addition, the Council's calculations are not accurate enough to develop the

full assessment of carbon impact our services have on the environment.

Annual Parish Report – 2022/23

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As SCC has had 31 new Cllrs since the original declaration, our Group will be asking Cllrs to ~~redeclare~~

their commitment to Net Zero by 2030.

2023/24 Budget Meeting: GLI Amendments Declined

At the beginning of February 2023, the Council's budget for 2023/24 was voted in. The budget will

now increase tax by 3.99% - broken down into a 2% rise in the Social Care Precept and a 1.99%

increase in general tax.

Council services have faced a gruelling year of demand and additional cost pressures. In addition, the

Council is not on track to achieve Net Zero by 2030, as they have promised to do so.

Therefore, we

proposed an additional 0.89% increase (19p weekly increase) to ensure vital services were protected

from cutting support to residents, and that more direct action is taken to reduce carbon emissions.

Our Group proposed to invest in a Carbon Budget Officer, to help develop a stronger pathway

towards Net Zero. In addition, we proposed to facilitate a review into Suffolk's speed limits, in the

hope to provide residents with a clearer path to more appropriate travel in their communities.

We proposed using £1m to actively recruit, retain and reward frontline staff in adult social care, as

well as providing more for Suffolk Libraries to help maintain services through the cost-of-living crisis.

In addition, we wanted to invest £1m in providing wider capacity of community transport to be used

to help achieve Net Zero through EV vehicle usage.

Report into SEND Provision: Review & Recommendations

Back in 2021, Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into its Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision. The report found severe failings in the delivery of

Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plans for children, serious issues in communicating with parent/guardians, as well as an inefficient work environment within the service revealing high absenteeism. Recommendations were given, in which SCC have worked to implement them.

In January 2023, our Group were briefed on the subject and have been informed that all recommendations outlined in the review are now fully completed. Their priorities moving forward

continue to be the timeliness of EHC plans, the number of school exclusions, availability of provision,

and the ongoing rise in demand for SEND services.

Suffolk Devolution: Big Deal?

In 2022, the Government published its White Paper on Levelling-Up, within which it has agreed that Suffolk will be one of nine initial 'County Deals' up for negotiation to devolve powers. In December 2022, government met with SCC to sign an initial county deal. A public consultation will now follow, asking residents if this is what communities want. Our Group have questioned whether this is the 'big win' that the Conservatives are portraying this as. £16m a year to deliver 'long-term' transformation is less than what the Conservatives have cut from the council's annual budget over the decades. Other agreements include:

- £5.8m for housing on brownfield sites
- Devolved Adult Education budget (amount undisclosed)
- Transport settlement starting in 24/25 (amount undisclosed)
- £3m to improve energy efficiency in houses

In addition, the deal will look to install a directly elected leader, commonly known as a Mayor – when the Conservatives have said that this wouldn't be the case. Politically, there is a real risk of a

stalemate in politics. Not enough information has been given to show how to prevent a gridlock if a Mayor from a minority party is elected. Overall, our Group will always welcome devolving more power to local authorities. However, this deal is being wrongfully lauded as the all-encompassing answer, when currently it is not. The public will now need to decide whether this is something they want.

Failed Conservative Bids

Despite the Suffolk devolution deal aiming to bring us closer to Government, the Conservatives have suffered a plethora of failing bids this year. The Department for Transport confirmed in May 2022 that SCC will receive no funding for their Bus

Back Better bid. The strategy aimed to improve and expand bus services in Suffolk, connecting rural

areas to local and important towns. Government confirmed that the bid was unambitious, something that our Group criticised the strategy on frequently before its submission.

In addition, the Suffolk bids for the Levelling-up fund were unsuccessful. In comparison, Norfolk received £24m, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough received £48m, and Essex received £40m.

Sizewell C: Where are we now?

In November 2022, the Autumn Statement confirmed they would be pushing ahead with Sizewell C

and was fully backed by Government. In November, Government confirmed a £700m investment

into Sizewell C, becoming a 50% shareholder with EDF – this verifying that the Government bought

out the state-owned Chinese business' stake in the project.

Our Group has consistently questioned this project, arguing the environmental and socio-economic

impacts on local communities are far too great – as well as the compensation for economic

impact

being not enough. The Group continue to argue that wind and solar provides a quicker and cheaper

route to net zero, and that building on eroding coastal land is unsafe for the public and biodiversity.

Experts forecast that project to take 15 years to build – 17 years under gloomier predictions – costing up to £30bn, with an expectation of producing 7% of the country's energy needs.

Cllr Ash Lever: Newest GLI Addition!

It was with regret that we sadly saw Cllr Peggy McGregor leave our Group – we wish her all the best

in her endeavours. In November 2022, the triggering of the Beccles by-election resulted in the Green

candidate, Cllr Ash Lever, winning 70% of the vote.

Follow us on:

Twitter - Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group (@SuffolkGLI) / Twitter

Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/

Facebook - Search 'Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group'

Website - Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council (suffolkgli.wordpress.com)

Appendix 2

Stutton Annual Parish Meeting – 20 April 2023

Chairman, Parish Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen

A busy year for Babergh District Council and a very challenging year for all our residents. In April 2022 dramatic changes were taking place within the council due to political infighting between the main party and other political groups. As a result, 4 conservative members including myself crossed the floor to become initially Independent Conservatives which resulted in us becoming Independents. Apparently a similar situation had occurred in 2017 with the same trouble making councillors involved. A Rainbow Cabinet was created by the Leader of the Council John Ward, and I was appointed to the Cabinet Portfolio of Communities and Wellbeing.

My notes show that at the beginning of May, council officers were inspecting homes of those who had volunteered to share their homes with people from Ukraine. Our communities have been very pleased to welcome our Ukraine friends and hope they feel at home with us. June proved a busy month with the Women's Tour passing through Stutton and Holbrook on their way to Bury St Edmunds on 6 June with many young people cheering the teams on their way. I was lucky to greet the teams at the end of the race. The month also brought the Queens Platinum jubilee weekend, and all the celebrations made us feel more normal again. We know that Paddington Bear had his own special tea party.

The Head, Staff and Student at RHS provided us with their spectacular Festival of the Sea which was enjoyed by us all.

However the Cost of Living Crises was now well established and BDC produced their five point

plan which is still place and is still responding to the current needs of our residents by coordinating public sector, private sector and voluntary sector partners to respond in the most effective and imaginative ways.

July saw the council concentrating on tackling Climate change and how that affects social housing. Our council became the first council to transform their waste collection fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable oil from diesel as they work toward zero carbon emissions. We called

for an urgent review of the number and scale of the energy infrastructure projects locally in relation the possible erection of additional pylons and cables.

The summer brought activity projects for families and every child attending the events who were in receipt of free school meals were provided with a packed lunch or a chance to cook their own lunch. I attended many events across the district and enjoyed joining in the various activities.

September brought us the Local Cycling and Walking infrastructure plan aiming to increase active travel and help tackle climate change. There are many potential infrastructure schemes,

Freston Hill being a major one. It will require a large amount of money to see that come to fruition.

The autumn was evidenced by community and church groups being encouraged to provide warm spaces. The benefit of these innovative schemes have provided many people with friendship, support and enjoyment, especially for those living alone and in need of friendship. The warm space has been a secondary benefit.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX
Telephone: (0300) 1234 000
www.babergh.gov.uk www.midsuffolk.gov.uk

The wonderful lady who we had celebrated so joyously in previous months sadly passed

away

and our communities felt that her death was personal to them, and our condolences were sent

to the Royal Family

In among the mourning for her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd we joined together for a public proclamation of our new monarch King Charles III in our villages and life took on a new direction.

November saw concerns about Avian Flu in our district, grants were made available for warm spaces and a competition to name our new fleet of environmentally friendly bin lorries provided

some light relief among the constant pressure of daily national and international news.

In December we were encouraged to buy local for Christmas to encourage our local businesses and the council launched its new tenant strategy as a result of a tenant engagement survey.

The bin lorry name competition attracted over 400 entrants and the names reflected the public's view of their favourite personalities - Ed Sheerbin and Gary Bineker being prime examples.

The new year has brought little relief for our residents who are struggling with the cost of rents,

council tax, food and coping with high energy and fuel prices.

One in five children in Suffolk are receiving free school meals and many organisations are providing food banks, food pantries and surplus supermarket food.

If you are struggling with Council Tax or Council Rent contact the Housing Support Team at the council. Make sure you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to. Do contact the Sudbury Citizens Advice service which is financially supported by Babergh District council who

will help you through the various stages of getting the right help from the right organisation.

On 22 March 2023 The final Council Meeting was held and the current Administration of Babergh District Council came to an end after 4 years.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Parish Council for giving me the opportunity to speak today and for all their support over the past four years. It has been a privilege to serve the residents of Stutton.

Mary McLaren

12 April 2023

Appendix 3

The Trustees are pleased to report to the Parish Council that they have been able over the last year to have offered financial support to many residents of Stutton. Our continued aim is to carry on this good work particularly in the very difficult times many people are having to deal with. We are always able to consider any Stutton resident's request for assistance. Our annual return to the Charity commission is fully up to date.

The Trustees would like to put on record our thanks to Keith Bales who after very many's years of dedicated service has stepped down as a Trustee.

We and I am sure the the whole Village are very grateful for all he has done

From the Trustees of the

The Charity of Joseph Catt

BAKERS ALMSHOUSE TRUST
Bentley Lane
Stutton
REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL AGM

2022 – 2023

The Bakers Almshouse Trust is a village charity which provides housing for people in the parish. Unlike other Almshouses we do not have an age restriction. The Almshouse building is a listed single storey single skin Brick building very much of its time, which has been renovated a number of times over the past 50 years. It is managed by a board of Trustees drawn from the village (including the Parish Council), the current Trustees are myself, Emma Woollard, Rosie Stuart- Thompson and the Reverend Jenny Seggar. All of our Charity reports submissions and accounts are up to date. We are also members of The Almshouse Association.

The residents pay a contribution rather than rent. At present this is the only income that the charity receives. The contribution is designed to pay for repairs and maintenance. Currently four out of the five almshouses are occupied by long term residents, Number 5 became vacant in February.

Following the resignation of Edward Bland, we now have 3 volunteer trustees with varying areas of expertise, and a volunteer Treasurer. At present we have vacancies for 2 trustees. There is an information board on display here this evening which gives some more details of the charity, its history and the important part it plays in our community. As Trustees we are aware that there is a great deal of work which needs to be done to the Almshouses to bring them up to a comfortable modern standard of accommodation. We have commissioned a Quinquennial survey and are in the process of putting together a long overdue schedule of work that is required. This is going to be a very costly exercise and we are not a wealthy charity. We will need to source and raise grant funding and maybe loans to complete these essential renovations. This work should make our residents lives a great deal more comfortable, warmer, not damp and their houses efficient to heat and maintain.

We need two more Trustees urgently. Trustees must be over 18 and either live or work in the village. If you have experience in maintaining old listed buildings and or experience of grant applications then we really need you. If you don't have these skills but want to help us preserve this extremely valuable village asset for future generations then please come and have a chat with me tonight or give Rosie a call - her contact details are on the board. We are also looking to employ a Clerk to the Charity - this is a paid part time position of a few hours a week. We are currently putting together the job description but it will include general administration, being the point of contact for the residents and organising and supervising the regular maintenance. If this appeals to you then let us know.

This lovely building has been part of our village since 1863 it currently provides accommodation to four members of our community. However attractive it is on the outside with lovely gardens and an ornate brick wall we have the challenges of damp, single glazed windows, no proper heating and ventilation, limited insulation and a history of interesting decisions. We would love to make them warm, low maintenance and energy efficient and future proof them as much as possible. A huge and exciting challenge but one we have signed up and committed to but please come and join us we could really do with your help.

Thank you- this concludes the report of the Bakers Almshouses 2022-23