



Working for our Community

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FINAL MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2021 @ 7PM

Present: Cllr J Bell, Cllr C Tranter, Cllr J Clifford, Cllr I Urwin, Cllr J Mew

Clerk – J Challis, RFO – S Budd, DC Cllr R Warboys, one member of the public

Apologies: None received

1 Chair's welcome and to consider and approve apologies for absence

Cllr Bell welcomed everyone to the meeting including the member of the public.

2 To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

Cllr Bell declared a non-pecuniary interest on item 17 as a Governor at Gislingham Primary School.

Cllr Urwin declared a non-pecuniary interest on item 17 as a parent of a pupil attending Gislingham Primary School.

3 To consider requests for Dispensations on agenda items

None requested.

4 To resolve the draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16th August 2021 are a true and correct record.

The minutes for 16th August 2021 were approved unanimously, with one abstention (Councillor not present at the meeting).

5 Matters Arising/Update on actions from the 16th August 2021 meeting

To be addressed further down on the agenda or within the Clerk's report.

6 Report from County Councillor

CC Cllr Fleming was unable to attend the meeting and had sent a copy of her report prior to the meeting, which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

7 Report from District Councillor

DC Cllr Warboys arrival at the meeting was slightly delayed, so his report was heard after agenda item 8.

8 Public Participation Session (15 minutes set aside)

The member of the public present was in attendance for agenda item 16. Cllr Bell proposed moving this item up the agenda. Agreed unanimously.

(16) Parking outside Gislingham Primary School

Cllr Bell advised that this had been brought to the Council's attention by another resident at the 16th November 2020 meeting, and that although CIL money could be used, CC Cllr Fleming had subsequently advised that the school had been included on a list of MSDC projects relating to traffic/dangerous parking.

7:06pm DC Cllr Warboys joined the meeting

The resident in attendance today has recently emailed their concerns relating to continued parking problems in Martins Meadow during school drop off/collection times to Cllr Bell. Having already contacted MSDC and SCC they have been advised that yellow 'no parking' lines can be requested by the Parish Council. The Clerk asked CC Cllr Fleming for an update from MSDC prior to the meeting who advised that this project was allocated report number CR 296597 under the Highways Investment Fund project, and that she would request a status update. Cllr Bell thanked the member of the public for highlighting this issue again and apologised that it had not yet moved forward.

ACTION – Clerk to advise Councillors and resident once update received from CC Cllr Fleming

7:12pm member of the public left the meeting

(7) Report from District Councillor

DC Cllr Warboys read through his report, a copy of which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

Cllr Bell commented that having previously mentioned it at the 16th August 2021 meeting, it was frustrating that the Clerk was still experiencing difficulties obtaining responses from MSDC. DC Cllr Warboys confirmed that staff are still working from home and that MSDC are aware there is a communication problem. DC Cllr Warboys asked the Clerk to copy him in on any emails.

Cllr Clifford asked if agenda item 13 could be moved up for DC Cllr Warboys input. Agreed unanimously.

(13) Tree Warden's Report

MSDC Tree, Hedge and Wildflower Planting Initiative

Cllr Clifford advised that she submitted an application for trees in three separate locations, however, despite MSDC's initial email of 12^{th} April 2021 regarding this initiative stating the following, she had received a response redirecting her to outside organisations including the Woodland Trust.

'We're offering free trees and hedgerow plants to all our parishes - regardless of whether you are planting on council, parish, church, or private land.

All you need to do is let us know what you want to plant and where'

Cllr Clifford advised that she would follow up as per MSDC's new instructions, but expressed her disappointment at having spent so much time and effort with residents discussing suitable locations and appropriate species, only to find out that the initial email advise from MSDC has changed.

DC Cllr Warboys noted Cllr Clifford's findings and agreed that the initial advise should stand.

Cllr Clifford also advised as a point of interest, that the Tree Council have been running an Orchards for Schools project to encourage both teachers and pupils to learn more about trees. They asked Tree Wardens to liaise with schools who might be interested and Cllr Clifford has been speaking with Hartismere who have agreed to go ahead.

7:39 DC Cllr Warboys left the meeting

9 Chair's Report

- Cllr Oliver has resigned from the Parish Council. Cllr Bell expressed thanks to Cllr Oliver for his contribution during his time as a Parish Councillor.
- Cllr Bell cannot attend the book fair on 2nd October 2021. Cllr Clifford and Cllr Tranter both advised they would try to attend.
- Cllr Bell attended the Queen's Suffolk Tree Canopy SALC Webinar on 13th September 2021, which was an information session regarding the tree planting and preservation campaign launched in May 2021 to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.
- Cllr Bell will be Chairing the SALC Mid Suffolk Area Forum on 23rd September 2021 (being held remotely) and encouraged councillors to attend.
- Festival of Suffolk 2022 an invitation has been sent to all Chairs of Council to attend a
 Zoom call with Lady Euston to share and discuss ideas to on how local communities can
 get involved. There are two dates available; 28th September 2021 or 30th September
 2021. Cllr Bell and Cllr Clifford advised they were both attending and would give feedback at the October Parish Council meeting.

10 Clerk's Report

- The Clerk has asked Felix Oliver to hand over the log in details for the Council's Facebook page which he has been managing. There seems to be an issue with the way it has been set up, so if this is not possible it will need to be deactivated and a new Facebook page started.
- Casual Vacancy still no response from MSDC.
- Contractor to empty bin on Charity Meadow the Clerk has been unable to obtain a quote
 for emptying a single bin. MSDC have suggested moving the bin closer to the collection
 point, or a volunteer leaving the bin bag at an agreed point for them to collect. After
 discussing Councillors felt that these options were not agreeable, and they would prefer
 for the Clerk to continue to seek quotations for a contractor. The RFO said she may know
 a company who would be able to empty the bin and will approach them for a quotation.
- Signs the missing sign on Burgate road, and request to move the 30 mile limit sign near Lovells estate are both still open tickets with SCC.
- Geoff Laurence memorial bench MSDC have advised they will make arrangements to visit the site where the bench is to be located in order to see the work required to install it.
- UK Power Networks have called to advise they need to cut back trees near the play area on Charity Meadow, and also on Back Lane, Little Green in order to provide the 3m clearance required. GUC have been advised about the trees on charity Meadow.
- A resident has raised a concern that the lagoon on the Lovells estate is unfenced and a danger to the children who play there unattended whilst not being the responsibility of the Parish Council, Sam Sinclair from Lovells has been advised.
- An indirect complaint has been received of dog waste on the Lovells estate whilst not being the responsibility of the Parish Council, Sam Sinclair from Lovells has been advised.
- A complaint has been received that FP 59 has not been cut back this has already been logged with SCC by the Footpath Warden. SCC have advised they will arrange for the footpath to be cut.
- A complaint has been received that SCC are not collecting the hedge cuttings after cutting
 FP 51 report logged with SCC ref 00336558
- A complaint has been received regarding the footpath in Mill Street by the horse paddocks
 to be followed up.

- Emma Bryant who volunteers her time to look after the flower bed by the Village Hall, has requested approval to spend up to £30 on flower bulbs. Approved unanimously.
- The Parish Council printer/scanner/copier used by the Clerk has broken. Approval requested to purchase a new one up to £272.98 (plus vat). Approved unanimously.

ACTION

- Clerk to arrange Council's Facebook page hand over
- Clerk to contact the Monitoring Officer regarding the Casual Vacancy copying in DC Cllr Warboys
- Clerk to continue looking at contractors to empty bin on Charity Meadow
- RFO to approach the company she is aware of for a quotation to empty the bin on Charity Meadow
- Clerk to chase SCC regarding the missing sign on Burgate Road and 30 mile limit sign, copying in DC Cllr Warboys
- Clerk to look at replacement of old/damaged signs in the village for October 2021 meeting
- Clerk to liaise with MSDC regarding Geoff Laurence memorial bench
- Clerk to follow up complaint regarding footpath in Mill Street
- Clerk to arrange for Emma Bryant to provide expenses for bulbs at next meeting
- Clerk/Chair to arrange purchase of new printer using council debit card

11 RFO's Report

• The Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been received

ACTION

- Clerk to add Notice of Conclusion of Audit to website by 30th September
- Chair to affix Notice of Conclusion of Audit to the Parish Council Noticeboard by 30th September

12 Neighbourhood Watch Report

- There has been an incident at Charity Meadow which will be addressed further down on the agenda.
- There is a gas scam involving cold calling. There is more information on the Messenger's Facebook page with the advice being to never confirm personal or financial details if approached in this manner.

13 Tree Warden's Report

• MSDC Tree, Hedge and Wildflower Planting Initiative

As above

14 Footpath Warden's Report

Mr Bryant was unable to attend the meeting and had sent a copy of his report to Councillors prior to the meeting, a copy of which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes. Mr Bryant suggested within his report that the Council purchase equipment to enable volunteers from the village to cut and maintain the footpaths next year, rather than the Council employing an outside contractor. Councillors felt there were several issues associated with this which they would like to discuss with Mr Bryant at the next meeting if he is able to attend.

ACTION - Clerk to invite Mr Bryant to discuss his suggestions at the October meeting

15 SID (Speed Indicator Device) Report

The SID Report can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

16 Parking Outside Gislingham Primary School

As above

17 CIL Running Track Application Gislingham Primary School

The RFO has requested a copy of the user agreement between MSDC and Gislingham Primary School which has not yet been received. Deferred until user agreement received.

18 Charity Meadow

- Police were called to the play area at approximately 8pm on 17/09/21 after reports of antisocial behaviour and criminal damage, ref Suffolk Police investigation number 37/51708/21. The safety surfacing around the swings and cone climber has been intentionally damaged. Councillors expressed their disappointment and felt that this incident only highlights the need for CCTV. Councillors felt the location of the gazebo may need consideration in the future as it appears to be used as a gathering point but will wait until after the CCTV is installed.
- CCTV installation The CCTV supplier has requested a further site visit to confirm the best route to procure the power supply from the main power ring at the school. The Clerk has requested the school's permission for the visit and is waiting for them to confirm a convenient date.
- Playground Inspection MSDC were advised that we wished to arrange this ourselves once the CCTV was installed and with Cllr Urwin our Playground Lead present. However upon contacting the Playground Inspection Company to arrange a date, the Clerk was advised that it had already been carried out on 15th August 2021. The Clerk has contacted MSDC but without response. Councillors discussed the fact that the Inspection had taken part even though we advised we would arrange it independently and therefore did not feel we should be charged for the visit.

ACTION

- Clerk to arrange CCTV meeting at the school
- Clerk to speak to MSDC again regarding the playground inspection copying in DC Cllr Warboys

19 Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

Cllr Tranter has been approached to set up a working party to organise events, they are due to meet in two weeks time.

Cllr Bell has also received an email from the Chair of the Village Hall Committee inviting representatives form organisations within the village to meet in the village hall at 7:30pm on Friday 8th October 2021 to discuss thoughts and ideas on events for the weekend.

ACTION – Cllrs Bell and Tranter to attend meeting on 8th October 2021 and report back at next Parish Council meeting. All Councillors encouraged to attend.

20 Grants and Donations

• The Messenger

After discussing the request, and in line with the terms of the Grants and Donations Policy, it was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £100.

• FOSM Christmas Carols (Refreshments)

This event is taking place around the Christmas Tree at the Village Hall on Friday $10^{\rm th}$ December from 5pm – 7pm

After discussing the request it was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £100.

• Gislingham Playgroup

After discussing the request it was unanimously agreed to make donation of £100

ACTION

- Clerk to contact each organisation and request bank details
- Clir Bell to arrange payment by BACs
- Clerk to request email confirmation that each donation has been received and forward to the RFO

21 Insurance Renewal

The Parish Council's Public Indemnity and separate Cyber Insurance/Data Protection are due for renewal on 1st October 2021.

The Clerk has queried wording on the Public Indemnity side of the insurance stating the Parish Council is in a 3-year long term agreement until 2023, and also whether Avast anti-virus is included with the Cyber Insurance as per last year and is waiting for BHIB to confirm.

After discussing Councillors agreed that they would like clarification from BHIB on the two points above but approved both policies unanimously.

ACTION - Clerk to instruct BHIB to proceed and chase clarification on above two points

22 Finance

Admin Payment (Clerk & RFO) - £544.40 Clerk mileage expenses - £17.10 Hire of Village Hall (August) - £20 PKF Littlejohn - £240.00 Cyber Insurance/Data Protection - £299.99 Insurance - £678.99

All payments were approved unanimously.

ACTION - Clir Bell to make payments by BACS

23 Training

The RFO requested approval to attend a Clerk/RFO Audit training webinar in November £36.00.

Cllr Bell requested approval to attend a Councillor Audit training webinar in November £36.00.

Approved unanimously

ACTION – RFO and Cllr Bell to book Audit training webinars

24 Policies and Reports

• Health and Safety Policy

Not due for review but included to remind Councillors to read the policy as a refresher

- Disciplinary Rules
- Disciplinary Policy
- Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy
- Grants and Donations Policy
- Grievance Policy
- Laptop and Cell (Mobile) Usage Policy

• Sickness and Absence Policy

Cllr Urwin requested COPD be referenced Cllr Bell requested COVID (long term) be referenced

• Travel and Expenses Policy

Cllr Bell requested the RFO be specified in addition to the Clerk Cllr Bell requested 'volunteer expenses need approval at a Parish Council meeting prior to items being purchased' be added

Training Policy

All policies approved unanimously to include above amendments

Cllr Bell asked whether Councillors would like to review these policies in one or two years time. It was agreed unanimously to review again in one years time to keep up to date with any changes in legislation.

ACTION - Clerk to update all policies

- 25 IN CAMERA at this point the Clerk and RFO left the meeting.
- 26 Date of next meeting 18th October 2021 at 7:00pm in Gislingham Village Hall.

Meeting Closed at 9.30 pm

County Councillor Report



Sept. 2021

Gislingham Parish Council

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07714-597980 Twitter: @jesstfleming

Independent review finds failings in some of Suffolk's SEND services – An independent report led by Lincolnshire County Council into parts of Suffolk's special educational needs (SEND) provision has been published today and can be read here. The review looked at processes, communication protocols and family - facing elements of SEND provision. Actions are being developed to improve the service.

Suffolk and COP26 - Events are planned across Suffolk in the lead up to COP26 as part of the Greenest County campaign and aspiration to achieve net zero by 2030. For instance:

- 12 October Ten Steps to Net Zero (Suffolk Chamber of Commerce)
- 21-22 October Local Energy Showcase (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council) book here https://www.greensuffolk.org/event/dont-miss-your-local-energy-showcase/
- 12 November Greenest County Awards (Suffolk County Council) Nominations for the awards close on Thursday 14 October 2021 - https://www.greensuffolk.org/awards/

All events are subject to change, visit www.greensuffolk.org for the latest details and information.

Boundary Commission Changes - Boundary Commission has published its final recommendations and consultation for changes to Suffolk electoral boundaries for the 2025 elections: Under these proposed arrangements county councillor numbers would reduce from 75 to 70 and there would be closer numeric equivalence in representation. No changes are proposed for the Hartismere Division. https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-county-council.

Locality Budgets – The County Council locality scheme is now open again for applications. Please get in touch if any local projects need financial support.

Covid-19 Update – SCC bulletins are available on <u>via the Suffolk County Council website</u>. For updates on the vaccine rollout refer to <u>SNEE NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service website</u>

District Councillor's Report for Gislingham Ward: Mellis, Gislingham, Thornham, Wortham & Burgate, Wickham Skeith Parish Councils

Sept 2021

Afghan refugees	Following the Government announcement of its new resettlement scheme for Afghan refugees, councils in Suffolk, including MSDC, have expressed their commitment to assist. We have already helped a small number of Afghan interpreters and their families to resettle in Suffolk. There will be ongoing work to support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and other refugees entering the UK. You can <u>read the statement in full here</u> and a <u>Suffolk County Council webpage</u> has been created in the event of offers of help from towns and parishes.
Meetings	On Wed. 18 th Aug Cllr Matthew Hicks (Cons) chaired Development Committee A where the Hybrid Application for the phased employment-led redevelopment of Land at Mill Lane, Stowmarket (Gateway 14) was decided. Gateway 14 is the largest logistics and business park development site in East Anglia on 160 acres of farmland, designated for future employment use. Gateway 14 Ltd is owned by Mid Suffolk District Council (Mid Suffolk) who are investing at least £37M of borrowed money in the project. They are both the Applicant and granter of appropriate planning permission (although they have the power to defer this to another body should they elect to). This development has much community support, but concerns had been raised because of the divergence from the initial consultation and the ambition for the development to be exemplar in terms of energy and environment use and the stimulus to local industry. Some concessions were made on landscaping and future maintenance and a financial commitment towards community and recreational facilities before the proposal was passed.
Meetings	There are no signs that the Government will renew the legislation to enable virtual or hybrid meetings. Committee meetings are being held in the Council Chamber and it is anticipated that the full Council meeting on 23 September will be held in the Chamber. Staff are continuing to work from home but, when necessary, access to workspace in Endeavour House can be booked by staff and councillors.
Taxi li- censing – no en- courage- ment given to switch to electric vehicles	The Conservative administration missed the opportunity to improve Mid Suffolk's environmental credentials when they put forward a new taxi licensing policy at the Council's recent Licensing Committee. Despite the fact that no new diesel or petrol car can be purchased after 2030, the ten year policy included no provisions to encourage cab drivers to move to electric vehicles and contained none of the incentives other councils use. The policy, without mention of any efforts to reduce emissions, was approved on the Chair's casting vote.
Solar Car- port in Stowmar- ket	MSDC has let a contract for the construction of a solar carport in the Stowmarket Leisure Centre car park; works are expected to begin shortly and be complete by spring 2022. More than half of the cost is being met from the Government's Getting Building Fund.

Compost Giveaway	I just wanted to update you on the compost giveaway events ahead of planned comms in coming weeks on our website and social media. The dates and locations for the events are confirmed as: Saturday 11th September - Old staff car park, Bridge Street, Hadleigh Sunday 19th September - Needham Lake, Coddenham Road, Needham Market The events will in essence be 'drive through' events so that we can operate in as safe a way as possible for staff and the public. Each site will operate a managed one way system, and each vehicle will be allowed a maximum of two bags of compost. If a visitor has to leave their vehicle, for example to open the boot, this will be done in line with social distancing, and then the compost will be placed in the boot, along with information on home composting, garden waste collections and material change who produce the compost.
Locality Awards	New grants available now for 2021/22. Open to groups with projects that provide a clear and tangible benefit to the community. Full information available using the link or contact me to discuss your project. https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/locality-awards-2021-22/
All party work- shops: These are the pro- posals put forward by the Green and Liberal Democrat Group – no re- sponses have been received.	 £1m should be directed to exemplar zero-carbon housing projects, in particular selecting those that can be delivered within a 2-year timeframe using innovative techniques. We also propose that a set of Suffolk specific designs and specifications be drawn up and used for these developments, and then made open-source for small-scale developers and selfbuilders to use. The intention is that more housing will be delivered at social rents. Up to £1m should be used to improve the delivery of our planning services, to strengthen and train the staff team, and make the department the best in the region. In particular the role of planning enforcement should be enhanced, so that conditions imposed on developers are followed up and implemented in full, thus moving enforcement into a positive, proactive role alongside its current reactive function. £1m to be allocated across the District to each Councillor as a locality "super-budget" (£29,400 per Councillor) to be directed as capital funding for innovative and creative projects, drawing on the many ideas proposed in the workshops. This would allow Councillors to fund a diverse range of projects, combining funds where appropriate. Members would provide the direction and decisions on funding, but implementation would be managed by officers or approved partner organisations. £1m to be retained for future response to the Covid pandemic as needs arise over the next couple of years.
Mental Health and Well- being	At the moment councillors are engaged in a series of briefings and workshops the explore their own and their communities mental health and wellbeing needs. Link: https://www.wellbeingnands.co.uk/suffolk/ Working with Leisure Centre Operators: Everyone Active — an outreach programme is being developed.
Anti-social behaviour	This can take many forms, environmental, physical and mental abuse and the council has dedicated officers to investigate and support victims. It can be reported via the council's website or please contact me. Link: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/community-safety/anti-social-behaviour-asb/

Advance Notice: Local Energy Showcase will champion green businesses Businesses and community organisations are being urged to tackle climate change by joining Suffolk's first ever showcase event celebrating sustainability and green energy. The Local Energy Showcase, organised by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, will promote how different types of energy can be used by communities and businesses help reduce their impact on the environment, lower costs and contribute to the fight against climate change.

FREE <u>Tickets are now available</u> for the two-day extravaganza, at Wherstead Park in Ipswich on 21 and 22 October. The event is open to all businesses with an interest in finding out more about local energy solutions and as well as community groups and parishes who would like to understand and explore the benefits of using local energy solutions.

 $21_{st}/22_{nd}$ October More information: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/local-energy-showcase-will-championgreen-busi-nesses/

MSDC Councillor Rowland Warboys rowland.warboys@midsuffolk.gov.uk Tel. 01379 783412

Mobile: 07484 186121

Footpath Wardens Report for the PC meeting 20th September.

Again a very quiet month for footpaths.

I have received an email from a resident regarding the condition of the FP007 which is Northlands Lane at the end of Mill St. Upon investigation, I found that the top 2/3rds of the FP was badly overgrown. This FP is on the PC contractors cut.

This led me to check the other paths again and another 2 had not been cut.

The Parish Clerk, contacted the contractor and I arranged to meet the team to discuss and show them where to cut. The map they had been given to them, was just in black and white, however the one that was sent was in colour, so it was not surprising they missed paths. They did say that they cut most of the paths on the map which included the ones that SCC should be cutting.

I checked again on the 7th September to ensure that all the cutting was complete. Unfortunately, they have still missed a FP, even though I gave them directions and where to park.

With the delay in cutting and also the need to continuously having to contact them to finish the job, I feel that they have not given a very good service. This year I was unaware of what the quotes were.

With this in mind, I would like to suggest that village volunteers take on this work with equipment supplied by the PC. This will ensure that the work will be done when required and will be a much economical process.

The equipment required is as follows:-

Petrol Strimmer (Makita 4 stroke) £279.99

Face shield & hard hat £ 10.99

Coated Gloves suitable for mechanical hazards £ 3.99

There are several landscapers who live in the village who I am sure will give suitable training in the use of a strimmer.

A list of volunteers will be required and a Risk Assessment for all to observe.

I know that I suggested purchasing equipment in the past, but this is a cheaper option and as long as training and insurance is covered, we will see a better and more efficient cutting of our footpaths.

I have had to also report to SCC a FP that is badly overgrown FP59 which is from Mill St south passed the stables. They have now informed me that their team are in the process of completing the second cut.

Martyn Bryant

SID REPORT SEPTEMBER 2021

For Project: Mill Street Gislingham

Project Notes:

Location/Name: Eastbound

Report Generated: 25/09/2021 12:15

Speed Intervals 5 MPH Time Intervals Instant

Traffic Report From 14/08/2021 17:00:00 through 18/09/2021 08:59:59

85th Percentile Speed 31.4 MPH 85th Percentile Vehicles 12695

Max Speed 75 MPH on 17/09/2021 13:05:00

Total Vehicles 14935

AADT: 430

Volumes - weekly counts

Time 5 Day 7 Day

Average Daily 470 418 AM Peak 09:00 30 28 PM Peak 05:00 56 48

Speed

Speed Limit: 30

85th Percentile Speed: 31.4 Average Speed: 26.69

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Count over limit 459 437 458 430 503 344 328 % over limit 21.6 18.2 19.1 18.1 20.2 20.9 21.7 Avg Speeder 33.1 32.9 32.9 33.0 33.2 33.2 33.2