

KETTLEBASTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the village hall on SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2019 at 09.00

1. Chairman's welcome:

(i) Councillors in attendance: Robert Butler, Chairman; Graham Cranfield; Ben Flockton; Stuart Kaye; Stephen Marszal; Steve Phillips;

There were no members of the public present.

(ii) Apologies received from June Carpenter because of family commitments

(ii) Council agreed to consent to apology

2. Declarations of Members' Interests:

(i) There were no disclosures of pecuniary or non pecuniary interest on matters for consideration at the meeting.

3. Minutes of previous meeting: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 May 2019 (previously circulated) were agreed and accepted as a true record.

4. Public Forum:

(i) **Report from County and District Councillor Robert Lindsay:**

Joint Local Plan: The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan went to consultation at the end of August and is due to close on September 30, should you want to make any comments. In the plan, Kettlebaston is classified as a hamlet. The Settlement Boundary appears not to have changed from the first draft of the plan in 2017.

Biodiversity: Babergh Conservatives on Tuesday, will be proposing that we look at enhancing biodiversity, but I believe the local plan needs to be strengthened in this regard and we also need committed funding for ecological officers to check through planning applications.

Name change Babergh to South Suffolk? The Conservative leader of Babergh has proposed changing the name of the district to South Suffolk. I would be interested to hear your views on this.

Buses: The council announced this summer £340,000 cuts to rural bus subsidies including several through my division. Three of them have received a stay of grace until March but after that there is no

more commitment to funding from the county. There are three routes linking villages to Sudbury and to Stowmarket and Hadleigh on which pensioners and others with no other means of transport are dependent, so I shall be continuing to press for the subsidy to be saved.

School buses: The new policy on only providing school buses to “nearest school” rather than catchment school, created havoc at the start of term. Several hundred pupils had no idea whether they had a seat on a commercial bus their parents were prepared to pay for, days before school was due to start.

Pension fund: I sit on the county council pension fund and I’m pleased to say that the committee agreed at its last meeting to move a small proportion of the passive part of its fund into a low carbon tracker fund. We will look at moving more at the November meeting.

Boundary Commission to shake up county ward boundaries (divisions): The Local Government Boundary Commission has begun a review of Suffolk County Council, to determine both councillor numbers and the boundaries between divisions.

My group (the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independents) submitted a proposal to keep councillor numbers in Suffolk at a minimum of 75, with the potential for an increase to 80. This was based on the need to ensure proper local representation – the fewer councillors there are means there is less representation residents receive. Also to ensure the workload does not discourage people with caring or work commitments from standing. The Conservative and Labour Groups submitted a joint proposal asking for a reduction to 70 councillors.

We expect the Commission to reply shortly to give its indicative verdict on councillor numbers and will then move to determining new boundaries. The review is expected to be completed by July 2020.

Village Hall curtains: I have agreed to contribute £450 towards the cost of these and will process this forthwith.

Cllr. Ben Flockton asked Robert whether Kettlebaston should consider developing its own Local Plan. Robert Lindsay said that Aldham and Hitcham Parish Council hired a company to complete a plan for them. Babergh paid for the referendum and provided advice. However Kettlebaston is a designated hamlet, which means that no development is allowed, without planning permission, within its boundary

(ii) **Reports from Parish Councillors:**

(a) **Stephen Marszal**, footpaths-some finger posts need to be repaired or replaced. Stephen agreed to contact Babergh about this.

(b) **Graham Cranfield**, village hall - said there are no particular concerns. Binder will start work on the septic tank in early October.

(c) **June Carpenter**, Parochial Church Council; no report available

(iii) **Reports on Village Matters**

(i) **Septic tank:** This has now been resolved. A replacement tank has been funded by the Church Commissioners, the owner of the Old School Cottage and grants raised by the Village Hall.

(ii) **Replacement sound proofing curtains for village hall:** Robert Lindsay, County Councillor, has agreed to pay £450 towards the cost and a cheque will be issued by Babergh in due course.

6. To receive updates on Village Matters:

(i) **Defibrillator Training** - Rob is planning to speak with Dr Mac Speake. (v) **Kettlebaston Emergency Responders:** Cllr. Steve Marszal agreed to create a GDPOR of Emergency contact numbers. All members of the parish council agreed for their names to be listed as Emergency Contacts. Councillors suggested they will contact neighbours and request if they are willing to take part in this initiative. A suggestion to place an enquiry to find an approved defibs. Trainer in the Roundabout Newsletter.

The code number for the defibrillator is written on the notice board and on the defibrillator casing.

(ii) **Grit Bins** - Graham pointed out that the suggested location for the Balls' Hill bin is in the Hitcham parish. Sylvia agreed to contact their Clerk to enquire if they have made an application for a grit bin in that area.

(iii) The Chairman said he will invite David Anderson from the Stud to debriefing meeting for the Music Festival.

(iv) Suffolk Highways has requested further additional information - photographs of each proposed site and all locations noted on one map. Graham has agreed to assist with this information. Rob will invite the manager of the Stud to the next meeting.

(v) **Memorial for U.S airmen** killed in air crash in Kettlebaston in WW11. The memorial falls in the Hitcham parish and so Kettlebaston was not informed.

(vi) **CIL funding for Village Hall.** Consideration will be given at the next meeting in November regarding making an application .

7. Finance:

(i) The finance reconciliation for period 21 March to 31 August 2019 was circulated and accepted.

(ii) Outstanding invoices were authorised and cheques signed for payment.

(iii) We still have not filled the vacancy for a Local Auditor, which will be necessary for this year's audit.

8. Parish Clerk: To consider any matters from items circulated and any additional matters

(i) Outstanding Register of Interest Forms: Babergh Electoral Office has sent a letter requesting urgent receipt of one outstanding form.

9. Planning Issues:

(i) Update DC/17 06303 on boundary and issues regarding development next to the Parish Church.

Graham said that the builder is more amenable. A new front hedge will be planted and further information on this will be given at the next parish council meeting

(ii) Review new planning applications for consideration: No further applications have been received.

10. Correspondence:

(ii) To consider all correspondence coming forth (circulated)

11. Address closing comments from Public Forum

(i) Music Festival: This has been a great success and Rob thanked everyone involved, particularly June Carpenter who led the event planning team.

(ii) It was agreed by a majority of the council that the start time of meetings will remain at 09.00.

(iii) Removal of 30mph sign currently in front garden of Church Farm. Sylvia said she has no further information from Highways since they emailed to say the job would be considered a priority.

(iv) Cleaning of village road signs. Volunteers agreed to clean signage that is close to their properties as well as others in the village.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- Finance: SATURDAY 23 November 2019 at 09.00

Sylvia Watson

Clerk to the Parish Council