

Kettlebaston Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30th March 2022 at Kettlebaston Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs Rob Butler (Chairman), Ben Flockton, Steven Marzal, Louise Daniels, Stephen Phillips, Graham Cranfield and June Carpenter

County and District Cllr Robert Lindsay

Attending: Lucinda Rogers (Clerk)

16/22 Apologies for Absence

None

17/22 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Cranfield for planning item DC/22/00927 at Church Farm

18/22 To Co-opt a new Councillor to the Parish Council

The Councillors agreed to co-opt Louise Daniels to the parish council. This was proposed by Cllr Flockton and seconded by Cllr Butler

19/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2022

The minutes of the meeting were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

20/22 Report from Cllr Lindsay –

Persistent flooding at the road junction (Highlands Road and Nova Scotia Lane) was raised. It was flooded for 15 days in December and was so high it was not possible to walk through it. Cllr Lindsay to chase Highways to take action to improve this severe problem. It was agreed the Clerk to write to Highways Cabinet Member Paul West and copy to Cllr Lindsay and James Cartlidge MP. To ask for the date when the bridge was last inspected at this junction.

Sunnica and pylons - Suffolk's cabinet met on March 1 to recommend the Government reject current plans by Sunnica to build the country's largest solar farm in Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire. The report for cabinet says the application fails to properly mitigate the impacts of such a large project.

In addition, the Cabinet voted to recommend, subject to satisfactory answers on environmental impact, the National Grid's project for a new pylon route from Bramford to Twinstead. National Grid says the pylons are needed for Sizewell C and offshore windfarms. The Government still lacks an energy strategy despite the need for net zero and the soaring costs of fossil fuels. **Ukraine, full Council 24th March** Full Council presented a rare show of solidarity between Councillors, as our Group and the Conservatives shared a single motion in support of Ukraine. The motion condemn the actions of the Russian government, as well as commitment to supporting and welcoming refugees as they become a part of our Suffolk communities. However we did raise the Government imposed bureaucracy surrounding current attempts of Suffolk residents to house Ukrainian refugees.

Freeport East - Suffolk's Cabinet met this week (29th March) to vote on a plan to establish 'Freeport East'. This is part of a controversial national strategy to create freeports across the country, in an attempt to generate economic activity through tax incentives. Felixstowe Port, Harwich Port, and Stowmarket's 'Gateway 14'

Business Park are set to become part of Freeport East. My Green group believes this project is more likely to benefit foreign owned businesses seeking tax havens on shore than existing home grown businesses. It will also generate huge quantities of lorry and other traffic and be unlikely to fit with zero by 2030 targets.

Development at the three sites will be funded by business rates, paid by all businesses within a 25km radius of them, so those existing businesses will be subsidising potential rivals who will be exempt from business rates. **Cycling and walking plan** - Thanks to a motion I introduced to the county council nearly four years ago, and after my Green colleague at Babergh proposed a similar motion at that council in 2019, Babergh have now unveiled a list of cycling and walking improvements which will require funding from developers and any Government grants. Most are in Sudbury and surrounds, which is logical since that is where the most potential use of cycling lanes are. Our group will push to ensure these get funded by pushing developers seeking planning permission. **Babergh Council to down-size accommodation** - Babergh Cabinet voted to give back one of the two floors they rent at Endeavour House from Suffolk County Council, saving approximately £338,000. The majority of staff are now home working with some office visits for meetings etc. **Empty homes funding** - Owners of empty homes may be eligible to an Empty Homes Renovation Loan designed to help improve vacant properties across the districts which have been empty for over six months and in need of significant repairs. Empty Homes Renovation Loans of up to £20,000 are interest free and can help to carry out a range of major repairs including installing a central heating system, electrical rewire or fixing a leaking roof. [Suffolk Biodiversity Recommendations](#) The cabinet approved plans to enhance the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land by 2030. This was a result of a motion we proposed a couple of years back and a cross party panel. Examples include ensuring 30% of council owned land is managed to enhance nature by 2030, planting more hedgerows, improving highway trees, and developing nature-based flood management solutions. For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/councils-commitment-to-further-enhancing-suffolks-natural-environment> **Bus Back Better and Bus Recovery Grant** -The Government has written to highways authorities, including Suffolk to advise it that it is cutting the pot available for investing in buses from £3bn to £1.4bn. It is not clear whether this will affect the £77m bid for bus improvements from Suffolk county council. Separately the Bus Recovery Grant, which has been helping operators like Hadleigh Community Transport through Covid is due to expire at the end of April. There will be a temporary one off payment to tide them through to the summer holidays and after that funding is set to disappear.

21/22 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

22/22 Chairman's Report

The bank mandate has been updated and signatories are: Rob Butler, Graham Cranfield and Stephen Phillips. Two signatures are required for each cheque. Bank statements will now be posted to Rob Butler. The current balance is £4099.98

Fallen tree in churchyard and neighbouring gardens – agreed for Rob to clear the tree where it affects the footpath; Hall House wish it to remain where it has fallen in their garden.

Lime tree in churchyard – this looks precarious as if branches might fall and it has been reported to Jane Murphy

Public right of way from Rushbrook Farm to Preston consultation – this has been discussed at an earlier meeting and no objections raised

23/22 Speed Watch/SID

Clerk to explore if other local villages would like to share a SID.

24/22 Planning Matters

The Councillors reviewed the following application and agreed to make no objection: DC/22/00927 DC/22/00927 - Application for Listed Building Consent - Remove cement render from parts of south and east elevations, completion of timber frame repairs as required, and replace using lime plaster. (Revision to DC/20/02969) at Church Farm, The Street, Kettlebaston

25/22 Clerk/RFO Report

It was unanimously agreed to buy six bottles of prosecco as a thank you to Maggie Lawrence for carrying out the internal audit.

The following invoices were approved:

Website hosting Community Action Suffolk £60.00

Clerk's wages March & February plus £19.11 backpay 2022 £ 258.31

HMRC £ 59.80

The councillors approved the end of year finance report

The councillors approved the AGAR for 2020-2021 and it was signed by the Chairman

The councillors approved the Clerks annual pay award (2020-21) increase of 1.75%

26/22 Councillors reports

Bee Hives near footpath – Concern was raised about the proximity of beehives to footpath 10 – Church to Back Lane. Clerk to follow up with Rights of Way.

Churchyard Ditch - smells unpleasant perhaps due to fallen tree preventing the water from running and causing a build up. It was agreed to see how it is after the tree has been removed and the water can flow.

Evans Corner – The house is due to be re-thatched in May

New Notice Board – Cllr Carpenter to check if the quote includes oak posts for the notice board

27/22 Date of the next meeting

Parish Council Meeting 7pm Wednesday 11th May 2022

The meeting closed at 8.20pm