

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 26th April 2021 BY VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Mary George (Chairman), James Finch (County Councillor), Melanie Barrett (Babergh District Councillor), Representatives from Village Organisations, the Parish Council, Clerk and residents. Around 22 people were present including Councillors.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced all the contributors. She confirmed that full reports were available ahead of the Meeting on the Parish Council webpage. Apologies had been received from Cllr R Thorogood, Mrs R Knox and the Tree Warden.

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Held on the 29th April 2019

These were approved as a true record. This was proposed by Cllr G Battye, seconded by Mr B Smith and carried by a show of hands.

2. Reports and Questions

District Cllr Melanie Barrett thanked the Chairman and County Cllr J Finch for bringing parties together in relation to Caley Green. She confirmed her full report was available on the Parish Council webpage. It covered the Council Tax increase of 2.96% for the Babergh District Council element. The Councils fleet was to switch to hydrotreated vegetable oil to reduce carbon emissions. Various grants continued to be issued in response to the affects of Covid 19. The Local Plan was with the Planning Inspectorate. Civil Parking Enforcement powers had passed to District Councils. Plans were in place to reduce the duration of free parking. Their customer access point was moving to Sudbury Library. Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils had established a Joint Company for investment purposes called CIFCO Capital. Plans were progressing in relation to the Bell Vue Park site, solar carports for Kingfisher's, Sudbury and Gainsborough House Museum. Higher Council tax was to be applied on empty unfurnished properties after standing unused for 10 years. A review of Babergh Garage sites was to be undertaken. Finally the Housing team had worked hard to find temporary accommodation for the homeless during Covid.

Again the County Council Report from County Cllr J Finch was available on the Parish Council webpage. It covered the following: -

- Covid 19
- the resurfacing of 25% of the Suffolk Highway
- the availability of support towards Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Parishes
- Fostering and Adoption
- the high percentage of parents getting their choice of school for Suffolk Children
- Suffolk's response to the Climate Emergency
- the County Council were to invest in tree planting and restoring hedgerows and roadside verges
- the Hold, Suffolk's new archives home, had opened
- success with improving the County's broadband
- and finally the County Councils investment in decarbonisation of their properties

Attention then turned to the Love Caley Walsh Charity Trust and Cllr G Battye read their report, which again was on the Parish Council webpage. He confirmed there was no official way of finding out who would benefit from this Charity, so they rely on contact from residents. When lockdown ends, a meeting was planned to discuss necessary improvements to make administration easier.

Finally Peter Mann reported on the Village Hall and the effects of Covid 19. Babergh grants have helped with necessary maintenance work. Cllr G Battye thanked the Village Hall Management Committee for managing over these challenging times. The Chairman confirmed the Hall is hoped to re-open again in July.

3. Chairman's Report including Caley Green and a report from County Cllr James Finch

The Chairman read her report which was also available in advance. She took special care to thank the volunteers who stepped up to help the wider community during the pandemic together with local businesses. The Parish Council needed to rely on video meetings which brought with it new challenges which will hopefully lead to lasting improvements and flexibility of the Parish Council for the future. The Allotment Competition was unable to be held. Rents and fees were frozen due to the exceptional circumstances we are in. A grant has been secured towards the wooden revetment on Caley Green. There were 91 Planning applications over the past 2 years and the Local Needs Housing Survey was dated 2018. Volunteers have not come forward to work on a Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Highways and drainage issues were discussed. She concluded by thanking her fellow Councillors, Clerk and Parish Wardens and confirming a Vacancy still existed for a Parish Councillor. She then went onto report on Caley Green. She read from her report which again was available on the Parish

Council webpage and then answered the previously submitted questions on the subject which again can be read on the Parish Council webpage. Parking was a considerable problem in the vicinity and Cllr J Finch was taking the lead in relation to experimental yellow lines. The Daltons were thanked for taking care of the parking boards. It was anticipated that the overcrowding of the river and Caley Green would not go away even when Covid restrictions end. County Cllr Finch explained the progress in relation to the experimental yellow lines and then offered to address any questions arising from his report. He was questioned about delays with pot-hole repairs and bookings at the recycling centres, Attention turned again to Caley Green and Cllr Finch and the Parish Council were questioned in relation to the best protection for the bank from erosion. The Environment Agency have recommended natural vegetation rather than any lengthening of the wooden revetment. Concern was expressed by residents of the obstructed view of the river if vegetation is allowed to grow too high. Also that if the revetment was lengthened this would reduce the bottleneck for river users. An idea of a small jetty was raised to further protect the bank. Some selected signage and careful placement of bins was encouraged, however, concern was expressed against too much clutter in the Countryside. An idea was raised of re-locating the bench further up the bank to take better advantage of the view.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending this very different Parish Assembly and reminded that all the reports from Village Organisations and Charities were available on the Parish Council webpage. County Cllr J Finch thanked the Chairman for all her hard work on behalf of the Village and on a personal note he thanked her for all the collaboration with him on matters of importance to the Village.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.