

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 25th April 2022 AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL

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 N Cartwright, M Hunter, the Parish Footpath Warden and the Parish Tree Warden.

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Held on the 26th April 2021

These were approved as a true record. This was proposed by Cllr P Fuller, seconded by Cllr L Erith and carried by a show of hands.

2. Reports and Questions

County Cllr James Finch gave his report covering topics of Children's and Adult Care budget, COVID19, 99% being offered their preferred primary school, upgrades to the Suffolk Fire and Rescue vehicle fleet, The Hold opening for Suffolk archives, the focus on the proposed pylons and on Mental Health in the County. His full report was available on the Community Website. He was then questioned about flooding at the Caley Green ditch, whether any proposals to underground the existing cables and wires in the Village, the Caley Green project and details about undergrounding electricity transmission in the AONB instead of pylons. J Finch confirmed the Caley Green ditch was on the list. He wasn't aware of any plans to underground cables by UK Power Networks, however, this was not County Council. In relation to the Caley Green project he confirmed the County Council were the land owners and the maintenance was delegated to the Parish Council by agreement. Finally he confirmed there is an exclusion zone around the buried cables and no woodland would be planted above.

District Cllr Melanie Barrett then gave her report and again the full report is on the Community Website. From her report she emphasised interest free loans were available to help home owners renovate vacant homes to bring them back into use. The Public Realms function including street cleansing and grass cutting etc has been brought back in house. Work is complete on the project to build solar carports at Kingfisher Leisure in Sudbury. She was then questioned on the £150 payment to bands A to D households. Whether there was a policy to make old commercial properties residential. M Barrett explained that under national planning policy, jobs in rural economies are supported, so old commercial premises will not necessarily be converted to residential.

3. Chairman's Report

The Parish Council Chairman, Mary George then delivered her report. It covered that this was the first in person Parish Assembly since 2019. The introduction of wifi provision enabled the Parish Council to return to face to face/ hybrid Parish Council meetings at the Village Hall from September 2021. Improvements were being made to assist hybrid meetings in the Meeting Room. She went onto explain the finances including the late billing of street lighting improvements and capital reserves for projects such as the Village Hall Roof. The major drainage works in the Village Centre were explained. New Waste bins were planned. The various Planning Applications were then covered along with Allotments, Footpaths and the Burial Ground. Attention then turned to the proposals for Caley Green, the blocked culvert and ditch at the edge of the Green and the investigations to protect the riverbank. Various written comments from residents were being considered. Reports were available on the Community website in relation to Caley Green and also the Chairman's Report.

4. Questions and Observations

Questions were raised regarding the Caley Green Project, the tall reed bed, the involvement of the Environment Agency and the blocked culvert and ditch at the edge of the Green. J Finch helped to answer some of the questions. Low level planting was being considered and a permit would be needed from the Environment Agency when the project reaches that stage. Other questions related to broadband provision and whether the Parish Council had a policy relating to the County Broadband offer. The return of the Church Fete was praised. Plans were on schedule to celebrate the Jubilee. People were mindful that vulnerable parishioners were fearful of going out in view of the COVID risk. The Chairman confirmed the Parish Council were leaving individual residents to decide in relation to County Broadband - they did not have a policy recommendation. The County Council were being chased in relation to the blocked culvert and ditch. There were reports of a car/ cars driven across the Village Hall field to access the allotments. It was agreed for the latter to be put on the Agenda for the Parish Council to consider. Cllr G Battye reported on the Walsh Trust Charity providing Christmas Bonuses to residents fulfilling the criteria. He paid tribute to Eva Rolf who has recently stepped down following great service to this charity. I Wright thanked the Parish Council, our District Councillor and County Councillor for all they were doing for the Parish.

The meeting closed at 9.28 p.m.