

Letheringham

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held at 7.45pm on Monday 23rd May 2016
at Easton and Letheringham Village Hall**

In Attendance

Terry Carlin (Chair)
Maurice Finch
Jean Barker
Matthew Bickerton

Richard Gooding
David Allan
Mike Lloyds

1. Apologies

SCDC Carol Poulter, PCSO Christian Hassler, Andrew Maskery

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting Monday 30th March 2015

Approved and signed.

3. Reports for the 12 months to May 2016

i) Chairman of Letheringham Parish Council:

Council Structure and Administration

There have been a number of changes to the Council Structure and Administration over the past 12 months.

Richard Gooding of Letheringham Mill has been co-opted to join as a new member of the Council. Richard's extensive business experience and insight will be a welcomed addition to the Council.

David Allan has taken over from Paul Clarke as Parish Clerk, David undertakes this role as a non-paid volunteer which has enabled the Council hold the precept at its current level. Our thanks to David for his contribution over the past year in maintaining the smooth running and of the Council and especially his constant chivvying of highways to fix the pot holes in our roads.

Paul Clarke stepped down from the Council this year and we would like to record our thanks to Paul for his service and significant contribution to the Council and village over a number of years as both a Councillor and Clerk.

We also have to record that Peter Bellfield our Suffolk County Councillor has sadly died after his long fight with cancer. Councillor Bellfield regularly attended our Parish Council meetings to provide updates on County Council decisions that would impact on our residents and was always willing to take away and act upon issues of concern

raised with him. He was dedicated to the improvement of Suffolk and it will be difficult to replace such a hard-working and dedicated Councillor - we will miss him and he will be difficult to replace.

The Council's auditors BDO completed their audit of our accounts for 2015/16 and our finances received a clean bill of health.

The annual precept was £1050 for 2015/16 and has been held at the same level for 2016/17. The precept results in a charge of £26.58 for each band D equivalent property per annum in Letheringham which is a slight reduction from last year's charge of £26.93

Community development

BBQ and Garden Party

The Annual Village BBQ and Garden Party continues to be a success and we even managed to avoid the torrential rain this year. We would like to thank all those that contributed to making the BBQ a great success this year but must single out Jean Barker for allowing us to use her riverside garden and Simon Ratcliffe for donating the excellent local sirloin steaks which were greatly appreciated. Our thanks also to everyone that contributed with salads and desserts and to the Parish Councillors that share the cost of everything else between them.

Defibrillator

Following the funding grant from Adnam's brewery we have now installed a Community Heart Beat Trust defibrillator into the redundant phone box. The defibrillator is up and running with BT undertaking the cost of the electricity feed to the phone box for the next 5 years. All that remains to be done is to have the phone box painted and spruced up ready for the formal opening later in 2016. Whilst we hope that the defibrillator never needs to be used it is comforting to know it is there if needed. Our thanks to Adnam's for supporting the project funding and to Paula, Matthew and Brian for helping to get the defibrillator up and running.

Litter Pick

The village litter pick was held on Sunday 12 April 2015 the turn-out was excellent and this year we had extra excitement as a cash box that was found dumped in a hedge by Brian and Paula was taken away by police as potential evidence of a robbery. Subsequent reports suggested that indeed the cash box was in fact evidence from a robbery in Wickham Market but sadly the Police were unable to recover any finger prints.

B1078

The inquest into the tragic death of Dominic Davies, in a car accident on the B1078 near Park Corner in Letheringham, was held on the 25th August 2015 at Lowestoft's Magistrates Court. Letheringham Council submitted a detailed report on what it considers an accident black spot. The police investigators were unable to identify the cause of the accident and did not conclude that this section of the road needed a reduced speed limit, they suggested however, that signage could be improved.

Suffolk County Council stated that they had a plan in place to improve signage and that Suffolk County Council was undertaking a safety improvement review of the whole of the B1078. The Coroner's verdict was accidental death.

The new road signage has now been implemented at Park Corner with a recommended 30 mph speed limit.

Whilst we have tried to progress the installation of vehicle activated signs (VAS) this is no longer possible due to a change in Suffolk County Council's Highways policies. We have therefore, been unable to utilise the £1100 ECB grant we received from Suffolk Coastal from the Enabling Communities Budget to support the VAS project and we await confirmation as to whether this grant can be used for an alternative project or should be returned to SCDC.

Planning

Sizewell C phase one public consultation was completed in 2015. Following the agreement between EDF energy and CGN (China) EDF Energy will take an 80% share in Sizewell C, with CGN taking a 20% stake. Subject to receiving all the appropriate consents and permissions, including planning consent, the construction and operation of Sizewell C would require a final investment decision, similar to that agreed on Hinckley Point. As part of the development of the Sizewell C proposals, there will be a second stage of consultation starting sometime in 2016.

Five planning applications have been considered by the Parish Council over the past year with the majority of issues raised having been resolved amicably between parties.

Finally, my thanks to all the Councillors and all the residents that continue to support our objective of maintaining Letheringham as a unique and beautiful place in which to live

Terence Carlin (Chairman)

ii) Letheringham Representative on the Village Hall Committee:

Andrew was unable to attend at the Meeting but his Report provided for the March LPC Meeting was adopted for the APM, as follows:

The 50th anniversary events had been very popular and successful and had raised money for the upkeep of the Hall, with £736.18 also being used to fund First Responders.

Further events had been staged – including a St. George's Day Quiz Night on the 23rd April 2016 – and others were planned, including a BBQ with music by The Rhino's in August 2016 and a Halloween-themed casino night scheduled for October 2016. Any enquiries regarding these events should be directed to David Stagg on 746054.

Andrew Maskery

iii) Suffolk County Council:

Following the recent death of SCDC Councillor Peter Bellfield, and pending news regarding a successor, no specific Report was provided by SCDC, although a document entitled "April Roundup", produced by The Suffolk County Council Conservative Group, was provided and was read to the meeting by TC in the absence of a representative from the SCDC.

Suffolk continues upward trend towards national education excellence

Continuing to improve Suffolk's schools and ensuring excellence in their leadership and governance are two key parts of the Raising the Bar programme to ensure every child in Suffolk can reach their full potential. The increasing number of Teaching Schools and highly qualified school leaders demonstrates the action being taken by this administration to back this up.

We promised to tackle educational attainment in our manifesto and the upward trend continues; improvements in the quality of education in Suffolk have been reinforced by a further four schools achieving Teaching School status. This means that more than 260 school staff across the county are currently undertaking national qualifications in leadership.

The following schools have joined five others cross the county that have already been recognised as National Teaching Schools:

- Springfield Junior School (Ipswich Teaching Alliance)
- Bedfield CoEVC Primary School (Five Rivers Teaching School Alliance)
- Highfield Nursery and Castle Hill Infants (Ipswich)
- Debenham High School

The Teaching School Alliances are part of The School to School & Settings Support Partnership which will be the driving force across Suffolk leading a school led self-improvement system. Other partners include:

- Bury Schools Partnership
- SWISS Partnership (South West Ipswich Secondary Schools)
- Gipping Valley Partnership of Schools
- Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich and the Local Authority

Over 90% of Suffolk children get 1st choice of primary school

At a time when many areas across the UK are facing real difficulties in sourcing sufficient primary school places, it is a real achievement that here in Suffolk we are able to give the majority of parents places for their children. In the majority of cases, we are able to allocate school places at the parents preferred schools.

In fact, almost 91% per cent of Suffolk children got their first choice of primary school this year and 97.5% got one of their three preferences. The percentage of children allocated their first preference has increased by 0.5% between 2015 and 2016. In total, 7920 applications for reception places were received by the county council, compared with 7928 who applied in 2015.

The county council has an excellent track record of offering places at preferred schools, using the application rules to offer school places. Chances of applications being unsuccessful increase when applications are submitted after the closing date, but there are some helpful FAQs to assist parents at: www.suffolk.gov.uk/offerday

More Suffolk schools than ever now rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted

Testament to this administration's commitment to delivering real improvement in education standards, 80% of Suffolk's schools have now been rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted in April 2016, an improvement of 6% compared to just 10 months ago, when 74% of schools were rated Good or Outstanding.

This represents really significant progress towards the county council's ambitious objective that all children in Suffolk can attend a Good or Outstanding school. Ensuring that every child can achieve their full potential is a key element of the Raising the Bar programme.

Schools in Suffolk are also improving twice as fast as those across the country as a whole. Over the same ten months, the percentage of Good or Outstanding schools nationally has only risen 3%, compared to Suffolk's 6%.

The 80% of schools figure related to all publicly funded schools in Suffolk with a current Ofsted judgement; as inspections are carried out on a continual basis, the number and percentage is therefore subject to constant change.

Suffolk's young people star in new film about positive mental health

The Mental Health Foundation estimates that 1 in 10 children and young people are affected by mental health problems; more children and young people are experiencing problems with their mental health today than 30 years ago and here in Suffolk, protecting the most vulnerable is at the very heart of everything we do.

A new film highlighting the experiences of young people dealing with emotional wellbeing and mental health has been produced by young people in Suffolk.

Finding the language to express how they are feeling, whilst overcoming any perceived stigma around mental health, are just two of the many challenges facing our young people today. The film has been designed to prompt discussion on the often taboo subject of mental health in the classroom and empowers young people to identify what support is available to them and to feel confident in this support should they need it.

Mind. Your Language has been scripted and developed by aspiring film-makers from Samuel Ward Academy in Haverhill, alongside representatives from Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust's (NSFT) Youth Council. Presented almost exclusively by young people and illustrated by personal stories, the film invites young people, teachers and parents to take up the subject and make simple pledges to tackle the stigma around mental health.

The first public screening took place at Haverhill Arts Centre on 19th April and the film will be shared widely throughout schools in Suffolk. It can be viewed at: www.healthysuffolk.org.uk

To make a pledge to support others, or to encourage discussion around the issues highlighted in the film, please take the time to visit:
www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/projects/mind-your-language

iv) SCDC Councillor Carol Poulter:

SCDC Councillor Carol Poulter had sent her apologies and had indicated that she was intending to submit a Report to the Meeting, but no Report had in fact been received.

v) Community Police Support Officer: (Report read by TC in CH's absence)

A generic Report had been received from the Safer Neighbourhood Team at Leiston Police Station. In contrast to previous years this did not summarise events during the past 12-months, and was read to the meeting by TC in the absence of a representative from Suffolk Constabulary:

The new county policing model in Suffolk went live on Monday 4th April. Teams and resources have been re-designed following the Suffolk Local Policing Review, to ensure that policing in Suffolk is able to respond to current and emerging demand. The driving force behind the re-design has been the need to ensure that the Constabulary delivers policing that is right for today – so a number of things will be carried out differently to ensure the most efficient response and use of police resources.

SNTs will work with partners to deliver local solutions to local problems, focusing on early intervention and prevention. The changes will ensure that the best use is made of PC and PCSO time. Working hours of PCSOs have been changed to align with partners and new ways of working with parish councils have been agreed.

SNT officers often cover a large number of local parishes, and have historically attended as many parish council meetings as they can. SNT's will now liaise with town and parish councils in different ways. Officers will no longer attend every meeting, but will continue to regularly engage with these partners and will attend a meeting if there is a specific local issue of concern, or following a major incident. Written reports of crime in the SNT area and details of police work to tackle local issues will be prepared every month and will also be available on the Constabulary website.

The Police Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore has raised the policing element of council tax by 1.9%, this will add £830k to the Constabulary's budget in the next financial year, which will help fund 20 Police Officers to focus on protecting vulnerable people and support the county's cyber-crime investigations and three PCSO's to carry out a liaison role in schools right across the county. This increase to the policing element of the precept means the average council tax will rise by just under 7p a week.

Leiston Police Station will now be the base for 35 Wards.

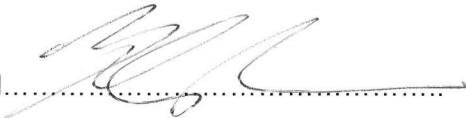
Currently, the local Officers for these areas are PCSO Christian Hassler, PCSO Thora Taylor, PcsO Kevin Mann and Pc Carl Lawrence we can still be contacted in the same ways as before such as email or the non-emergency number of 101.

Leiston Police Station

4. Feedback from village residents relating to the 12 months to May 2016

None.

The meeting closed at 8.18 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....22/ May 2017