

MINUTES OF MEETING OF EARL SOHAM ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 11th May 2015 at 7.30pm

AT EARL SOHAM Village Hall

Present:, Cllrs Richard Tinkler Chair) Andrew Patterson, Lucy Murrell, John Hulme, Jackie Barrow, Mark Rutherford, Chris Pratt

Jane Page (Clerk)

Public: Mr Mrs B Hinton

The Minutes are in the order of the Agenda:

1.1 To elect Chairman – and Signing of Declaration of Acceptance

Cllr Tinkler was elected Chair proposed by Cllr Rutherford seconded by Cllr Hulme
Declaration of Acceptance was signed - to take effect from May 12th 2015

To elect Vice Chair - and Signing of Declaration of Acceptance

Cllr Hulme was elected Vice Chair proposed by Cllr Pratt seconded by Cllr Barrow
Declaration of Acceptance was signed - to take effect from May 12th 2015

1.2 Councillors signed Declarations of Acceptance - to take effect from May 12th 2015

2. Apologies –Cllrs Celia Peacher, Bob Snell, Peter Bellfield, David Grose (absent)

3. Declarations of Interest - none

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on March 9th 2014 and Planning Meeting of April 16th- confirmed

5. An opportunity for the public to make comments - no comments

6. Matters for debate

6.1 Signing of Audit document - a) Accounting statements - were agreed and signed
b) Annual Governance statement - was agreed and signed

6.2 Emergency plan - this is now ready for printing **ACTION** - Clerk will get 205 copies printed

6.3 MSDC Cluster Plan - Councillors had no further comments to add

6.4 Whether to kerb the green (via grant funding) - Cllr Pratt and Clerk will attend an SCDC workshop to see if funding can be obtained. Two of three quotes have been obtained as cost guide. Councillors are in favour of kerbing if we can obtain enough grant funding.

6.5 Childrens play area - Councillors will look at whether any land is available - two land owners have been approached but neither have suitable land. **ACTION** Clerk will obtain costings of insurance/RoSPA annual inspection and make enquiries about possible rental land

6.6 Listing of War Memorial - this is being considered for listing by English Heritage

7. Public forum - no comments

8. To hear reports from:

SCC - no update to add to report given at APM

SCDC

This report is to provide a brief overview of Suffolk Coastal District Council key challenges and achievements 2014/15. Some interesting Suffolk Coastal District statistics: figures: population of 124,600 (Children 16%, 16-64 59% over 65 25%, there are 58,600 dwellings – includes 6280 housing assoc, large rural district – 88,938 hectares, 76km of coastline, 5730 businesses – energy, telecoms, port, tourism, food, art, small business.

Elections 7th May 2015 & the Electoral Review Suffolk Coastal District elections on the 7th May delivered a new council of 37 Conservative, 2 Lib Dems, 2 Independent & 1 Labour Councillors. The recent Electoral Review reduced the number of Suffolk Coastal Councillors by 13 from 55 to 42 at the current election. This retains enough Councillors to ensure strong community leadership, while also making the council leaner and reducing costs. The Councillors represent eleven single-member wards, fourteen two-member wards and one three-member ward across the district - 26 electoral wards in total.

Council Tax Frozen - for the last 5 years Suffolk Coastal District Council has worked to continue streamlining its services, driving down costs and becoming more efficient, while maintaining essential frontline services. This has allowed Suffolk Coastal to freeze its portion of the Council Tax for the fifth consecutive year. Suffolk Coastal was one of the first councils in the country to provide shared services, with our partners Waveney District Council, reducing our combined workforce by about 40% since 2008. This, along with improved use of technology and other partnership working, has enabled us to make £10million worth of efficiency savings since 2010. As a result, the District Council's part of the Council Tax bill has remained at the same level as 2010/11 – with a Band D home paying £149.40. But we are facing challenges. Suffolk Coastal has a predicted budget gap of £2.71million to fill over the next four years.

New Offices We are also working to ensure Suffolk Coastal remains in a sustainable, resilient financial position in the future. Our planned move to a new, smaller and more efficient, headquarters will reduce our running costs, saving £8million of tax payers' money over 20 years. Suffolk Coastal is planning to move to more efficient premises. The Council exchanged contracts on the project in February 2015. It hopes to move into the new purpose-built headquarters on a brown-field site in Melton in late 2016. The aim is to safeguard the tax payer by reducing running costs, as the existing headquarters is increasing expensive to maintain and run. The move is expected to make £8m savings over 20 years. Importantly, there will be no need for borrowing, as the cost will be met from existing resources and capital funds will be raised through the sale of the existing headquarters and nearby Cedar House.

Partnership Working The joint working with Waveney District Council has resulted in £10m savings since 2010 – and a reduction in our combined workforce of about 40%. However, both councils have continued to deliver all key services; We continue to build on this partnership working, as demonstrated by the recent creation of a new shared Head of Communities role, working across three organisations - HealthEast, as well as Suffolk Coastal & Waveney District Councils. We believe this is a first nationally, and this historic new role will lead the drive to enable communities to take greater responsibility for local services, their own health and wellbeing, developing sustainable communities and reinforcing our joint approach to services for local people; ARP- Suffolk Coastal and Waveney are among seven local authorities which make up the Anglia Revenue Partnership (ARP), working together to provide shared services to residents, creating financial savings and greater service resilience. The other local authorities are Breckland, East Cambridgeshire, Forest Heath, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Fenland.

Norse - Suffolk Coastal (previously SCS)The Council's continuing partnership with Suffolk Coastal Norse has created £1.7m savings since 2010. Suffolk Coastal Norse provide a wide range of front line services for the District Council, including waste collections, grounds maintenance, environmental services, buildings maintenance, security services and facilities management;

Leisure ContractThe Council's new Leisure Contract with its leisure provider, Places For People Ltd, is producing £500k annual saving, as well as bringing new fitness initiatives into its four sport and leisure centres. The Council has developed a new Leisure Strategy to improve health and wellbeing in the District over the next decade. It also recently appointed a new leisure development partner, Pulse, to develop existing facilities, create exciting new leisure spaces and ensure important targets for participation, health and environmental issues are not only met but exceeded;

Community EnablingThe Enabling Communities Strategy has been introduced, encouraging people to take a more active role in developing & strengthening their communities. Each Suffolk Coastal District Councillor has been allocated funding of £4000 to support local community improvement projects. This represents a £220K annual budget and over 300 projects have been supported over the last two years in total. The Enabling Communities Budget needs to be viewed alongside the policy of asset transfers, revenue and capital grants, Right to Bid and Neighbourhood Plans. Projects include enabling disabled people to engage in sailing, support for a diverse range of young people activities, support for village halls so that they can extend services to the community. There has also been funding for activities that tackle loneliness and promote social inclusion of the Elderly such as Forget-me-not clubs developed by Age UK Suffolk, chair base exercise and village events of the Coffee Caravan, bowls club; Waldringfield Flood Group received funding to kickstart an innovative community-led model of coastal protection. The Council's support has been instrumental in the group accessing around £500,000 external funding, which the Environment Agency views as national good practice. The Council has also negotiated with Community Action Suffolk to provide bespoke community development, training and support to build capacity to enable communities to do more for themselves; We are currently considering district-wide Emergency Planning training and support to enable communities to be more resilient and provide a positive community response during emergency situations. Some of the key areas of investment in the local communities have included the East Suffolk Partnership (£300k), Community Neighbourhood Plans & Planning (£200k), Grants to Parishes (£350k), Community grants (£153k annually) and Tourism promotion (£165k annually);

HousingA total of 175 affordable homes have been completed in the District since 2010/11. Of these 58 were completed in the last year, including 14 homes developed by demolishing existing homes no longer fit for occupation;

Planning Suffolk Coastal District Council, along with Councils across the country, has replaced the outdated Section 106 system with the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The old Section 106 system created substantial delays in the payments being received to fund the infrastructure projects to the local authorities. The new system sets a clear, simple, non-negotiable charge on new developments to ensure they contribute towards the provision of adequate infrastructure. CIL brings with it consistent charging, payable at specific points during each development; Neighbourhood Plans are being developed across the district. Rendlesham made the headlines by being the first Neighbourhood Plan to go to referendum (on 5 March 2015), with 47 per cent of the electorate turning out to vote. Of these, 97 per cent voted in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan. Through our Local Plan, we are striving to balance the District's need for new homes and businesses, while safeguarding our communities and unique environment. Suffolk Coastal District Council has expressed its extreme disappointment and frustration that another legal challenge has been launched challenging its Local Plan (adopted in July 2013). It is feared this latest round of legal action will create further delays in the creation of much-needed new homes and jobs across the district. The legal action by 'No Adastral New Town' (NANT) was originally dismissed by a High Court Judge in

February 2014. Then, in February 2015, the Appeal Court upheld the original judgement – dismissing the appeal and awarding costs to Suffolk Coastal District Council. However, in March, Suffolk Coastal was been informed that NANT has put in an application for permission to appeal to the Supreme Court. This matter is unresolved at this time;

RecyclingLocal residents continue to support our drive to improve recycling. In 2009/10 the recycling rate was 51.8%. Latest figures (2014/15) reveal the recycling rate has risen to 58.16% - which we believe to be the best in Suffolk and in the top 20 nationally..So far, Suffolk Coastal has received £4.2million through the New Homes Bonus (cumulative);

Local EconomySuffolk Coastal has the strongest economy in the County with 5730 businesses and our unemployment rate is a very low .7%.With the New Anglia LEP, we co-produced the Strategic Economic Plan which has brought significant investment into the sub-regional economy. This plan has unlocked a Growth Deal package from central government that will bring over £300million and 14,000 new jobs into the Norfolk and Suffolk economy between now and 2021;During 2014-15, the Economic Services team responded to 90 business support enquiries, including start-up businesses looking for sources of funding and growing businesses that are looking larger business premises. Examples in the last twelve months include the creation of a home-based beauty and fitness business in Woodbridge and the relocation of an engineering business to larger premises;The District will see significant investment in the near future. Uniserve are investing in a brand new 40 metre high x 47,664 sq m warehouse at Felixstowe and Premier Inn are investing in a brand new, 60 bedroom hotel; Suffolk Coastal has been directly involved in the development of a successful, £400k bid to the Coastal Communities Fund that will support the development of tourism within the district. Also, Felixstowe has successfully applied for £10k with which to develop a Coastal Communities Team that will support business and community development.

Customer Service in local LibrariesWe are taking services out into the heart of communities, working in partnership with Suffolk Libraries in Woodbridge and Felixstowe offering customer services, tourist information and benefits advice in central locations; There has been further investment in technology, moving towards digital by default, increased use of mobile technology and review of website in pipeline.

Coast Protection

Secured £12.5m external funding since 2010;Working with the Thorpeness community to develop a sustainable management plan for this vulnerable coastal frontage.A £20k study that has reassessed coastal processes and will go on to identify viable management options.Also working with the Bawdsey, East Lane and Shingle Street communities in a similar process to that underway at Thorpeness.Obtained more than £200k of Grant in Aid to carry out improvements to navigation aids over the Felixstowe frontage. This work is underway for completion by the end of March 2015.

Broadband

Suffolk Coastal is part of the Better Broadband for Suffolk Programme – which has led to 70,000 homes being upgraded to superfast broadband and approximately 700 miles of optical fibre laid across the County; Contracts in place to achieve at least 95% superfast coverage by early 2018.

9. Planning applications and Notifications

To consider any planning applications received by the date of the meeting where reasonable and practical to do so

10. Correspondence since last meeting circulated to Councillors *emailed

SCDC/SALC meeting*
 Election nomination papers - delivered by hand
 SCDC Workshop on Grant funding*
 Suffolk View*
 Sizewell report*
 LCPAS newsletter*
 an email from Bruce Hinton re his revised building application was read to councillors

11. Financial matters and payments due:

Cheques for approval	Payee	Amount
	100701 SCDC Cemetery rates	64.32
	100702 Clerks expenses	86.38
	100703 D Peacher War Graves	15
	100704 Heelis & Lodge Audit	66
	100705 C Pratt - welcome pack exp	10
	100706 LCPAS course	40
	100707 Village Hall bookings	56
		337.7
s/o deposit acc	D Peacher - April + May	124.5
s/o deposit acc	Clerk - April + May	476.78
Income received	War Graves	15
	Memorial stone	40
Bank interest		0
Transfers		0
Before cheques paid	Current Account	680.15
	Business Account	4440.08
Uncashed cheques	100697	66.91
After payment	Current Account	382.45
11th May 2015	Business Account	3853.38

12. Reports

Chair attended SCDC housing on rural area meeting
 Clerk and Chair attended Neighbourhood Plan Course

13. Urgent matters and matters for information

Clearance of watercourses - the main blockage is near the surgery. As Bruce Hinton owns most of this stretch he has been requested to clear the ditch

Dog fouling is an ongoing issue. **ACTION** Clerk will draw attention to this via the parish magazine. Anyone caught not clearing up could incur a £1000 fine

Councillors wished to record a vote of thanks to our outgoing District Councillor Bob Snell

Cllr Hulme needs a date for the Coffee Caravan attendance - **ACTION** - Clerk will book a date

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Dates of next meetings: July 13th, September 14th, November 9th

Signed

Dated