**EARL SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Thursday 7th November 2024 7.00pm Earl Soham Village Hall**

**MINUTES**

In attendance TJ TC PB AE PR

1. Apologies for absence. GH DG CP AP CC
2. Declaration of interest. ALL None
3. a) Approval of minutes from Thursday 5th September 2024. ALL approved

 b) Matters arising from Thursday 5th September 2024. ALL approved

1. Public Comment thanked PC for help with clearing ditches
2. Report from Elaine Bryce. EB referenced her report TC commented on footpath accessibility for disabled people on the stretch of road next to Bridge House and not wide enough for wheelchair users. TJ asked how to get SIDS moved on difficulties with proposed sites and getting information
3. Report Maurice Cook Gave information about a flood resilience meeting at castle rooms in Framlingham with help to get access to the grant offered by the environmental agency also access to a flood resilience surveyor from SCC circa £500
4. Flooding issues and suggestions for the future there will be a working party PR and TJ to look at levels PR waiting for highways under section 100 have a right to clear drainage ditches PR to share information with residents on the Causeway.
5. Testing water quality of the Deben and tributaries David Findlay heading a water quality program and has been testing water quality before and after outfalls from sewage plants and has found far from acceptable levels of contamination? David made a presentation to the council and asked whether the council would help with water testing kits.
6. Planning Application ALL none
7. Event Advertising in Earl Soham TC asked if the Village Green could be used for advertising events, this has been discussed in the past but as before there is no problem for Earl Soham events **only**
8. Proposed Precept 2024/25 a date to discuss a pre precept budget meeting to be set at 5th December 7.30pm
9. East Suffolk Planning Alliance. TC ESPA meeting with East Suffolk in October to discuss the planning process adopted by ES and are engaging with.
10. Village Hall CC No News
11. PC projects – SID proving frustrating , Telephone Box to be done a clear up around to be organized by GH, Newsletter TC getting ready to be distributed before Christmas, Replacement Finger Post Brandeston Road approved and to be ordered GH
12. Footpath issues and presumed footpaths CC TC asked about Jubilee wood footpath GH to arrange David Sillet to cut as agreed previously
13. Update on Sizewell C. CC no I news
14. Website update. PB getting to grips with
15. audit report and actions the 2023/25 report was scrutinised line by line and where applicable changes in procedures will be implemented

a) Financial Regulations commission work to get 2nd quote if possible

b) Confirm Financial Officer GH Clerk confirmed as RFO unanimously approved

c) Adopt Standing Orders unanimously approved

d) General power of competence

e) Risk Assessment adopted and approved

f) Effectiveness of internal controls changed and adopted approved

g) Income received report Approved and adopted

h) Asset register discussed changes to some valuations adopted approved

i) Approval of Auditor for 24/25 accounts SALC were considered to be the best value and unanimously approved

1. Finance report GH approved
2. Cheques to be signed. GH none
3. Correspondence since last meeting. GH

Next meeting 5th December 2025

Signed Tom Johnson