**EARL SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Thursday 5th September 2024 7.30pm Earl Soham Village Hall**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

In attendance T.Carr (Vice Chair) P.Beckwith, C.Cook, P.Russell, A.Patterson, A.Edwards,

1. Apologies for absence. C.P, D.G, T.J
2. Declaration of interest. None declared
3. a) Approval of minutes from 18th July 2024 - Minutes approved and signed

b) Matters arising from Tuesday 18th July 2024 – Other than on agenda later none

1. Public Comment Comment was made about Road Safety for pedestrians using the footpath between the village green and the Bridge heading towards the pub as the path finishes and crosses the road near a blind spot also footpath not wide enough to take a mobility scooter or wheelchair signage might help traffic needs to be slower. Low Road has a similar problem no footpath at all and 30mph it was commented that Bildeston have had similar problems to Earl Soham in that they have pinch points and narrow footpaths and they have their speed limit reduced to 20mph TC commented that Elaine Bryce was aware of the narrow footpaths and was going to get highways to come out and make an assessment

Mr Hinton commented that if anyone sees any problems on the footpaths on his land to let him know so he can get it dealt with.

**Action Write a letter to Elaine Bryce**

1. Report from Elaine Bryce. Sent to all councillors
2. Report Vince Langdon-Morris sent to all councillors
3. Planning Applications none pending
4. Neighborhood Plan Chris Sharp NP Chair nothing to report at present due to illness’s and holidays NP committee are engaged with the 3rd party co. Of where we are going with proposed sites type of housing (affordable etc). Timescale to finish 8 to 10 months there is no deadline. No more grants available. The Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory document and can be used to support objections and the layout of the village in the future.

**Action T.Carr offered himself onto the NP committee CS accepted**

1. Newsletter TC Last news letter was dropped just before the fete in August increased numbers on Village WhatsApp group next Newsletter Xmas.
2. Ditch Clearance PR has had sight of deeds to some properties and confirmed that there is a boundary line in the middle of the ditch therefore meaning that highways are also responsible for riparian rights PR had a meeting with SCC who needed to return back to find out the legal position but also said that if they were liable the work would only be put on the list of jobs to be done in the future. Other discussion about the school car park they will talk to the LEA. It will be a good idea to have a map of the ditches in the village and who is responsible for their part of the ditch.

**Action precious gardens to commence work 16th September 2024**

Highways are willing to provide us with signage to put out warning of floods during flood times **Action PR to follow this up**

Bowls club have cleared sides of ditch Tennis Club to do this as well

The council voted on funding the ditch between church lane and the Elms bridge the council voted unanimously against funding but would help with machinery sharing

1. Upper Deben Farm Cluster, a group of farmers on the freshwater catchment of the River Deben, engaged in improving water and soil quality, biodiversity improvement and flood reduction.
2. Allotment shed size confirmed last meeting
3. Finger post on Brandeston road to Crettingham falling apart **Action write to highways and get quote**
4. Discuss East Suffolk Planning Alliance. TC nothing to report
5. Village Hall CC Village hall fund raisers coming up please support, new doors being fitted before winter, next campaign to put infra red heating into hall, hall renovation then later plans to build new extension and solar panels
6. PC projects – SID, Telephone, Newsletter, Replacement tree on the Village Green, Water Pump is now ready, Village website PB now has all the access codes to change the look and do updates for all the village clubs etc to join in and be under 1 website

**Action GH to talk to family re tree, AP to check site for pump, PB to update website**

1. Footpath issues and presumed footpaths TC and CC will need to have more work/more contributors unfortunately the council form not very user friendly with lots of data warnings etc ramblers form the same but without warnings although not accepted by council so trying to get council to accept both forms.

TC commented on the access from Low road into Jubilee Wood ask TJ

1. Update on Sizewell C. CC
2. Standing orders TC new councilors to have induction to becoming a councilor with chair and clerk.

**Action all councilors to read standing orders, GH to book training courses for CC, AE, CP**

1. Finance report GH TC asked about procurement planning GH most of our purchases are under the threshold
2. Cheques to be signed. GH for Townlands Trust, Zurich
3. Any other business none
4. Correspondence since last meeting all correspondence sent out as received

Meeting Closed 9.20pm

Next meeting 7th November 2024