

BLYTHBURGH with BULCAMP & HINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22 January 2024 in the Village Hall

- 2023: 83 **Open Forum** None
- 2023: 84 **Attendees**
- From the Council Cllr Lacey (Chair), Cllr Blois,
Cllr Saunders, Cllr Strachan
Cllr Smith (SCC), Cllr Ashton (ESC) A Besly (Clerk)
- 2023: 85 From the Public none
- 2023: 86 **Apologies** Cllrs Orr Ewing, Lyth and Sendin
- 2023: 87 **Declaration of Interest:** Item 101 Cllr Saunders wife is chair of CAES
- 2023: 88 **It was proposed that approval of the Minutes** of the Parish Council meeting on 27 November 2024 be held over until the next meeting. **All Agreed**
- 2023 89 **County Councillors Report:** Richard Smith reported the following:
- Sizewell C: the development consent order has been triggered so development is underway. The investment decision is expected in April or May 2024. Meetings are being set up including the northern park and ride, the southern park and ride, the site forum, and the community forum.
- Budget: scrutiny review is scheduled for 30th of January, full council approval scheduled for 15th of February. The proposal is to increase council tax precepts charge by 4.99%. Reasons include the increase in national minimum wage. This is likely to increase the cost of care home staff by £5.6 million. The local government pay increase of 6.5% will cost a further £2.4 million. Suffolk County Council are required to approve a balanced budget, spending is currently expected to be £752 million. Cost of care represents 77% of this spend up from 75% last year. Some reserves will need to be used in order to balance the budget, but the reserves available will only last three to four years if they're used at the current rate.
- Some notable elements of the budget include: Leiston waste site will not close, CATS transport have avoided cuts, arts grants of £500k will be discontinued, the records office in Bury St Edmunds will close and be consolidated with the Hold in Ipswich.
- 2023 90 **District Councillors Report:** Paul Ashton reported the following:
- East Suffolk council have a similar budget process and have a small gap which will need to be filled from reserves.
- Income is generally pessimistic and only records known certain income.
- The capital investment programme will probably not be entirely achieved.
- The business rates review could reduce income by £3m a year. ESC have four years worth of reserves to cover this.
- Questions:
- Regarding service delivery: SCC have a good online reporting tool but ESC do not have a reporting tool so reports of issues cannot be made effectively, including issues regarding road sweeping because of mud and shingle being washed onto minor roads. Cllr Ashton will investigate the road sweeping issue.
- Sizewell C: it was noted there is no water supply plan yet and ESC are taking an appeal to the Supreme Court. Cllr Ashton is ESC's representative on the northern transport forum. It was also noted that temporary signs have appeared directing Sizewell C traffic. Cllr Smith will raise this issue.
- Trading of second hand cars: only ESC have the power to stop this but by laws within East Suffolk area are different between the old Coastal and Waveney councils.
- It was noted that's ESC still have some Enabling Communities Budget available, also SCC still have some Locality Budget available.
- 2023 91 **Chairman's Report:** Nothing to report
- 2023 92 **Clerk's Report:** Nothing to report beyond the items on the agenda
- 2023 93 **Finance Report:** Circulated, there were no questions

Initials.....
Chair of the meeting

- 2023 94 **Payments schedule approval** - Circulated
It was proposed that the payments schedule be approved. **All Agreed**
- 2023 95 **Proposal to approve the draft budget 2024-25:** published
The draft budget was reviewed and it was proposed that this should be approved. **All Agreed**
- 2023 96 **Proposal to approve the precept for 2024-25 at £8,257** which shows no increase to the parish element of council tax. **All Agreed**
- 2023 97 **Proposal to sign the Deed of Covenant with Sizewell C:** *Circulated* **All Agreed**
- 2023 98 **Proposal to nominate a councillor to the Sizewell C forum**
It was proposed that Cllr Saunders would be the lead representative supported by Cllr Lacey. **All Agreed**
- 2023 99 **Traffic Management Report** including timing of Angel Lane works and temporary signage
Sizewell C maps showing changes in roads were criticised. It was noted that there should be a Legend to explain all the terms and abbreviations, The file names should be relevant to the content and there should be some narrative.
The Clerk will write to Zoe Botton copying Steve Merrey and Richard Smith with these issues.
- 2023 100 **Footpath Update**
Cllr Saunders is having difficulty in contacting either the Footpaths Officer or Heveningham Estate Office. He will continue to pursue the issue of the closed footpath south of the river. Cllr Lacey will find a contact number.
- 2023 101 **Review of possible donations.**
It was proposed that the following donations be made: £120 each to: East Anglian Air Ambulance, Citizens Advice East Suffolk and Community First Responders. **All Agreed**
- 2023 102 **Proposal to raise the issue of planning consent** for railway works with East Suffolk Council planning department.
Cllr Saunders describes the Railway Society works that has no planning permission. This is in a conservation area and legally requires planning consent. The Clerk will write to Ben Woolnough at ESC. **All Agreed**
- 2023 103 **D-Day 80, 6 June 2024:** Does Blythburgh PC want to mark this event?
This was considered to be a good idea. It was suggested it would be good to have a cause to raise funds for and that the Church should be asked if they would like to support such an event.
- 2023 104 **Consider safety issues of parking around the Church**
There was some discussion over the issue of parking on Angel Green. It was suggested that signage could be improved. Cllr Lacey will speak to the Church committee regarding parking. It was noted that the Church had plenty of parking so there should be no need for street parking.
- 2023 105 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 25 March 2024

The Clerk was also requested to:
Invite the Police & Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, to the next meeting
Circulate an example of a 3-5 year plan.

Meeting Closed 21:30

These minutes are confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings of the meeting Monday 22 January 2024

Signed (Chair) _____ Dated _____

Initials.....
Chair of the meeting