

**GLEMSFORD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 9TH NOVEMBER 2010**

Present	Adrian Southgate	Rex Thake
	Newman Ford	Lucy Knox
	Colin Parmenter	Lynn Bloomfield
	Len Young	Robbie Benson
	Michael Brown	Tiffany Carr

In attendance Sara Turner
Richard Kemp

042 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2010, having previously been circulated, were adopted and signed.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Bloomfield **SECONDED:** Cllr. Benson

The Chairman apologised for a comment made about the proposed Social Club merger at the last meeting and explained that it was not a factual comment, but hearsay.

043 Public Question Time

Harriet North asked if the Parish Council had precepted any money for next years Glemfest. The Clerk explained that £500 had been earmarked but that this would be discussed later in the meeting and approved.

Harriet North asked about the litter pickers and if they had been purchased. The Clerk would contact Babergh over the next few days to arrange.

Carole Fletcher presented the Parish Council with a third place certificate from the Village of the Year awards. This would be displayed in the Village Hall.

044 District Councillors Report

Cllr. Young had attended the Suffolk Flood Management Scrutiny Committee meeting and had reported the flooding problem at Brook Street/Chequers Lane. Jane Birch has asked the Council to send any paperwork they have on the problem, so the Clerk would arrange this.

045 Suffolk County Councillor's Report

November's cabinet meeting has a significantly reduced agenda compared to many meetings in the past. This agenda has three items.

1. Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline management plan - which looks at the stretch of coast between Two Tree Island in Essex up to Felixstowe Landgaurd in Suffolk. The plan is delivered in partnership with local authorities, Natural England, English Heritage, the Environment Agency, stakeholders and members of the public. The paper informs on decisions on Spatial Planning and other aspects of coastal development and management. It also provides a plan for the future in specifying the best way to manage the coastal flood and erosion risk over the next 100 years.

http://apps2.suffolk.gov.uk/cgi-bin/committee_xml.cgi?p=doc&id=1_14856&format=doc

2. Development of a New Integrated Youth Support Service - This paper looks to consult on the possible divestment of open access youth clubs, and to approve the establishment of a 'Divestment Fund' to enable communities to take over the running of existing SCC provision or start up a new type of provision. The Youth and Connexions service will no longer exist in their current form. The new service will have fewer features, but have more investment in targeted support for vulnerable people, the age range will also expand covering a significantly younger age range, 11-19.

http://apps2.suffolk.gov.uk/cgi-bin/committee_xml.cgi?p=doc&id=1_14859&format=doc

3. Implementing the New Strategic Direction: Natural Environment Policy – The Cabinet is being asked to agree S.C.C's future role to enable, promote and improve effective management of Suffolk's natural environment, and to support a bid for the County to be a pioneer authority in delivering the Government's Total Environment agenda. The report describes how within the New Strategic Direction it is possible for the County Council to contribute to delivering the Government's green agenda.

http://apps2.suffolk.gov.uk/cgi-bin/committee_xml.cgi?p=doc&id=1_14860&format=doc

The spending review released at the end of October contained a number of details about the impacts of spending on Local Government. It is not the full picture of the level of budget reductions that will help Council's plan for the future but it provides a good indication. The full picture will be released in December when further information about specific grants is released.

The current information that was released states that Local Government can expect a 25.6% reduction in funding over the next four years. This would equate to roughly £6.68bn for local government over that time period.

It is worth noting that the Government also changed how Local Government is funded by removing the ring fencing on all but two grants. This means that each council can effectively decide with greater ease what its priorities are, and what it believes it should spend the funding on.

The Government also stated that those councils who freeze their council tax for the years in the Spending Review will have the resultant loss to their tax base funded at a rate of 2.5%.

I will provide more information about the Spending Review when the information is released that will directly affect Suffolk.

S.C.C. has released a consultation on the New Strategic Direction proposals that were launched on 23rd September.

The Council has now launched an online survey for members of the public to respond to, on the Suffolk County Council website.

You will also find at this link a copy of the papers that went to both Cabinet and full council as well as a collection of the press releases from the Council at this time.

The responses from this consultation will be used to provide a report for the Full Council meeting on 2nd December.

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/AboutSCC/NewStrategicDirection.htm>

At the October Cabinet meeting the Cabinet agreed to hold a consultation on the Future of Care homes in the county. As part of the New Strategic Direction, the Administration is looking to divest the services that the Council provides. This is due to the cost of running care homes and ensuring that the care homes are of the highest quality for residents.

The report outlines three options which will go to consultation on the future of the care homes that it provides.

The three options are;

1. Close the homes and commission alternative services from the independent sector

The council would close all of the homes and sell the sites, and re-commission the required places from the independent sector, as they state that places bought in independent homes are cheaper compared to the cost of providing in house.

2. Sell all of the homes as going concerns

The council would sell the homes as going concerns to one or more new providers who would take over the care of residents, the employment of the staff and the maintenance of the buildings. Residents could continue to live in the homes and the staff would transfer to the new provider or providers.

3. Close a number of homes and transfer the remaining homes to the independent sector.

This option would involve the closure of a number of homes and transfer of the remaining homes with an agreement to develop new services and facilities to replace the existing homes, which could include new residential homes or very sheltered housing.

Within the papers there is a list of six houses that might be considered for early closure, but this would be consulted before any action would be taken.

1. Lehmann House in Wickham Market
2. Ixworth Court in Ixworth
3. The Dell in Beccles
4. Wade House in Stowmarket
5. Davers Court in Bury St. Edmunds
6. Paddock House in Eye

The Cabinet plans to consult on these three options, the process as specified in the Cabinet papers is;

- Initial 12 week consultation to seek stakeholders' views commencing 1st November 2010.
- Consultation Ending 24th January 2011
- Financial modeling of options and assessment of consultation outcomes during February 2011.
- Report to the Cabinet on plan for divestment of the homes in March 2011.

The County is asking for views, and you can respond to the consultation, and read the report that went to Cabinet at this address;

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/Consultations/carehomesconsultation2010.htm>

046 Clerk's Report

There had been a complaint about youths congregating around the Village Hall which the Clerk had forwarded to police.

An email had been received from Paul Little regarding DPPO's. Council asked for clarification of how much of a financial contribution would be expected before any decisions could be made.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Church Service for Remembrance Sunday would be held this Sunday at St Mary's Church at 10am. The Clerk would be laying the wreath and hoped that as many councillors as possible would attend.

A letter had been received from the Hospital of the Holy and Blessed Trinity in Long Melford, informing Council that there was a flat/bedsit available on a free basis to any elderly resident living in the vicinity.

The meeting dates for 2011-2012 were approved.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Parmenter

SECONDED: Cllr. Carr

047 Financial Matters

Account Status

Income	1074.00
Expenditure	5384.73
Cash in hand	36718.30
High Interest	10395.35
Sports Club	1973.84

Accounts to be paid

J.I. Turner	23.50
Mr. A. Gardiner	120.00
Jocks Locks	76.37
Bunzl	41.29
British Legion	19.00

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Inland Revenue	506.24
Deltaprint	679.15

Any other financial matters

It was ascertained that there was no money owing on the flooring at the old office premises although the Clerk would check to see what financial contribution was made.

The precept for 2011-2012 was approved and would be sent to Babergh.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Ford

SECONDED: Cllr. Brown

48 **Planning Matters**

New Applications

Glemsford Primary School – Conversion of agricultural land to a school playing field.

Agreed to recommend this application for approval.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Carr

SECONDED: Cllr. Bloomfield

B/10/01343/FHA 5 Holdsworth Close

Erection of double garage attached to existing garage block.

Agreed to recommend this application for approval.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Ford

SECONDED: Cllr. Carr

Applications Granted

B/10/00932/VOT/CJT Garage adjacent to Station House, Lower Road

Change of use of existing garage/workshop to Class B1 (business use).

B/10/01128/FHA/ETR Hillview, Drapery Common

Erection of two-storey rear extension.

Any other planning matters

B/10/00900/FUL 51 Schoolfield

Erection of single-storey dwelling and construction of new vehicular access.

This Application had gone to Appeal.

49 **Village Hall and Social Club**

Cllr. Parmenter proposed that the Village Hall and Social Club be discussed once more. As the standing orders state that this could only be done by a two thirds majority, a vote was taken.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Parmenter

SECONDED: Cllr. Young

Those councillors in favour: Thake, Benson, Young, Parmenter.

Those councillors against: Brown, Southgate, Ford, Carr, Bloomfield and Knox.

This resulted in the decision that the matter was now closed and would not be discussed further.

50 Any other matters

Allsorts Playgroup now wanted to use the Hall again as they could not use the school for much longer. The Clerk explained that the Hall now had two morning bookings, for a pilate class and a Rosemary Conley exercise class, which only left it vacant for three mornings per week.

Cllr. Carr reported that she had helped to deliver Glemsford Voice and had been quite concerned at the negative comments made about the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Ann Hamlin about putting something in Contact Magazine.

The Clerk would organise a Christmas tree for the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting finished at 8.50pm

Next meeting 14th December 2010

Approved

Dated