

**28**  
**GLEMSFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON**  
**12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2010**

<b>Present</b>	Rex Thake	Lucy Knox
	Colin Parmenter	Lynn Bloomfield
	Len Young	Robbie Benson
	Michael Brown	Tiffany Carr
	Adrian Southgate	

**In attendance** Sara Turner

**Apologies** Richard Kemp  
Newman Ford

**031** **Co-option of New Councillor**

Adrian Southgate was co-opted onto the Council and the declaration duly signed.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Benson

**SECONDED:** Cllr. Parmenter

**032** **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2010, having previously been circulated, were adopted and signed.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Thake

**SECONDED:** Cllr. Bloomfield

**033** **Public Question Time**

Mr. McLellan from Hillview, Drapery Common wished to put his views forward for the proposed planning application. He felt that the proposal was a reasonable addition to the house and would not affect anyone in the vicinity. He had spoken to his immediate neighbours who had no objections to it.

Owen Hender – asked if the basketball courts could be re-marked and if it was possible to set up a basketball team and get skate park cleared up. Cllr. Benson said he was willing to extend the sports club on a Thursday evening for a couple of weeks when the hall was free to help with the team.

The chairman suggested that the boys could tidy up the skateboard park themselves and the Clerk would contact Babergh to ascertain if the court could be marked out and if they could set up a team.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Carr

**SECONDED:** Cllr. Brown

**034** **District Councillors Report**

Cllr. Thake reported that he was not now in favour of the link with Mid Suffolk. He was concerned about redundancies, and felt that it would not be a cost effective exercise. He explained that at the last council meeting after lunch there were only 27 members left to vote on a crucial decision out of 43, and two of these left before the vote. The Strategy Committee had proposed to keep it in-house which would involve more expense and cost £30,000 just to advertise that position.

Five recorded a vote against it and the vote could have resulted in a legal issue which the rest were not prepared to tackle. Cllr. Thake advised the meeting that there is an attendance register and would advise everyone who votes to look at that before the election, as it gives a clear understanding of which members are present for crucial votes and who is abstaining etc.

Cllr. Young stated that he supported Cllr. Thake in his opinion.

### **035 Suffolk County Councillor's Report**

At last weeks County Council meeting, the New Strategic Direction was adopted as Council policy. The plan is to look to the market and communities to provide a number of services that are currently provided by the Council. This they believe will significantly reduce the predicted (30%) funding gap expected to hit the County Council over the coming years.

The decision on 23rd September means that the County Council will now go further forward in looking for pilot schemes and drawing up plans to implement this policy, which will officially begin in April 2011. There will be a further item on December the 2nd highlighting the level of public engagement; however this must be a full and wide ranging consultation with organisations and groups across Suffolk. It is essential that the Council realises the level of risk associated with the plans.

Within the paper itself, (a link can be found below), there is a list of suggestions for the first services that could be outsourced, each of the services would be analysed to fit into a specific group; for example libraries as community initiatives, or transport planning/bus services being countywide outcome based contracts.

The next stage of the process will be for the Council to engage with the public to gather their viewpoint on the New Strategic Direction. The finding of this will be reported in the December Full Council meeting.

The papers are available at this link:

[http://apps2.suffolk.gov.uk/cgi-bin/committee\\_xml.cgi?p=detail&id=1\\_14720](http://apps2.suffolk.gov.uk/cgi-bin/committee_xml.cgi?p=detail&id=1_14720)  
(agenda Item No.7)

Also at the last Full Council meeting, the Liberal Democrats Environment Spokesperson Called-in the decision regarding the Incinerator at Great Blakenham.

The decision was originally made by the Conservative Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> September. The justification behind the decision was felt by the Lib Dems to be insufficient, so the Group asked the Council to look yet again at the Incinerator proposed for Great Blakenham.

The Liberal Democrats oppose Incineration due to the way in which it burns valuable resources, and creates carbon emissions. In addition to this Cllr Field did not feel that adequate information had been provided on the justification for incineration over other newer forms of technology that would be more environmentally friendly.

The Conservatives continued their support of the Incinerator, and therefore Lib Dem calls to look at the decision again were ignored.

The next stage of the process will be the submission of planning permission from Sita UK in December.

The papers relating to the debate can be found here -  
[http://apps2.suffolk.gov.uk/cgi-bin/committee\\_xml.cgi?p=detail&id=1\\_14720](http://apps2.suffolk.gov.uk/cgi-bin/committee_xml.cgi?p=detail&id=1_14720)  
(Transformation of Suffolk's Waste Disposal System – Call-in)

The Annual Public Health report, compiled by NHS Suffolk and Suffolk County Council gives an insight to communities across the county, including examples of projects which support communities to improve their health.

The report can be found here, and will be an item on the Cabinet agenda of the 12th of October.  
<http://www.suffolk.nhs.uk/Home/Publications/AnnualReport2010/tabid/2851/Default.aspx>

As usual members of the public are able to put questions to the administration at Cabinet, with the next opportunity being the 12<sup>th</sup> of October.

The deadline for questions is four working days prior to the meeting. More information on this can be found here;  
<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/CommitteesAgendasReportsandMinutes/PublicQuestionTimeatMeetingsoftheCountyCouncilandCabinet.htm>

The items that will be on the agenda for this meeting, that may be of interest include;

- Concessionary Travel
- Developing the Suffolk Approach for Older People's Accommodation Needs; Option for the Council's residential homes for older people.
- Change of Pattern of admissions
- Ipswich Park and Ride Scheme
- Street Lighting – Policy proposals on Part night lighting and dimming
- Response to the coalition Government's consultation papers associated with the 'equity and excellence: liberating the NHS' white paper.

For more information, and for the plan for the Cabinet meetings in November, please head to <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E366F093-0F75-4D1E-A473-AD28C7308A86/0/October2010toJanuary2011.pdf>

### **036 Clerks Report**

The Clerk had received a telephone call from Annette Grey from Suffolk Acre regarding the parish plan. She had received no communication from Patrick Currie and was concerned that the grant that had been allocated for the Parish plan had not been utilised. Therefore Suffolk Acre would be looking to reclaim this. Cllr. Carr informed the meeting that Patrick had held a meeting that evening at the Social Club to discuss the surveys, but no other Parish Council member had been informed. The Clerk would contact Patrick and ask why it had not been better publicised.

The Clerk had conversed with Suffolk County Council about the Locality budget funding for the FA courses and had been told that the money would not be released until the courses are booked. As both coaches at the club run football teams in the village, they can not commit until the end of the season and at present the FA site only offer courses up to March 2011. The Clerk would try again in a couple of months to see if there were any further dates available.

Geoff Price had asked when the curtains would be put up in the Village Hall. Cllr. Knox and the Clerk would meet and measure up and would then purchase runners and material, and the Chairman would make the curtains.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Carr                      **SECONDED:** Cllr. Bloomfield

There would be a Football Halloween party at the social club on 29<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets were priced at £5 and the Clerk could arrange for these if councillors were interested.

### 037 Financial Matters

#### **Account Status**

Income	35,822.00
Expenditure	4,118.45
Cash in hand	41,029.03
High Interest	10,395.35
Sports Club	1,968.84

#### **Payments made out of Council**

Coco UK	205.00
BDO (Audit)	511.13

#### **Accounts to be paid**

J.I. Turner	11.75
Inland Revenue	627.80

#### **Any other financial matters**

The accounts from 2010-2011 had been received back from the auditors and these were signed off.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Bloomfield                      **SECONDED:** Cllr. Parmenter

**038 Planning Matters****New Applications****B/10/01101/FHA 28 The Pippins**

Installation of roof dormer in side elevation, new window in rear elevation, 2 no. rooflights all in connection with conversion of roofspace into additional residential accommodation.

Agreed to recommend this application for approval.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Parmenter

**SECONDED:** Cllr. Benson

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

Erection of two-storey rear extension.

Agreed to recommend this application for approval.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Benson

**SECONDED:** Cllr. Parmenter

**B/10/01140/FHA 60 Kings Road**

Erection of two-storey rear extension.

Agreed to recommend this application for approval.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Bloomfield

**SECONDED:** Cllr. Brown

**Applications Granted****B/10/00903/LBC Oxdown Barn, Duffs Hill**

Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of single-storey extension and works in connection of existing outbuilding to form annexe.

**B/10/00962/FHA/ETR Five Gables, Plum Street**

External alterations to roof, to create additional living space, two-storey front and side extensions.

**039 Correspondence**

Councillors were advised that a letter had been received regarding the Babergh Development Framework. A workshop would be held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at Acton Village Hall and the Clerk urged councillors to inform her if they wished to attend.

A letter had been received about the Annual PC meetings held by Babergh. Cllrs. Bloomfield and Carr would attend.

**040 Village Hall and Social Club**

Cllr. Knox stated some factors which she was concerned about regarding the proposed merger.

- The Parish Council had no funding available at present and if the Social Club were to encounter financial difficulties, then there was no guarantee that the Parish Council could help.
- As the Social Club had admitted they were currently running at a loss, the change of location would quite possibly make no difference.

- There had been nothing put in writing by the developer to say that he would pay rent etc, in case of financial difficulties by the Social Club, this had only been received verbally.
- The Business Plan provided by the Social Club was not sufficient.
- The Charity Commission were unable to locate the deed.
- Concerns were raised over who would maintain responsibility for the party wall.

Cllr. Parmenter stated that the Social Club are going to build showers and changing rooms, and disputed the comment that things had not been received from the developer in writing. Cllr. Parmenter also disputed the fact that the Parish Council's solicitor had said that the project was inadvisable. Cllr. Knox again explained her concerns that if there was a big structural repair, then this may not be able to be repaired as there would be no money available.

Cllr. Benson said that he was in agreement with the proposal and felt that if the Social Club went bankrupt at any time then the village would gain a bigger Village Hall.

Cllr. Thake has concerns about the guarantee from The Briars, and was worried that if the developer encountered financial difficulties then the project could be halfway built, and it had already been explained that the Parish Council had no money, and the fact that rent would have to be paid by the Social Club could again cause problems. Cllr. Thake stated that as the Parish Council were dealing with public money then there was no way he could support the proposal.

Cllr. Knox stated that she felt that the whole village should benefit and not just the football teams from the project.

Cllr. Parmenter admitted that the Social Club were encountering some difficulties financially. Cllr. Thakes asked if they were losing money and Cllr. Parmenter admitted this but said he felt this would change if they moved to a smaller building as this would lead to a decrease in rates, heating bills etc. Cllr. Thake said that this could not be guaranteed and as he looks upon himself as a custodian of village money, although he had now seen all the evidence, did not feel the proposal was viable. The Parish Council would not be able to afford it if anything goes wrong and the new coalition could lead to a position where the rates cannot be increased.

Cllr. Carr thought that the proposal was potentially fantastic for the village and would provide extra facilities but if there were financial problems, there had been no official report or plan, nothing in her mind seemed official, and the Parish Council would be left with double amount of running costs if things went wrong. The developer had also stated that he would only spend money while the Social Club was viable.

Cllr. Brown had concerns about the fact that the Social Club was already losing money and wondered how they would suddenly turn this around by moving. He also felt that if the Parish Council's solicitors had advised against it then this advice should be adhered to and as there was no written clarification from the developer then the Parish Council should take this into consideration.

Cllr. Benson asked Cllr. Parmenter if he felt that a reduction in running costs will allow the Social Club to make a profit with the sales at moment. Cllr. Parmenter stated that it would not stop them losing money but that the move could lead to potential new customers and that the Social Club will have £60,000 in the bank. This being the case he thought it was worth the risk.

Cllr. Young felt that the Village Hall needed an urgent update and needed to be livened up as the new clubs in the village are going elsewhere. He felt that if the Social Club proposal was not going to be accepted then Parish Council needed to think about what they wanted to do with the current hall.

Cllr. Southgate had concerns about the new road being put in around the Village Hall, and the fact that children would have to cross this to gain access.

Cllr. Thake asked if the FA were happy with the changing rooms being in the Village Hall. Cllr. Benson said that the FA might not be happy with the proposal but the leagues had no problem.

A vote was taken with those councillors in favour of the merger.

Cllrs. Parmenter, Young and Benson voted in favour.

A vote was taken with those councillors against the merger.

Cllrs. Brown, Southgate, Thake and Knox voted against the merger.

Cllrs. Carr and Lynn abstained from voting.

**041 Any other matters**

The Clerk would email all Parish Council members for dates when they were free for the pre-Christmas get together. It was intended to go to the Hartest Crown again.

Cllr. Carr asked about the provision of a crossing outside the school. The Clerk would write to Richard Kemp.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm

**Next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**Approved .....**

**Date .....**