



Great Bricett Annual Parish Meeting

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall, Great Bricett, at 7pm on Thursday, 16th May 2019

PRESENT:

Cllr S Burnett – *Chairman*

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs J Blackburn – *Clerk*, five members of the Public including Parish Councillors and invited representatives.

GB01/19/20 - CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman of Great Bricett, Cllr Sue Burnett, welcomed those present.

GB02/19/20 - APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Payne, Suffolk Police and Oliver Cooper.

GM03/19/20 - MINUTES 24th MAY 2018

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting, held on 24th May 2018, were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

GB04/19/20 - REPORTS RELATING TO THE PARISH

Representatives of the following organisations were invited to speak and, where received, their reports are attached to the Minutes.

- a) **Great Bricett Parish Council** – *Cllr Sue Burnett*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Burnett read through her report.

- b) **Suffolk County Council** – *Cllr Kay Oakes*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

County Cllr Oakes briefly went through her report.

- c) **Mid-Suffolk District Council** – *Cllr Daniel Pratt*

Cllr Pratt introduced himself and reported to all present that he was looking forward to working with the parish in the future.

- d) **Suffolk Police**

Suffolk Police were not present at the meeting and a report had not been submitted.

- e) **Village Hall Management Committee** – *Marina Ford*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Ford read through her report.

- f) **Parochial Church Council – Arland Shawe-Taylor**
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mr Shawe-Taylor read through his report.

- g) **Neighbourhood Watch – Arland Shawe-Taylor**
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mr Shawe-Taylor read through his report.

- h) **Tree Warden – Cllr David Payne**
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Payne was not present at the meeting and his report was circulated prior to the meeting.

- i) **Ringshall Primary School – Rachel Forward**

Rachel Forward was not present at the meeting and a report had not been submitted.

- j) **Community Speed Watch – Cllr Sue Burnett**
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Burnett read through her report.

- k) **Wattisham Airfield – Robbie Silk**

Mr Silk was not present at the meeting and a report had not been submitted.

- l) **‘Progress of History of Great Bricett’ – Oliver Cooper**
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Oliver Cooper was not present at the meeting but his report was circulated prior to the meeting.

GB05/19/20 - PUBLIC FORUM

No issues were raised.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Chairman Date

May 16th 2019

Chairman's Report - Great Bricett Parish Council

We currently have 6 Councillors and are hoping to recruit another this year!!

The Budget for 2018 and 2019 has been set at a level to meet current expenditure and it should be noted that the spend for 2017-18 came in under budget. The precept has been increased overall by only £250 after being frozen some four years. The proposed use of any savings is now allocated to specific earmarked funds, one of which recommended is reserves of at least 50-150% of the precept received.

The Village Hall and Green

The ceiling in the Village Hall has been lowered and the lighting is much improved. However new problems have now arisen as the floor is in need of attention owing to the ingress of damp, it looks as though there may be a considerable outlay to get this problem resolved.

The Green has taken a bit of a bashing owing to work being carried out on a house nearby, we have an agreement in place that this will be restored once the work is completed.

At the beginning of the year the Village Sign was returned after a total refurbishment and we are very pleased with the result, we have to thank Oliver Cooper for his assistance in lifting the sign back in to position.

Two Defibrillators have now been installed in the village – one on the village hall and one on Base Garage – thanks to them for allowing us to installed one there.

Plans are afoot to have the iconic red Telephone Box removed and refurbished to its former glory and we hope to install an information map of the village history for visitors (and locals!!) to enjoy.

The Parish Council is pleased to have been involved along with Wendy Hamilton of the Post Office and Lt Col (Rtd) Robbie Silk, Wattisham Station Staff Officer in having a mobile Post Office van made available on the car park of the old shop. This service is available 2 afternoons a week.

The mobile phone mast has been installed in the village, and we are very grateful to Robbie Silk and especially Sgt Roberts who constructed the new bus shelter with his team, we also now have a noticeboard in the bus shelter which will be much tidier.

An outline planning application has been passed for the land behind Riverside Cottage and the Brambles, the Parish Council and local residents protested about this but to no avail.

Thanks also go to Dawn who continues her regular litter pick, throughout the village.

Sue Burnett

Chair – Great Bricett Parish Council. 2019



Suffolk County Council Conservative Group

2018/19 News Highlights

Here is a selection of news items from Suffolk County Council that featured over the last 12 months. For further details on any of these stories, and more, visit <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/>.

Councillor Matthew Hicks takes the helm at Suffolk County Council

On 24 May 2018, Councillor Mathew Hicks was elected as the new leader of Suffolk County Council. Councillor Hicks has promised a new era of working in partnership and listening.

In a speech following his election, he pledged to work with district and borough councils, other public sector partners, businesses and residents to find the best ways of delivering services to the people that need them most.

Councillor Hicks also confirmed Suffolk County Council's focus on major infrastructure projects. He stressed the need for a co-ordinated and strategic approach to bring these into the 30 plus year vision, so there is clarity on how major infrastructure projects can be delivered when funding is so tight.

Plan for £6million upgrades to Suffolk recycling centres

On 24 July 2018, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet approved a plan to invest £6million into upgrading Suffolk's recycling centres.

The plan has earmarked £3m for the Foxhall Recycling Centre – Suffolk's busiest with 20% of all recycling waste in the county – and £1m for Haverhill for "urgent improvements". The plans will see improvements to traffic access at Foxhall and measures to prevent people from having to climb steps to dispose of their waste in the containers. Existing planning permission for work expires in March 2021.

Currently at Haverhill the site has to be closed when containers are emptied because of space. The funding aims to double the size of the site and prevent such closures.

Elsewhere, £1m has been earmarked for a site to replace the Portman's Walk Recycling Centre in Ipswich town centre, and a further million for the same in Stowmarket.

The existing Ipswich and Stowmarket sites are considered to be severely constrained for space, with no expansion opportunities available and the surrounding roads not offering a safe area to queue onto the facility.

Construction for improvements is expected to get underway in 2019/20.

Superfast broadband coverage continues to grow

On 24 August 2018, it was confirmed that 98% superfast broadband coverage will be achieved in 2020.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, Jo Churchill, MP for Bury St Edmunds and Clive Selley, CEO of Openreach, were joined by representatives from West Suffolk Council, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, Church of England, Country Land and Business Association (CLA), National Farmers Union (NFU) and the Better Broadband for Suffolk Team to confirm plans to reach 98% coverage in 2020.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure, said:

“We have now confirmed that we will achieve 98% superfast broadband coverage by the end of 2020, which highlights our commitment to connecting Suffolk. We have already seen an increase in delivery, with 137 new structures built last quarter. This equates to approximately 3,000 additional premises receiving a new superfast broadband connection.

“With this agreement in place, Openreach will continue to ensure that we meet our ambitious goal. In the meantime, we will continue to look for further funding opportunities to work on delivery to the final 2%.”

The Hold construction is underway

By November 2018, the construction of The Hold building was well underway. The Hold will deliver a new home for the majority of Suffolk’s unique archival collections, as well as state-of-the-art public facilities including seminar rooms and a 200-seat auditorium.

The new building, which will be situated near the junction of Fore Street and Grimwade Street in Ipswich, will be part of the University of Suffolk campus and will be run by the county and the university together.

Work began on the construction of The Hold building in August 2018, with the demolition of a derelict building at the northern end of the site. The construction will focus on the strongrooms first, where the archives will be kept. The building will formally open to the public in Spring 2020. Once finished, more than 100 direct and indirect full-time jobs will be created as well as training and apprenticeships.

Suffolk’s roads warming to £300,000 thermal patching technology

January 2019 saw Suffolk Highways celebrating road repair success following a £300,000 investment in Nu-phalt Thermal Patching technology.

The investment, which has been funded from the extra £9.67 million received from central government in the autumn, has aided the county’s Highways teams to carry out more effective, longer-lasting repairs to Suffolk’s road surface.

Over the month of January, Suffolk Highways deployed three thermal road repair machines which repaired approximately 1,700 potholes county-wide.

The process includes an eight-minute heating cycle of the road surrounding the defect allowing for the existing road surface to be heated to 200 Celsius. The surface is then raked, topped up with bitumen binder and pre-heated material, then compacted. This all takes place within the service’s much-favoured 15-minute temporary closure.

The process does not require excavation of the highway, meaning no dust or noise, and better still, no waste material. The result also means there are no surface joints, which can be prone to faster deterioration.

Following its success, Suffolk Highways is now looking to accommodate this technology by adapting some of its own fleet to self-deliver this repair technique from March 2019.

Department for Education recognises outstanding performance by Suffolk students

On 24 January 2019, the Department for Education published revised GCSE and A Level results.

GCSE

Suffolk has risen in national league tables for students in the county achieving the standard GCSE pass in English and Maths.

Department for Education figures confirm that 1% more students in Suffolk are achieving the expected standards in English and Maths at GCSE compared with last year.

Since 2015 there has been a change to the way that English and Maths GCSEs are graded. Results are now graded from 9 to 1, (previously A to G) with 9 being the highest and 1 being the lowest.

The expected standard for pupils to achieve is now a grade 4 (a standard pass) and above (previously a C grade and above), with grade 5 considered a 'strong pass'. These changes will be phased in to cover all subjects by 2020.

64% of students in Suffolk are now achieving the expected standard in English and Maths, putting Suffolk in the top half of authorities achieving this standard.

GCSE progress remains above average and Suffolk students have seen a steep increase this year with a Progress 8 score of +0.08, compared with -0.02 nationally. This figure puts Suffolk in the number 1 position in our statistical neighbour group.

Progress 8 measures how well pupils of all abilities have progressed by comparing them with students who achieved similar levels in Key Stage 2 across the country. Suffolk is in the top half of authorities for this figure, ranked 42nd out of 151.

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils in the county achieving the standard pass in English and Maths is in line with national figures. The Progress 8 figure for disadvantaged pupils is also above the national level and is in the top half of authorities, ranked 42nd out of 151 (up from 67th in 2016).

A Level

The validated A Level figures confirm that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the number of A* - E grades remaining above the national average figures.

The figures show that 98.1% of A Levels taken in the county have been awarded an A*-E grade, compared to 97.6% nationally. A Level attainment is measured by the Department for Education using a points system. Points are given based on the type of A Level and the grade achieved. For example, an A Level at grade A is worth 50 points, whereas an AS Level would be worth half of this.

Suffolk's A Level average points per entry this year has risen by 0.3 to 30.3 compared with this time last year.

Green light to develop more specialist education placements in Suffolk

On 29 January 2019, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet agreed recommendations to move forward with creating more specialist education places in Suffolk.

Suffolk will need between 300 to 400 places for children with additional needs between now and 2020, and this figure is likely to continue to increase. The demand for specialist education places in Suffolk is rising rapidly due to the county's population growth, advances in medicine, and the increasing complexity of specialist needs.

The recommendations include three new special schools and 36 specialist units attached to existing mainstream schools, which combined will create over 800 new specialist education places in the county. The Cabinet also agreed that a clarified education pathway for specialist provision is created to assist families in understanding what the local offer is.

Following the approval of the recommendations, the proposal to borrow up to £45.1 million to fund the new places will now go to the county council's Capital Strategy Group to be reviewed. If agreed, the decision will go back to Cabinet in the spring for final sign-off so the recommendations can be rolled out.

Suffolk wins £4.4 million for "smart" street lighting

A highlight of January was the announcement that Suffolk has won a grant of £4.4 million from the Government for a pioneering project to develop "smart" street lighting. The project will see streetlights adapted in a range of innovative ways, including being equipped with wind vanes and solar panels to generate rather than consume energy. Highways' electricity bill is currently £2.3 million a year and set to rise, so anything that reduces the bill is very welcome.

The street lights will be equipped with sensors to undertake a range of tasks such as measuring traffic speed and volume; measuring road temperatures – so gritting runs can be better targeted; and indicating whether nearby grit bins need filling or gullies need emptying. The street lights can also be adapted to act as Wi-Fi and 5G transmitters.

Plug In Suffolk – the UK’s First ‘Fully Open’ Electric Vehicle Charging Network

On 6 February, EO Charging, one of the UK’s leading electric vehicle (EV) charging manufacturers, launched ‘Plug In Suffolk’ in partnership with Suffolk County Council and renewable energy provider Bulb.

This is the country’s first ‘fully open’ public fast charging network for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, meaning EV drivers simply pay by contactless payment with no need to register with networks or become members of organisations.

The first ‘Plug in Suffolk’ charging location was unveiled at Urban Jungle Plant Nursery and Cafe in Beccles. The company offer two 7kW EO chargers alongside the EO Pay kiosk, allowing members of the public and employees to charge their electric vehicles.

‘Plug In Suffolk’ will see the installation of electric vehicle charging stations (up to 400 individual sockets) across the county at 100 key locations and business addresses. Once completed the charging network will be available for all plug-in vehicle drivers with each charging location listed on www.pluginsuffolk.org or searchable via Zap Map and Google Maps.

The ‘Plug In Suffolk’ charging network forms part of Suffolk County Council’s ambition of Creating the Greenest County in the UK.

Suffolk successful in winning £1.725 million in extra funding for business broadband roll out

On 1 March 2019, it was announced that Suffolk County Council, working in partnership with West Suffolk Council, East Suffolk Council of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, and Babergh and Mid Suffolk district councils has been successful in securing £1.725 million from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs.

The funding will contribute to providing Superfast Broadband access to many businesses, across Suffolk’s most rural areas, who are not in plans to receive Superfast Broadband as part of the current fibre broadband rollout.

The funding will cover connection to over 550 businesses across the county where current internet speeds are limited to lower speed connection methods. On top of the business connections, this funding will also reach a further 600 non-business-related premises who will be able to upgrade to superfast speeds.

Suffolk has been at the forefront of fibre broadband rollout, via its Better Broadband for Suffolk Program, since 2010 and currently the county enjoys a superfast broadband coverage of 93%, with the current contract due to reach 98% by 2020. This additional funding will contribute towards meeting some of the remaining 2% of the county that is not covered by the existing contracts.

Work on connecting these new areas will begin later in 2019.

Village Hall Management Committee Report 2018/19

The Great Bricett Village Hall Management Committee are a group of volunteers the dedicate their time to keep the village hall a valuable amenity for the community. To do this we need to raise money by hosting varying events throughout the year to be able to pay the bills.

The Village Hall accounts are looking good and as the average annual cost to run the Village Hall is circa £800, there is money to assist in the essential works.

Village Hall Essentials:

The Village Hall floor unfortunately will need some urgent repairs as there is wet rot, dry rot and infestations; these are currently being quoted and together with Parish and a hopeful donation from District we may be able to get this done sooner than later.

Some building works is required to re-open the air vents that have been blocked in the past.

It was the aim to get Garden improvements underway, but priority has moved to the floor.

Village Hall Improvements

As can be seen the Village Hall has had some improvements over the last year or so. New ceiling with dimmable lighting, re-decorated and new curtains make the hall a much more adaptable for a variety of needs.

The Monthly Coffee Morning has been a great success in bringing the community together for chat with friends and neighbours, this has helped massively with the income. The time for this has changed to the second Saturday of the Month, as well as a time change which is now 1030 -1230. We do not hold this in January, August or December. Octobers Coffee Morning we host in aid of Macmillian and the November one we have a the Christmas Craft Fair.

Weekly Craft Club – This has been a very good source of income since last May, and people from all over the village regularly attend.

Futures events planned:

Tabletop Sale with BBQ 22nd June

Murder Mystery Night

Race Night

Quiz Night

Bingo

Parking for the hall does at times cause an issue with bookings/attendance however, Oliver Cooper is happy to allow the use of his field when the weather is dry.

Just for Information; I have resigned from the Village Hall Management Committee and this is my last report on their behalf. Judy Walsh has now taken over as Chair of the GBVHMC.

15/05/19 MF

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT - May 2019

Can I first record thanks from the PCC for the support from the Parish Council with churchyard mowing during the past year and for providing the church illumination during the winter months. We are also again grateful to Oliver Cooper for providing parking space for special occasions and services.

Gt Bricett is one of a group of 8 parishes extending from Battsford to Somersham all under the care of Rev Dan Harrison. As such we have one regular service of communion on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Other special occasional services are also held with details in the Parish magazine with particular mention for the enthusiastic support for our Christmas carol singing.

Our second round application to HLF last May was successful resulting in a grant of £82,200. Suffolk Historic Churches Trust have also given £10,000 and we are contributing £6000 from other funds including the village roof appeal. Repairs to the roof and internal structure started in mid-march and are on the point of finishing. The final section of roof is now planned to be repaired in September and there is also work on the drains still to be done. We are planning to have the path resurfaced during the summer. There will also be activities to encourage more people to engage with the heritage of our extraordinary building drawing inspiration from Oliver Cooper's research project into the History of the Priory.

Arland Shawe-Taylor
Churchwarden

ANNUAL REPORT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - May 2019

Once again Great Bricett has not been crime free with an outbuilding broken into with the loss of garden equipment earlier in the year. This should act as a further encouragement and reminder of the importance of secure locks on doors and windows and of marking valuable items with postcodes as well as noting serial numbers. If you would like additional individual advice this is available free from the police via the Mid Suffolk Crime Reduction Officer.

The police continue to issue regular emails under the “Police Connect” program giving information about local crime incidents often including CCTV images of those they are seeking to locate as well as other crime prevention advice. This invaluable service is available to everyone and if you have not already done so I recommend that you subscribe via the Suffolk Constabulary website.

Arland Shawe-Taylor, Neighbourhood Watch Chairman

Great Bricett Annual Tree Warden Report dated May 15th, 2019

My report this year inevitably focusses on a decision to trim back a very old yew tree that has grown in the graveyard of our ancient parish church for at least three centuries – the 19th, 20th and 21st century – and probably at least another century before the duration of the current 120-year growth-rings testify to.

Many people in the village I have spoken to are shocked by the cutting of the tree back to an ugly bare stump, mistakingly expecting it would be pruned back more sympathetically in height and girth. However, I am assured by churchwarden, Arland Shawe-Taylor, that he has been told by experts that the tree will burst back into life. Indeed, evidence for this can already be seen this spring by the miracle of new shoots sprouting from its butchered trunk by as much as six inches. Take note also that the Bayes Roofing firm currently restoring the church roof, who have worked in Suffolk churchyards for three generations, assure me the tree will re-grow -- and with greater vigour.

Turning my attention to other ancient trees, I apologise for not fulfilling a pledge I made last year to track down an ancient oak tree that local woodland expert Oliver Cooper recalls growing in a wood that is now out of bounds within the MoD perimeter of Wattisham Airfield. Fear not, I will report back my findings in line with the Woodland Trust's ongoing campaign to add to the 175,000 of Britain's best trees currently on its Ancient Tree Inventory.

Trust conservationist Dr Nick Atkinson says: "Ancient trees should be treated like an endangered species. They are the largest living things and hotbeds of biodiversity."

Locating these giants is already the subject of an £85,000 PhD survey commissioned by the Trust.

I recently noticed a dead ancient oak in nearby Ringshall on a Lower Farm Road building plot, and, nearer home, there's the carcass of dead yew tree trunk lying outside the carpentry workshop in The Street that was brought there by a Combs farmer, doubtless hoping this yew tree will have immortality as an item of furniture.

Regarding ash tree dieback, a study has shown that 1,058 birds, bugs and fungi use ash, begging the question: how will we survive ash dieback? Trees have lived on our planet for millions of years and fed the industrial revolution with coal reserves. Which is quite a fact to ponder over as we are now being urged to sustain oxygenated life as we know it by planting more and more trees.

Which brings me back to the yew tree in our churchyard, borrowing a phrase from the Anglican Prayer Book, uttered at gravesides: **IN THE MIDST OF LIFE WE ARE IN DEATH.**

Speedwatch 2019

The Speedwatch Team have continued their 'work' in the village and have caught a number of motorists exceeding the speed limit. The information we gather is entered on to a form and forwarded to the Safer Neighbourhood Team in Stowmarket who process it.

We almost managed to recruit a new member to the team but having gone through all the paperwork to be accepted by the police, after one session decided it wasn't for him!!!

We shall continue to check the speed of vehicles in the village but are hopeful that we shall soon have a Vehicle-activated Sign (VAS) in the village, this will be moveable to a number of locations and has been financed by our County Councillor, Kay Oakes.

The team want to thank Arland and Julia Shaw Taylor for the cups of tea that have kept us going while we wield the Speedar Gun.

History of the Village

Edward Martin, the historian I have engaged for this project, is moving from Hitcham to Aldeburgh and this is preoccupying him and his wife for much of their available time. They have lived at their Hitcham house for a long time and like most of us have accumulated a lot of stuff, which when a move comes along, all needs editing.

The good news is that we have found a publisher willing to take this book on, and with that in mind Edward felt it necessary to undertake rewriting the introduction to meet the higher standard for this level of publication.

This all takes time and I am totally in Edwards hands on this matter. There was a hope that the book and the Church roof repairs and the subsequent celebration would all come together, and that may still be the case. I understand from Arland that completion of the roof repairs has now been put back, and the hope now is that we are aiming for some time next year for these things to come together.

As we got through this year, I will keep you informed of any progress.

Oliver Cooper