**Glemsford Parish Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the virtual meeting held on Tuesday 11th August 2020 @ 7pm**

Present: Cllrs: Plumb (chairman), Southgate, Leopold, Cain & B Stephens.

CCllr Kemp. The clerk.

1 member of the public.

**01.08 Parish announcements**

None

**02.08 Apologies for absence**

DCllr Holt and Cllr R Stephens

**03.08 Declarations of interest/dispensation requests**

Cllr Plumb declared an interest in all planning matters due to being a member of the planning committee at BDC.

Cllr Cain declared an interest in planning application DC/20/03102 Chirbury House, Rectory Close

**04.08 To adopt minutes of council meeting held on 14th July 2020**

***It was resolved*** to adopt the minutes.

**05.08 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting**

None

**06.08 To receive reports**

**CCllr Kemp –**

A full report can be viewed on the website.

A meeting had been held with representatives from Suffolk County Council regarding traffic issues at the bottom of Fern Hill particularly with safeguarding the wall of the cottage.

**DCllr Plumb** - BDC monthly report:

August 2020

Discretionary Business Grants

The deadline for applications for the Discretionary Grant has been extended to Monday 24th August in line with the recent Government announcement that all Covid-19 business grants applications must be received by Friday 28 August when they will close.

There is still over approximately £1m of grant funding unallocated and we are urging eligible businesses to apply as soon as possible. The criteria for the second phase of the Discretionary Grant has been expanded and is now open to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses excluded from previous grants, Early Years providers, Ofsted registered childminders, charitable properties in receipt of rate relief as well as small and mobile businesses who have three of more employees and those in shared workspaces. If you are aware of any eligible businesses who have not applied, please do encourage them to find out more and apply.

Stick with it Suffolk – wear a face covering

Suffolk residents are being asked to keep looking out for each other and combat Covid-19 by wearing a face covering in shops, following new Government guidance introduced on Friday 24 July

Babergh’s leisure centres reopen

Leisure centres across Babergh will follow a phased re-opening from 27 July, with users playing an important role in making sure the facilities can operate safely.

Businesses to get help with licence to serve

Businesses across Suffolk are being given help as new licensing laws are due to be debated by Government to make it easier for cafés, pubs and restaurants to open.

Play your part to keep businesses open and stop the spread of COVID-19

With more businesses allowed to open last month, residents are being urged to #StickWithItSuffolk by keeping it local and sticking to the guidance, such as social distancing.

Modification of planning conditions relating to construction working hours

There have been urgent changes to planning restrictions on construction working hours to support safe construction working, in line with the Government’s latest social distancing guidance on construction and other outdoor work. For many construction sites, implementation of this guidance will require changes to working practices, including staggered starts and finishes, requiring different hours of operation to those which are currently permitted for the site through planning conditions.

New laws to extend homes upwards and revitalise town centres

The Government has announced new laws, aimed at delivering much-needed new homes and revitalising town centres across England, which will come into effect by September. The new rules will mean full planning applications will not be required to demolish and rebuild unused buildings as homes, allowing commercial and retail properties to quickly be repurposed to help revive high streets.

Homeowners will also be able to add up to two additional storeys to their home to create new homes, or more living space for growing families, through a fast track approval process – with a requirement to carefully consider the impact on neighbours and the appearance of the extension.

Read the updated guidance

Babergh and Mid Suffolk receive Government funding to install solar carports

The growth of green initiatives in Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been boosted with the confirmation of an £800,000 grant from the “Getting Building Fund” for the introduction of micro-generation and electricity storage solar carports in Sudbury and Stowmarket.

The funding will provide 50% of the budget for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council to install multifunctional solar carports which will generate and store electricity and provide a point for electric vehicle charging. The locations currently being assessed are surface carparks at Station Road, Sudbury and Gainsborough Road, Stowmarket with a flexible third option also under consideration.

Approval for Wherstead industrial park helps get Babergh back in business

Babergh District Council recently approved plans for new commercial units in Wherstead – generating investment and 300 jobs in the area, in addition to paving the way for much-needed highways improvements.

Wheels in motion for Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s healthy future

Councillors at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have approved proposals to create a joint Sustainable Travel Action Plan to further encourage sustainable transport, following cross-party support.

Councils advance vision for great communities

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have given the green light for a timetable for the Joint Local Plan – further supporting the councils’ ambition to build thriving communities with bright and healthy futures.

CIFCO continues to generate vital funds to help weather the Covid-19 storm

Councillors at both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils recently approved plans for property investment company CIFCO to continue to bring in funds to support the districts’ recovery – this follows CIFCO meeting payments to Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council in full again this quarter, providing vital funds for services as tradition income is hit by Covid-19

plan

CIFCO has also recently announced the £2.9m purchase of a health centre in Nottingham – bringing in further regular income for the councils

Councils encourage communities to get active this summer

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are working with partners and communities to help keep families fit, safe and active during the school summer holidays.

Chilton Woods development takes a major step forward

The long-awaited Chilton Woods development site on the edge of Sudbury took a major step forward earlier this month, as Suffolk County Council exchanged contracts with housing developer Taylor Wimpey.

Councils welcome census change for armed forces

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have welcomed the inclusion of military service information in next year’s census – further supporting their commitment to meeting the needs of the armed forces community.

Annual canvass 2020

Don’t lose your voice - residents are urged to look out for their annual canvass letters from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.

The key to solving homelessness in Sudbury

Babergh District Council recently opened the doors of a newly converted property in Sudbury – providing a safe place to stay for up to eight people in need of temporary accommodation.

Sudbury Vision Group looks beyond COVID-19

Last month, the Sudbury Vision Steering Group met virtually for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic forced the country into lockdown. With restrictions now easing and non-essential retail businesses, pubs and restaurants starting to reopen, the steering group came together to reaffirm their ambitions of supporting the community and businesses through the current emergency and driving economic recovery in the town.

Sproughton development brings much needed affordable homes

Detailed plans for 305 new homes in Sproughton received the go ahead recently – providing 61 affordable homes, allocation of land for a new primary school and public open space.

Councils’ blueprint for the future gets green light

Cabinets at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have approved a raft of environmental measures to help the councils achieve their ambition of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

Babergh communities to benefit from CCTV investment

Councillors have agreed to an £180,000 upgrade in CCTV provision – ensuring Hadleigh and Sudbury remain safe and thriving towns that people are proud to call home.

Full details of many of the above can be viewed on the BDC website

**07.08 Planning New Applications:**

 **DC20/02754 – 6 Spring Meadow**

 Erection of new roof and application of cladding to existing single extension. Installation of replacement doors and windows

 ***It was resolved to recommend*** no reason to object

**DC/20/02984 – 4 Whitlands**

 Erection of single storey rear extension (amended scheme to DC/20/01792)

  ***It was resolved to recommend*** no reason to object

**DC/20/03102 – Chirbury House, 4 Rectory Close**

Application for works to trees in a conservation area. T1 sumac; to fell to ground level. T2 pear; to fell to ground level. T3 small sycamore; to fell to ground level. T4 large sycamore; to remove several small limbs over the lawn to raise the canopy to open up garden area.

***It was resolved*** no planning regulation reason to object. However, there are serious reservations regarding removal of so many trees in the same vicinity, particularly within a conservation area. (Cllr Cain did not vote)

**DC/20/03182 – Fair Green House, 15 Fair Green**

 Application for works to trees in a conservation area. Fell 1no cherry tree (A) outgrown position overshadowing neighbouring property and shallow roots affecting lawn/drains. Crown reduce cherry tree (B) by 25% and reduce by 2mts on each side to improve balance, growth and shading. Crown reduce 1no bay laurus nobilis and re-shape due to growth, balance and shading.

***It was resolved to recommend*** no reason to object

 **Granted applications:**

 **DC/20/02486 – 59 Kings Rd**

Erection of a two storey side ext4esnion, single storey rear extension and porch (following demolition of garage)

**Refused applications:**

**DC/20/02025 – Land at 55 Schoolfield**

Erection of 1no 3 bedroom detached dwelling

**08.08 Public question time**

Concerns were raised about the amount of trees being felled in the village. It was asked if BDC keep aerial photographs to monitor trees. David Pizzey at BDC is to be asked about this.

It is hoped to include a landscape policy in the developing Neighbourhood Plan. A tree charter is to be looked into.

It was asked if a good neighbour scheme was set up. Harriet North has offered to look into this.

**09.08 Accounts for approval**

***It was resolved*** to agree the accounts:

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| Gardens ARB | 660..00 |
| Lloyds charge card | 14.39 |
| BDC - trade waste collection | 435 |

**10.08 Reports from working group– Cemetery, Finance, Village Hall, Neighbourhood Plan, Climate Emergency and report from playing field management committee.**

**Cemetery –** no response has been received with reference to the planning permission for change of use of the new land – this is to be chased up with BDC.

**Finance** – no report

**V/Hall** – the hall is to be prepared for re-opening. Covid-19 safe guidelines will be followed.

Proposed extension - It was agreed by the group to prepare for the outline planning application stage. However, before this can go ahead the plan needs to be reviewed and further discussions are to be held with the architects. A further working group meeting is to be arranged. If the plan is agreed a submission will be made.

**Neighbourhood Plan** - The decision needs to be made as to whether to allocate a site for housing or not. If so, this needs to be in consultation with residents as to where, and how many.

Although Glemsford has exceeded its allocated quota of housing requirement it was felt this may change in the Local Plan.

It was considered that the preferred site was south of Kings Rd/Park Lane. This site was favoured at the open day and is a natural extension to the existing housing. This site was offered under ‘call for sites’. It was suggested to keep the number of houses to a minimum.

Locality may be able to offer design/site master planning; the working group would be able to have input into this. AECOM would look at this and help overcome any issues raised.

The Copdock master plan was shown as an example. The group felt it was a good idea to go forward with this concept.

The next steps are to start structuring the plan and ask AECOM to do a design guide (village centre appraisal).

The clerk is to liaise with Ian Poole to enquire about a master plan and to apply for the next stage of funding. Ian Poole to draw up a plan to move forward.

Concerns were raised about the initial details of the plan detailing employment at Phillips. However, this is due to close. It was agreed to include the site as future employment within the plan.

**Climate Emergency** – Since lockdown, the CEWG have kept in touch once a month via Zoom.

Due to work commitments two members have decided to step down from the group until

they can find time to make a positive contribution.

Greening Glemsford Facebook Page

GG went live to the village on 24th July and now has 35 members. Three members

of the CEWG have posted in the Advice & Skills section, offering tips on electric car

ownership, making your house carbon neutral and up-cycling/repairing.

We decided to let the Facebook site gradually pick up membership, while

being aware that many villagers don’t use Facebook. A village notice board would be a

useful focal point for publicising events (once it’s safe to do some!) and initiatives.

Could the Parish Council please give an indication of when a board might be in place?

As COVID-19 restrictions on indoor meetings continue to impact the group’s planning for

future events, there are no further initiatives at present.

However, looking ahead to next year, we hope the Parish Council will consider an improved

version of the long grass trial, as seen in Sadberge, East Sussex, where the Sadberge

Climate Change and Biodiversity Group (a working group of the local PC) obtained

funding from the PC to purchase wildflower seeds for sowing in three community locations.

*It was agreed by council to put the village notice board item on the agenda next month*

**Playing Field** – no report

**11.08 Budget figures – to agree**

***It was resolved*** toagree the budget figures

**12.08 Correspondence to report**

Thanks had been received for clearance of the path down Low St.

**13.08 Date of next meeting** – 8th Sept 2020

Meeting finished @ 8pm

(For reference: a recording of this meeting was made via Zoom)

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