

**Minutes of Playford Parish Council meeting held via Zoom  
at 7.00pm on Wednesday 3rd March 2021**

**Present:** Mrs Joan Metcalfe - Chairman  
Mr Steve Hicks - Vice-Chairman  
Mr Ted Herrington - Councillor  
Mr Keith Carson – Councillor  
Mr Adrian Melrose - Councillor  
Mr Martin Hill – Councillor  
Mr Colin Hedgley – District Councillor

**In attendance:**  
Mrs Marian Hedgley - Clerk

**Also present:**  
Mr Ben Evans  
Mrs Elaine Bryce

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

The chairman opened the meeting at 7pm

**2. Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr Mary Evans – Co. Councillor

**3. Declarations of Members' Interests in any items on this Agenda.**

Joan Metcalfe declared an interest as Treasurer of Playford Village Hall Committee and as a Trustee of Playford Village Hall. This information was duly recorded remotely by the clerk.

**4. To approve minutes of previous meeting**

<b>Meeting held:</b>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
13.1.20	KC	MH

**Matters arising - none**

**Action Point Review:**

- ⊗ **AP 93 – Unregistered FP from C330 to C3311.** JM has agreed to appeal to the Sec of State to advance our position on our application to have this footpath reinstated.
- ⊗ **AP135 – Ongoing problems with FP1–** The weather has made it impossible to make any progress with any of these paths. Clerk to approach Debbie Adams for an update.

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2020/21-20

- ⌘ **AP147 – Blocked culvert on LH side of entrance to Village Hall car park.**  
The ditch has been dug out by SC Norse and is much improved – situ to be monitored.
- ⌘ **AP152 – Blue Algae on long pond on FP20 near water meadow –** this appears to have resolved itself but a check will be made when weather warms up again.
- ⌘ **AP155- Drains on C324 blocked by silt and leaves again –** Routine work carried out in Feb to clear drains– situation will continue to be monitored.
- ⌘ **AP157 - Smashed Bridleway Sign at start of FP1 –** this has been reported to Highways but no progress yet.
- ⌘ **AP158 - Fallen Willow trees across R Fynn at bridge on Butts Road –**there are now two trees across the river – both have been reported to Environment Agency who have stated they will clear the river. MH to chase this.
- ⌘ **AP159 - Blocked drain in Church Lane near entrance to FP7 –** SC Highways has cleared the drain (and found a second one), renewed surrounding tarmac and put in new kerbstones. This is much improved but will continue to be monitored.
- ⌘ **AP160 - Mud , debris etc on Church Lane washed down by heavy rainfall –** SC Highways will deal with this in due course.

For more details see Action Log appended at end of the Minutes.

##### 5. County Councillor’s report:

Cllr Mary Evans was unable to attend but sent in her report which is appended at the end of these minutes.

Mary’s report refers to SCC Highways’ budget allocation, vaccination centres and rapid testing centres being set up in Haverhill, Newmarket and Bury St Edmunds and the relocation of Chalkstone Way Recycling Centre to a new location in Haverhill.

SCC is increasing its spending by £41m for the coming year, £15.3m of this is to address ongoing Covid-19 costs. Council Tax is to rise in general by 1.9% and Social Care Precept will rise by 2%.

A new digital resource has been launched to help parents and carers of children in lockdown to build exercise into the daily routines of children. A project called Discovering Suffolk has been launched to raise further awareness of the great range of walking routes in Suffolk and this will include the Stour Valley.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has been recognised nationally for its response to the

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Covid-19 pandemic. A new campaign has been launched to help people get their recycling right. An innovative new project has been launched to support local care home providers with the ongoing care of Dementia patients by developing virtual reality content to assist patients recall and access positive memories.

SCC launched an initiative last month to deploy “gateways” to build a network to enable individuals and organisations to register temperature, sound and movement via sensors linked to the Long Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN). This can be used to monitor things like visitor numbers, weather data and temperature and to share this information. SCC also pledged their support for the new Freeport East which will cover Felixstowe and Harwich and will potentially reduce administrative costs and and tariff controls.

## 6. District Councillor’s report

Colin Hedgley’s report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and is appended at the end of these minutes where it and can be read in full.

Council Tax will remain at the same level for next year. Suffolk Waste Partnership has a designated website for lessons and fun games and ideas for children currently being home-schooled. Legislation for remote council meetings is due to expire in May this year but to extend this will require primary legislation – the government needs to act fast to get this sorted by May.

The community project for supporting elderly residents who live alone, EAST (Everyone, Active, Supported Together) is going well and 1000 jute bags containing useful items, recipes and puzzles have been distributed. Spot checks have been carried out by the Health and Safety team on many of East Suffolk’s hospitality businesses to assess the level of Covid awareness and to follow it up if necessary. East Suffolk has made 11,500 payments of Covid Business Grants, totalling £23m, to struggling businesses.

Women’s British Cycling Tour scheduled for early June 2021 has been postponed due to the pandemic – it is hoped that this can be re-arranged possibly in October.

There is an Open Spaces Survey going on at present to collect data and opinions of how these feature in the health and well-being of the community. The winners of East Suffolk’s Quality of Place awards have just been announced. Extra support is to be given to the hospitality sector with a new £2m Business Grant Scheme offering financial help to businesses which have been severely impacted by the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions,

Colin also stated that:

- Extra bins are to be placed in visitor areas in East Suffolk
- Extra roundabouts are to be put in on the A1214 to assist traffic flow
- Felixstowe and Harwich area has been made a Free port

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- Lowestoft has been awarded £25m for their town fund to regenerate the town centre.

TH queried the fact that his green bin had not been emptied recently and wanted a refund from the District Council.

**7. Finance:**

Reporting & authorisation of cheques/online payments:

Already paid:

Cheque no.	Payable to	Reason for payment	Amount
Online	M Hedgley	January & February salary	agreed in budget
Online	M Hedgley	Expenses: Ink cartridges + Zoom annual fee	197.17

To be paid:

Online	SC Norse Ltd	Digging out ditch betw Butts Road/playing field	372.00
Online	Westcotec	4 x SIDs clamps	249.00

All of above payments were proposed by JM and seconded by MH

Credits received

NS&I	Savings interest	Annual interest to 31.12.20	24.50
NS&I	Closing Interest	Interest up to 18.2.21	0.05
East Suff. Co	Cllr Hedgley ECB	2 x SIDs clamps	138.00
East Suff. Co	Kesgrave Community	Replacement Oak tree for playing field	100.00

Bank Balances:

Current a/c	£4401.87
Reserve account	£3427.69

Bank reconciliation:

SH had been sent a copy of the Budget sheet and latest Bank statement before the meeting and confirmed the Bank reconciliation.

Budget 2020-21 - the Clerk confirmed the current budget was on track and that no new payments were anticipated before the end of the financial year other than those already allowed for.

Retrospective vote on moving the savings account. It was decided by email that the NS&I savings account should be closed and funds transferred to a new Business Premium account with Barclays to facilitate receiving statements more quickly at the end of the financial year. Acceptance of this was proposed by JM and seconded by MH.

Retrospective vote on ordering 4 x sets of clamps for attaching SIDs equipment. This was also agreed by email as funds have already been received for two of them. Acceptance of the above was proposed by TH and seconded by JM.

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**8. Highways**

- Ongoing Maintenance of drain at entrance to Village Hall car park - Holes drilled into the wooden casing over the entrance to the drain have silted up and need slight attention KC agreed to look at this.
- SC Norse Ltd has dug out and cleared the ditch further back from the drainpipe along the length of the road in front of the playing field and this appears to be very successful.
- SIDS equipment: TH will affix one of the SIDs clamps to the signpost outside his house in readiness for when the SIDs equipment is free and we await Highways' installation of another pole in Butts Road before the equipment can be used there,
- Footpath issues - this is covered in Action Points review.

**9. Neighbourhood Plan - update**

KC has received an update from Andrew Cann of Planning Direct – the NP is drawing very close to being made ready for the referendum and KC has had several final queries to sort out. The list on Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHA) needs some additions and these will be sorted out soon and sent to Planning Direct.

**10. Planning Issues**

Stables at Archway Piggeries Ref: **DC/19/4843/FUL & DC/20/0560/FUL** – Owner of the stables site has contacted the clerk to report that all of the hedging plants ordered to replace the hedge bordering Butts Road, have now been planted but it will take a while to become established and they would like to keep the wooden fence in place in the meantime. A manure pit with a hardcore base is being constructed near the entrance to the site (to be shielded from the road) and once this is in use, burning of manure will cease as this will be collected on a regular basis.

**DC/21/0572/FUL** – Land at No. 2 Brook Lane - erection of new dwelling. The parish council objected to this at a separate planning meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February, on the grounds that it would represent over-development of the plot and contravene Local Plan policy SCLP 5.7

**DC/21/0054/FUL** – Trucks R Us site at Sinks Pit, proposal to a remove current portacabin and to replace it with a permanent office building. As this is in Little Bealings parish and would not affect Playford greatly, no response was deemed necessary.

CH ventured that the parish council should have a designated member to take on planning issues and to attend planning forums regularly to keep the PC up to date with changes to planning procedures. He further suggested a member of the council should attend the imminent planning forum on 25<sup>th</sup> March. JM agreed to try and attend this.

CH, AM & EB left the meeting.

**11. Correspondence – received up to 3rd March 2021**

- a) 27.1.21 **Re: Climate change update:** Email from Hilary Legard about wild spaces in Playford as in “Pardon the Weeds, we’re Feeding the Bees” campaign.....could we create any Wild Spaces in Playford.

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- b) “Discovered” by CH in Jan 2021 - **UK PowerNetworks Co.** regarding land off Playford Road, Rushmere St Andrews.....underground electricity cable being laid and a section of overhead cable to be removed.
- c) 22.2.21 – **Town & Parish Council Planning Forum via Zoom - tomorrow 4<sup>th</sup> March** from 2pm – 4.15pm and **25<sup>th</sup> March** from 2.30 – 4.45pm
- d) 25.2.21 - **SALC – CONSULTATION – planning ‘model design code’  
Deadline 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**

**12. AOB**

TH was concerned by the number of cars being parked at the Village Hall whilst we were in lockdown and about visitors having picnics in the Alder Carr and leaving rubbish behind.

JM thought the above situation would resolve itself when lockdown ceases and stressed the need for tolerance about people needing to exercise.

KC suggested that he and MH should try and clear some of the branches of the fallen tree in the river near the bridge.

SH enquired whether Playford PC had been asked to comment on the development of the Chapel Field site in Grundisburgh. Clerk replied we had not been approached.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm.

**Date of next meeting:** Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 12th May 2021 commencing 6.30pm immediately followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting - via Zoom

Signed .....