

**Minutes of Playford's Annual Parish Meeting held at Playford
Village Hall at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 2nd May 2018**

Present: Mrs Joan Metcalfe - Chairman
Mr Stephen Hicks - Vice-Chairman
Mr Tim Llewellyn - Councillor
Mr Ted Herrington – Councillor
Mr Keith Carson – Councillor
Mr Robert Whiting – District Councillor

In attendance:
Mrs Marian Hedgley - Clerk

Also present:
Mr Brian Seward
Mr Eric Metcalfe
Mrs Veronica Bunbury
Mrs Sally Herrington
Ms Tracy Herrington
Mrs Sue Lister
Mr Tom Barker
Sarah Potter
Mr Glen Thimblethorpe

Officers from East Suffolk District Council
Gillian Benjamin - Communities Officer
Hilary Hanslip – Principal Planner NBR Plans
Andrea McMillan –Lead Officer for Playford's N/Plan

The meeting started at 6.30pm. Tim Llewellyn proposed Joan Metcalfe as Chair and this was seconded by Ted Herrington. Joan took the Chair.

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr Robin Vickery – County Councillor
Mr Adrian Melrose –Councillor, absent but no apologies

2. To approve the Minutes from the Meeting held on 3rd May 2017

Keith Carson proposed acceptance of the minutes and this was seconded by Ted Herrington – these were duly signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes:

None

4. Chairman's Report

Joan began by thanking all councillors and the clerk for their support during the year and went on to say that she was pleased to have kept the level of the Precept the same as that of the previous year. Joan then listed the main achievements of the year and thanked the Co. and District Councillors for the

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generous donations from their budgets. She praised S C Norse Ltd for their excellent grass cutting services and thanked Sam Webber and the Rapid Relief Team for their hard work in renovating the grass verges in the middle of the village. She updated everyone on Data Protection issues, local footpaths, fibre broadband issues and the progress of Playford’s Neighbourhood Plan.

For details of the above in full please see report appended to these minutes.

Questions:

1. FP No. 1 along the north side of R. Fynn beside the water meadow. Veronica Bunbury stated that twice the current width of the path was needed as it’s very soggy and impassable in places. This path is currently undergoing work and will be attended to soon by the landowners but they are waiting for the land to dry out after the recent heavy rainfall.
2. Problems with dog dirt on FP No. 8 (footpath to Lt. Bealings’ school). It is very difficult to achieve a solution to this unless dog owners can be apprehended at the time of the offence – however the clerk will enquire whether notices can be placed along the path reminding the public to clear up after their animals.

5. Benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan chairman Keith Carson, gave his report: There have been 38 responses to the circulated questionnaire – this is open for another fortnight. The committee is working closely with SCDC and with Planning Direct and will shortly be applying for grants to assist with costs.

The officers from East Suffolk declined to give a talk as such but invited relevant questions from the floor:

Qn. What is a Neighbourhood Plan is trying to achieve?

Ans. To bring the community together to plan the future and make the right decisions. There are no plans for housing development in Playford at the moment but this could change and neighbouring parishes may be developed in the future – we need to work with ESDC to ensure this is carried out sensitively.

Qn. What is ESDC’s sense of ambition re Neighbourhood Plans in general?

Ans. ESDC has a commitment to support NP’s in general. Four plans have been finalised in the District so far and another 20 are currently in preparation.

Qn. What grants are available and what ratio of the total cost does the parish need to find?

Ans. There are 4 categories of grant available to cater for the technical side of producing NP’s. Each parish should be able to achieve a Plan within the basic grant thus negating the need to fund it themselves. There may be reports and documents common to local parishes which can be shared between them.

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It was suggested that more of the parish should be involved by way of drop-in sessions or door-to-door canvassing or even a stall at the forthcoming village fete in June. Andrea McMillan suggested Playford should consider Ipswich’s Local Plan and how we feed into it. Gillian Benjamin also said we should look at the Draft Local Plan.

The discussion was brought to a close and continued at the Annual Parish Council Meeting immediately following this meeting.

6. County Councillors’ report

Robert Whiting read out the Co. Councillor’s report in Robin Vickery’s absence, stating Robin’s appointments and main areas of his involvement and concern in the county – please see full report appended to these minutes.

7. District Councillor’s report

District Councillor Robert Whiting stated that it had been a year of big decisions mainly revolving around the merger of Suffolk Coastal with Waveney District Councils which has resulted in a net budget of over half a £billion. The ward boundaries are to be significantly altered to even up the numbers of electors in each ward and this will result in a reduction of the number of elected members from 90 in the combined district to 55. It is proposed that the new Fynn Valley ward will comprise Gt Bealings, Lt Bealings, Playford, Tuddenham, Westerfield, Rushmere Village and Rushmere Tower and will be served by 2 district councillors.

There have been significant housing developments at Melton Hill, at Woods Lane in Melton and at Adastral Park in Martlesham – whilst these are not adjacent parishes to Playford, they will undoubtedly have a marked impact on the traffic movements in the area.

Emptying brown bins will be charged for in future and outsourced to SC Norse Ltd.

Over £3m has been spent on renovating the Deben Pool Leisure Centre which will be opening in the summer then work will commence on Leiston Leisure Centre.

Questions:

1. It was asked whether Playford would be ignored if we’re put into a bigger ward? ESDC will be a bigger area altogether and we should benefit from it being more diverse.
2. If the District Council is responsible for street cleaning, why hasn’t the silt been cleaned up on C324? Clerk has been advised to email cabinet member Carol Poulter for an answer to this.

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3. If we're put into the same ward as Rushmere will we get sucked into Ipswich? It would take Primary Legislation for this to happen and is unlikely.
4. But Playford comes under North Ipswich for policing. Police boundaries do not coincide with parish or ward boundaries.

8. Open Forum.
No further questions

9. AOB – none

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed

Chairman

A full copy of these minutes and Chairman's and County Councillor's reports can be viewed on the website: www.playford.org.uk