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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 5th October 2023, commencing 7.30 pm. in the Village Hall.
*Full reports and supporting documents can be found on the Parish Council website under Meetings,
October 2023 Meeting Pack. Paper copies are also available.*

Present:

Chair: Cllr Irene Mitchell.

Cllrs: Alison Bourne, Frank Domoney, Lizzie Falconer, Iain Lamont, Janice Muckian, Mary Morrey and Jane Ranzetta.

Babergh District Cllrs: Paul Clover and Margaret Maybury.
Fifteen members of the public.

Opening Statement by the Chair:

The Chair began by welcoming everyone and introduced herself reminding all present of the Public Participation protocol. She reminded all that this is not a public meeting, but a meeting of the Council held in public. Members of the Public who wish to ask a question, or make a statement, have 3 minutes. She explained that if a question cannot be answered tonight Members of the Public should inform the Clerk of their email address and will receive a written response within 28 days. Members of the Public were respectfully asked to maintain silence during the Council's deliberations and not to approach the Councillors. Councillors were requested not to engage with Members of the Public when Council is in session. All were asked to ensure that their mobile phone was on silent

1. Apologies and approval of absences

Apologies received from Cllr Chick. The Clerk reported that the absence had been explained.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest had been received.

3. Requests for Dispensation

The Clerk reported that no further dispensation requests had been received and that all dispensation grants, as reported in the minutes of the Council meeting on 6th July 2023, remained valid.

4. a) To approve as accurate minutes of the 8th August 2023 meeting of the Council

Motion: to approve as accurate the minutes of 8th August 2023 meeting of Council.

Proposed: Cllr Morrey

Seconded: Cllr Bourne

Decision: Cllr Muckian abstained commenting that she had not been present at the meeting. The minutes of the 8th August 2023 meeting of the Council were approved as accurate with no votes against.

b) To approve as accurate minutes of the 7th September 2023 meeting of the Council

Motion: to approve as accurate the minutes of 7th September 2023 meeting of Council.

Discussion: Cllr Domoney asked whether the corrections he had requested been made. The Clerk responded that they had. The briefing papers had been prepared prior to his request.

Proposed: Cllr Ranzetta

Seconded: Cllr Muckian

Decision: Cllr Falconer abstained commenting that she had not been present at the meeting. The minutes of the 7th September 2023 meeting of the Council were approved as accurate with no votes against.

5. Public participation session

The Chair opened the Public Participation session explaining that the shape and size of the room and the desire to display information so that all can see it sometimes made it difficult for her to easily ascertain the voting intention of Councillors. Consequently all voting will now be audible. She reminded all that Council meetings are recorded to facilitate accurate writing of the minutes and that the recording is destroyed as soon as the minutes have been approved.

The Chair asked who would like to speak and one Member of the Public raised his hand.

The Member of the Public spoke concerning his application to move the official Lavenham Footpath No, 2, near Bears Lane, so that it no longer runs through his garden and instead runs along the top of his property. He detailed the width of the proposed footpath and its proposed location.

6. Local Authority Councillors' Reports

Received:

An oral report from District Councillor Maybury explaining that she has been able to, after a number of requests, persuade a Babergh DC Housing Officer to shortly visit the village to discuss issues with various Babergh DC housing properties and associated HRA (Housing Revenue Account) land. This walkabout would cover Meadow Close, Spring St and Tenterpiece.

The Chair asked whether the Clerk or Chair could attend that walkabout. Cllr Maybury said that she would enquire. Cllr Morrey asked if this was in connection with, at Meadow Close, fly tipping and an abandoned car. Cllr Maybury confirmed that it was. Cllr Morrey asked to be the Parish Council representative, the Chair agreed and Cllr Maybury agreed to ask if that would be possible.

Cllr Maybury added that the Meadow Close Play Area has now been cleaned but that her and Cllr Clover were still concerned about the safety of the equipment and were continuing to ask about the funding for renovations.

Received:

An oral report from District Councillor Clover. He began by explaining that, finally, Planning Inspectors have delivered their verdict on Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's Joint Local Plan as 'sound'. This, he said, is the blueprint for the districts' future development until 2037, providing clarity for communities and developers with more information on the Babergh DC Website.

Cllr Clover next explained that as part of the 'Babergh's Vision for the next 4 years' project, pending cabinet approval on October 3, BDC will be embarking on a major engagement exercise with residents, communities, businesses, stakeholders and partners so they can tell BDC whether they think the council is focusing on the right issues. This will help shape the council's priorities and the refreshed Corporate Plan. Babergh will appreciate the support of parish council colleagues in helping to spread the word. He added that 'State of the District' reports have also been published for Babergh providing a treasure trove of useful data on issues such as housing, environment, health and wellbeing, and the local economy and that insight from these reports is also helping influence future council priorities.

Cllr Clover added to Cllr Maybury's comments about the Meadow Close Play Area saying that he still had concerns about the thoroughness of the Babergh DC safety inspections owing to inconsistencies with photographic evidence. He has challenged their position and asked for an on-site meeting.

The Chair thanked Cllrs Clover and Maybury for their help with respect to the Meadow Close Play Area.

Cllr Clover reported to Council that a meeting has been set up between Fisher German LLP and Babergh Council in order that the new cables can be connected to the existing pole on Babergh owned land and the Meadow Close transformer removed.

Cllr Clover concluded by saying that Council needs to be aware that it is the intention of the Babergh Cabinet to introduce a policy to allow for the installation of solar panels on Grade 2 listed buildings

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provided they are not visible from the highway advising Council that if it is has any concerns in this regard it should contact the Planning office at BDC.

Discussion:

The Chair asked Cllr Clover to clarify his comments with respect to the Joint Local Plan asking him whether he was referring only to Part 1, the Strategic Plan. He confirmed that he was adding that with respect to Part 2 he anticipated, having read, that this was not going to be adopted until late 2025

Cllr Domoney asked how the Babergh Vision for the next four years synchronised with Suffolk and National Environmental policies, the roll out of 5G and 6G and connected autonomous mobility. Cllr Clover responded that Babergh has goals and targets for Net Zero and that these may or may not synchronise with regional and nationwide targets. He was unable to comment further without doing further research.

Cllr Ranzetta asked Cllr Clover to explain more what the engagement exercise is. Cllr Maybury explained that it is expected to be a six week exercise and that an online survey is a key part of this. The Chair asked the Clerk to publicise this on the PC website and notice boards.

The Chair asked Cllr Clover to confirm that the wording with respect to solar panels was 'not visible from the highway', he so confirmed. Cllr Domoney drew Cllr Clovers attention to the email he had sent him about developments in the aesthetics of solar panels.

Received:

The Clerk told Council that he had received, a few hours previously, a written report from County Councillor Lindsay. The Clerk explained that to avoid any misunderstandings he would read Cllr Lindsay's report exactly as written:

Footway Green Willows: The County has received permission to build a footway across a small strip of land owned by Babergh and the engineer is putting together a "commissioning document" which should give us an estimate of costs in the next few weeks.

County Policy on Funding footways: He has asked about this. The Director of Growth Highways and Infrastructure has replied telling me that there is no actual written policy not to fund new footways from the County's budget. Instead, each year, the Council decides not to include anything in the budget for them, leaving funding up to Councillors discretionary budgets, grants and developer contributions. The Director also implied that DfT guidance is to prioritise maintenance over creation of new infrastructure when the budget is tight, despite the Highways Act talking about a duty to provide footways.

Lower Road flooding: Because the road is lower than the river level when the river is high, blocking the gulleys will not stop flooding but will prevent the water draining away. A potential option is to have permanent signs but there is obviously a cost to this. Having spoken to Highways, finding a site where the signs do not get run over may be difficult. In addition permanent signs for temporary flooding tends to get ignored after a while. Another, and he suggests more effective option is to form a Self Help Scheme with the County whereby resident volunteers who live near Lower Road are trained and provided equipment and signs by Highways to put out when there is a flood.

Suffolk County Council Weed treatment programme: He has asked for urgent advice on why this has slipped and when it is likely in Lavenham, having not received a reply as yet will update via email if he gets anything further.

20mph Lavenham: He is chasing for an update on the design for this scheme so that we can get as quickly as possible to a finalised plan. There will be an inevitable delay because the contractor drawing up the design had to change, on 1st October, from Kier to the new county council contractor Milestone. He is waiting to hear whether the project manager who was handling this has transferred to Milestone and has kept the Lavenham work. She was optimistic this would happen. He will update as soon as he hears. To clarify a few queries on support for 20mph in the village. The first neighbourhood plan survey in 2016 asked the question "Do you support a 20mph speed limit in Lavenham?" 64% of the village



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responded to this survey and 63% of the respondents answered yes. In the second survey the proportion of respondents saying yes increased, although there was a lower return rate.

20mph - Bildeston being installed: 20mph signs are half way through being installed in Bildeston. There will, once work recommences with new contractor, be an extended 30mph buffer zone a few hundred metres out of the built up part of the village at the north and south ends.

Lower speed limits: A1141 Hadleigh to Semer Earlier this year he commissioned an officer report on reducing the speed limit on the road between Stone Street and Letts swimming pool from 60mph to 40mph. The officer's report says the issue is "finely balanced" but allows that it could be possible. It will be submitted for decision by end of September. Coincidentally, a separate request to change the speed limit on Stone Street, at the Hadleigh end of the A1141, from 40mph to 30mph has recently been approved. He will send the report to the Clerk in case it is helpful for your situation.

Ground source heating project for Bildeston school and surgery: He has contributed £666 from his locality budget towards the cost of a prefeasibility study of powering Bildeston School and the next door Surgery through a bore hole and a ground source heat pump. Energy bills are the largest cost for both operations and a bore hole project, while costly to install, would massively cut the energy bills for both.

The Chair advised Councillors to contact Councillor Lindsay directly if they had any questions arising out of Councillor Lindsay's report.

The Chair asked Cllrs Maybury and Lindsay how much their locality budgets are. Councillor Maybury replied £2,000 per annum. The Chair asked the Clerk to ask Cllr Lindsay the same question. The Clerk confirmed that he would and that he will be putting Cllr Lindsay's report on the PC website.

Cllr Ranzetta spoke of a large branch which has fallen into the river by Lower Rd, the Chair asked Cllr Ranzetta to discuss this with the Clerk and report it to the Environment Agency or landlord as appropriate.

7. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair reported:

- a) At a previous meeting she was asked by a Member of the Public whether The Cock Inn Car Park is within the Conservation Area. She had responded that it was not. That view was formed arising from recent planning enforcement enquiries. She has since re-checked the map drawn in the 1970s, and it appears that it is within the Conservation Area. However, in practice since that time, its status appears to have been largely disregarded.
- b) Gigaclear has been granted the license to install Fibre to the Premises broadband to some areas of Lavenham. There are some streets in the village that are already supplied by a different provider. This is the Meadow Close area which may have obtained this as part of the Osier View development. An initial meeting has been held with the Clerk and a resident volunteer, where Gigaclear set out their outline plan. This included the possibility of work starting before the end of 2023. Whilst she appreciated that there are many people in the village who have waited a long time for this development, there can be no doubt that the works involved will cause significant disruption. In some cases, streets will be temporarily closed to traffic. We are waiting for Gigaclear to provide a 'Dig Plan'. The Parish Council has taken action in conjunction with Cllr Lindsay to avoid traffic disruption in the period leading up to Christmas by requesting Highways not to grant road closures in the centre of the village.
- c) Gigaclear have indicated that they will not be installing this technology to Melford Road- an area of some 150 dwellings representing about 1/6 the population of the village leaving that part of the village lacking Fibre to the Premises broadband from either Gigaclear or Openreach. This will be pursued with Gigaclear and, if necessary, with senior public officials.

Cllr Domoney commented that Gigaclear say on the website that they use Open Reach ducts and so he was surprised to hear that they propose to dig up anything. The Clerk responded that Gigaclear have told us that they do use everything that is already in the ground and the poles that already exist but that these are not always adequate. He repeated that they are finalising this and the final Dig Plan is anticipated to be received at the end of October.

8. Clerk RFO Report

a) **Updates on Christmas Lights, Bux Bush care, Business Rates and Speed Indicator Devices.**

Received:

An oral report from the Clerk explaining that:

- a) The electrician who has put up the Christmas lights for many years has confirmed that he is available to put the lights up again this year. The Clerk is aware that in the past there have been issues about which lights the Council should pay to put up and which lights business owners should pay to put up and will shortly be meeting with the Chair of the Love Lavenham group to iron out any difficulties.
- b) With respect to the bux bushes there are two issues to consider: pruning and moth infestation. The pruning was last done in 2022 by the regular grounds maintenance contractors at a cost of approximately £1,000, the quality of that work had come in for some criticism. We have a quote from a more experienced contractor, who does work at Hatfield House (the Stately Home) for £2,300. Council needs to decide how to proceed. With respect to the moth infestation Council needs to determine whether it wants to take action and if so in what form. The regular grounds maintenance contractors quoted over £3,000 for spraying. The contractor who works at Hatfield House has quoted £760 for a soil improvement program so that the bushes can better fight the moths themselves and £1,140 for subsequent spraying. Alternatively, using volunteers, Nematodes could be used, this would be cheaper and, maybe, environmentally less damaging.
- c) The legal situation of the Church St Toilets and Office Block is that the Council has since April 2021 had a licence to occupy from Babergh DC whilst the lease is finalised. Babergh DC has offered a peppercorn rent for the toilet block and £1,000 per annum for the Office. Consequent of the licence to occupy and the lease negotiations Council had a legal obligation to approach the Valuation Office to request them to value the property for Business Rates and has a legal obligation to pay the consequent Business Rates invoices. Valuation notices were issued in August 2023 and the invoices received in September 2023. Council has been advised that the toilets are not, as anticipated, exempt from Business Rates because they are not the larger part of the building. The invoices total some £5,000, accruals had been made for some £1,500 and so the under-accrual is some £3,500. This will be included in the September Accounts. Council will appeal the detailed valuations, these appeals may be unsuccessful.
- d) In response to correspondence received from Members of the Public we are considering moving the Speed Indicator device and acquiring a second device.

Discussion:

Christmas Lights: Cllr Falconer asked if we were using the same electrician as last year, whether the cost had increased and whether alternative quotes had been considered. The Clerk said that we are intending to use the same electrician and that the cost had not increased. The Chair added that the arrangements as to who pays for what are complicated and confusing and will take some time to unpick and equalise.

Bux Bushes: Cllr Muckian said that in her opinion that care to the bux bushes, the soil improvement work and pruning, should be done as soon as possible but that consideration of the moth treatment work can be deferred until Spring 2014.

Cllr Domoney commented that we might be able to ask the Perrywood Nursery team to present to us as to how best to deal with box moth. Cllr Domoney asked whether we were certain that it was not the more serious, fungal infection, Box Blight. The Chair replied that it was not Box Blight.

Cllr Lamont agreed with Cllr Muckian commenting that a quality pruning, in a professional topiary manner, was needed as these are bushes are part of the presentation of the Church and that the pruning needed to be done before winter sets in.

Cllr Ranzetta highlighted to Council the prevalence of Box Blight and questioned whether spending money on the bushes, which if they get Box Blight, will be dead within months.

The Chair clarified that only some of the Bux Bushes are infected and on the basis of the consensus established, the views expressed by Councillors, asked the Clerk to proceed with Soil Improvement work and the Pruning.

Business Rates: The Chair highlighted that the detailed rules concerning whether public toilets are subject to Business Rates are not easy to find and so she understood why previous Councils had considered the toilets exempt. She asked Cllrs Maybury and Clover for their assistance in ascertaining who we should approach in Babergh Council to finalise the lease as the Office we have been dealing with has left.

Speed Indicator Devices: Cllr Ranzetta wondered if there were Grants available, Cllr Morrey questioned the value of purchasing another device which had no enforcement capability. The Chair explained that these were questions to be answered when an additional device is considered.

b) Accounts for the month ended 31 August 2023

Received:

The report prepared by the Clerk containing and explaining the August 2023 financial position.

Noted from the Report:

The Clerk presented the August Income and Expenditure Statement highlighting the key variances. The September Accounts will compare against the Reforecast, the August Accounts are the last which compare to Budget.

The Clerk emphasised that the themes concerning the Council's financial position remain unchanged from previous months. Income continues to exceed budget with the key source being un-budgeted Car Parking and Toilet donations. The Income surplus is £15k August YTD of which Car Parking Revenue is nearly £10k, Burial Revenue nearly £3k and Interest received is £2k. Aug expenses were below the levels of previous months as no one-off or irregular costs were incurred. Saving £4k August YTD.

	April Actual Mth	May Actual Mth	Jun Actual Mth	Jul Actual Mth	Aug Actual Mth	Aug Actual YTD	Aug Budget YTD	Favourable /(Adverse)
Precept	9,175.00	9,175.00	9,175.00	9,175.00	9,175.00	45,875.00	45,875.00	0.00
Babergh Cleansing Grant	891.67	891.66	1,061.33	948.22	948.22	4,741.10	4,458.33	282.77
Fixed Income	10,066.67	10,066.66	10,236.33	10,123.22	10,123.22	50,616.10	50,333.33	282.77
Burial Fees	70.00	3,300.00	870.00	682.00	242.00	5,164.00	2,500.00	2,664.00
Car Park and Toilet Donations	1,974.15	1,734.85	1,824.10	1,880.05	2,359.40	9,772.55	0.00	9,772.55
Other Donations	0.00	407.63	0.00	0.00	250.00	657.63	0.00	657.63
EV Charging Income	100.00	100.00	50.00	49.54	20.00	319.54	500.00	-180.46
Interest Received	0.00	748.23	250.00	250.00	450.00	1,698.23	0.00	1,698.23
Variable Income	2,144.15	6,290.71	2,994.10	2,861.59	3,321.40	17,611.95	3,000.00	14,611.95
Total Income	12,210.82	16,357.37	13,230.43	12,984.81	13,444.62	68,228.05	53,333.33	14,894.72
Management Costs	5,186.03	4,375.79	3,751.40	3,154.40	2,888.48	19,356.10	20,641.67	1,285.56
Office costs	1,371.74	542.68	1,210.24	411.69	490.35	4,026.68	4,412.50	385.82
Costs of Democracy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	186.73	186.73	0.00	-186.73
Street Cleaning and Green Maintenance	2,311.87	2,493.79	2,601.87	2,579.62	2,331.16	12,318.29	13,231.25	912.96
Public Realm	878.67	853.67	1,573.67	700.37	500.00	4,506.39	6,466.67	1,960.28
Toilet Costs	702.94	1,606.19	1,324.35	1,061.63	1,138.86	5,833.97	7,408.33	1,574.36
Misc	389.17	1,437.95	517.05	389.17	524.17	3,257.49	416.67	-2,840.83
Community Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
EV Costs	310.03	77.51	78.08	46.03	48.19	559.84	500.00	-59.84
Contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,041.67	1,041.67
Total Costs	11,150.44	11,387.57	11,056.65	8,342.90	8,107.93	50,045.50	54,618.75	4,573.25
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,060.38	4,969.80	2,173.77	4,641.91	5,336.69	18,182.55	-1,285.42	19,467.96

The Chair asked if the Surplus would fall away in later months as the Car Parking revenue fell and costs such as the Christmas lights were incurred. The Clerk confirmed that it would. The Clerk also presented the Balance Sheet and Statements of Reserves (as included in the Briefing Papers) highlighting the movements and the Cash Position.

Cllr Falconer asked if the street lights would remain off at night and whether savings were being realised. The Chair confirmed that they will remain switched off at night and the saving will emerge in March 2024 when we get the bill from Suffolk County Council.

Motion: to approve the accounts for the month ended 31 August 2023.

Proposed: Cllr Ranzetta

Seconded: Cllr Falconer

Decision: Approved with no votes against and no abstentions

c) Receipts and Payments for the month ended 31 August 2023

Received:

The report prepared by the Clerk listing the Receipts and Payments for the month ended 31 August 2023.

Noted from the Report:

There had been no substantial receipts in the month, the next substantial receipt, the Babergh DC second and final instalment of the annual precept, is due in September.

There were no payments which required explanation.

Motion: to approve the Receipts and Payments for the month ended 31 August 2023.

Proposed: Cllr Ranzetta

Seconded: Cllr Bourne

Decision: Approved with no votes against and no abstentions

d) Council policy on the giving of Grants

Received:

A draft Grants policy prepared by the Clerk.

The Clerk began by explaining that is the view of Council including the RFO that Grant Applications need to be assessed against a set of criteria. He explained that legally Council was able to give grants of £9.93 per head, approximately £19,000 in total. In the reforecast Council had agreed to the establishment of a Grants expenditure line of approximately £6,000.

The Clerk highlighted the key draft rules:

- a) There must be a clear benefit to a significant part of the people of Lavenham
- b) Grants above £500 would only be given to Groups with Officers, a Bank Account and Accounts
- c) In general Groups will be expected to contribute 50% of their own funds or grants from elsewhere to a project
- d) The priority areas for funding
- e) What schemes must address
- f) The ranking criteria

Discussion:

Cllr Lamont asked if the Grant to the Hub would come out of this forecast of £6,000. The Clerk said it would not, the Grant to the hub had been approved and accounted for in 2022/23, it had been drawn down in 2023/24.



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The Clerk re-emphasised that the Budget for 2023/24 had not included any amounts for Grants but that the reforecast did include £6,000, largely consequent of the unbudgeted donation income. The Clerk confirmed that currently the Council has made no commitments to any organisation.

Cllr Morrey asked whether there is seed funding for newly established groups, the Clerk referred Cllr Morrey to the clause about applications from new groups.

The Chair suggested that this policy may need to evolve over time and asked Council to consider whether this Policy is fit for purpose but may be amended in future

Motion: to adopt the Grants Policy

Proposed: Cllr Falconer

Seconded: Cllr Bourne

Decision: Approved with no votes against and no abstentions

e) Policy for the use of Neighbourhood CIL.

Received:

A draft policy for the use of Neighbourhood CIL prepared by the Clerk.

The Clerk explained the legislative background to the scheme explaining that Babergh DC have a published scale of charges for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which Developers must pay and that, where a Parish has a Neighbourhood plan, 25% of the money collected by Babergh DC is forwarded to the Parish.

He highlighted that Neighbourhood CIL can only be spent in ways that Babergh DC and the underlying legislation permit. He explained that Neighbourhood CIL monies not spent within five years can be reclaimed by Babergh DC and therefore the Council needs to balance the possibility of failing to spend NCIL funds and thus having them reclaimed, with the need to retain NCIL funds for major projects and not having NCIL funds depleted by their use on minor projects which can be funded by the Precept and Donations. It is proposed that, each year, the Clerk draw up a three-year rolling forecast of the likely use of NCIL and a threshold for the use of NCIL, during the next year, be established.

The Clerk finished by reminding Councillors that Council has an NCIL fund of approximately £110,000 (including developments currently being completed) but a list of projects it would like to pursue considerably greater than that amount.

Discussion:

The Chair asked if Appendix A is the whole list. The Clerk explained that it is the complete list on Babergh's website.

The Chair expressed her doubts whether the list on the Babergh website is complete and asked the Clerk to obtain from Babergh DC a full up- to-date list.

Cllr Falconer asked whether new NCIL will decrease if there is less building in the village. The Chair conformed that is the case.

Cllr Lamont asked the Clerk to explain to Councillors the remaining part of the CIL levy, the part retained by Babergh DC and not passed onto Parish Councils. The Clerk explained that Parish Councils can apply to Babergh for this money and that applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Cllr Lamont agreed reminding all that the recent significant projects in Lavenham such as the Church St toilets and the Water St Car Park had been funded 75% by Babergh CIL and 25% by Neighbourhood CIL.

Motion: to adopt the policy for use of Neighbourhood CIL

Proposed: Cllr Falconer

Seconded: Cllr Ranzetta

Decision: Approved with no votes against and no abstentions

f) Expenses Claim for £165.70**Received:**

An expenses claim from the Clerk for £165.70. The expenditure was for Dog Bin bags. The Clerk explained that a new Council Debit Card had not yet been received from Barclays Bank and was expected shortly.

Motion: to reimburse the Clerk for £165.70

Proposed: Cllr Falconer

Seconded: Cllr Muckian

Decision: Approved with no votes against and no abstentions

9 Planning

Received: A report from the Clerk detailing the Planning Decisions made in September by Babergh DC. An application for the pruning of a Silver Birch tree at Garden Cottage, 16 High St, had been approved despite the Parish Council considering that the application lacked sufficient detail to allow a decision to be made.

Received: A report and recommendations from the Planning Group.

DC/23/03806 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Dean House, Church Street

Erection of single storey side extension and construction of roof over inner courtyard.

Application is modest. The extension to the side is small for a Laundry room, single storey.

It is not visible from the Rectory, there is a building adjacent to the boundary where the extension is planned that is not shown on the block plan which screens it.

It is also not visible for the front of the property. No reason for objection.

Recommend approval

T215 Informal Consultation

Proposed Diversion of Part of Lavenham Public Footpath No 2 – Highways Act 1980 Section 119

This is a small diversion around the edge of the applicant's property.

The requested footpath is already in place & is a sensible diversion away from the private road.

Recommend we do not object to this change.

DC/23/04420 51 High Street

Change of use of Retail Premises (Dental Practice) to 1no. dwellinghouse

This property has previously been a residential property and from the external view still looks like a residential property. It is semi-detached attached to a residential property. The only changes proposed are restoring the internal layout. It is not a retail premise and it is outside the retail core.

Recommend Approval

Motion: to adopt the recommendations of the Planning Committee

Proposed: Cllr Bourne

Seconded: Cllr Ranzetta

Decision: Motion agreed with no votes against and no abstentions

DC/23/04503 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

42 High Street

Installation of 2no. wrought iron black handrails each side of front door.

Cllr Lamont said that in his opinion it is a very traditional design, in keeping with surroundings, the Chair agreed.

Motion: to recommend approval of application 04503

Proposed: Cllr Lamont

Seconded: Cllr Muckian

Decision: Motion agreed with no votes against and no abstentions

10. Update concerning footway Linking Green Willows to Harwood Place

Received:

A report from the Chair explaining that:

- a) Two residents have volunteered to conduct public engagement in Green Willows by door knocking with a questionnaire.
- b) Highways have approved a footpath plan.
- c) Following advice received from local authority Councillors, a District CIL enquiry has been submitted and accepted for development of a footway, in conjunction with Highways. Traditionally Babergh DC would not fund any work that they perceived to be the responsibility of Suffolk Highways, this position appears to have changed with the adoption of Babergh's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. This has been accepted and will be allocated a CIL lead officer in due course. This enquiry bid included provision for street-lighting. The PC has been advised that District CIL funds will not be granted for street-lighting but NCIL may be used for that purpose. It is not yet clear what proportion of funding if any, would be provided by Highways for the footway element of the scheme and whether the PC can use NCIL for this purpose as the Council does not have the General Power of Competence. As such our powers are limited and this may preclude the PC providing any funds to develop a footway either from general funds or NCIL. Before any commitment is given, the legal position of all Councils will need to be clarified.

Discussion:

In response to a question from Cllr Domoney the Chair confirmed that no hedges are proposed to be reduced or removed.

11. The Jane Bellward Award

Received:

A report from Cllr Muckian explaining that a small group is developing the criteria for the award which aims to give recognition to the younger members of this Parish who voluntarily provide a service to our community.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

15. Date of next meeting

Thursday 2nd November 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.



2nd November 2023