

Minutes of the Meeting of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015

Present.

Cllrs I Steel (Chair), J Eden, J Ottley, C Old, M Chapple, T Poole, F Shaw.

T Clements, Suffolk County Councillor

Plus 3 members of the public – Liz Painter, Maria Simpson and Abbi Walker

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15/073 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Langdon, Cocksedge and Drewienkiewicz and Borough Councillor Mildmay-White

15/074 No declarations of interest

15/075 The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 were approved.

15/076 There were no matters arising.

15/077 The meeting was opened to the public and discussion centred around the three ladies objection to planning application for the erection of two two bedroomed dwellings adjacent to 10 Smithy Close. These objections were duly noted.

15/078 New Parish Councillor. Craig Lee submitted his application to be co-opted to the Parish council. It was proposed by Cllr Poole and Seconded by Cllr Shaw that Craig Lee should be so co-opted. This was unanimously approved and Cllr Lee was duly co-opted to the Parish Council thus bringing the Parish Council to full strength.

15/079 There was no police report.

15/080 Cllr Clements - County Councillor – reported:

Provisional GCSE results released today show Suffolk's 16 year olds have performed better than the national figure for the first time since 2007.

The statistics from the Department for Education show 53.4% of Suffolk pupils achieved 5 or more A\*-C grades including English and Maths. The national figure for all schools was 52.8%. Raising educational attainment is our top priority and these latest figures show that students, parents and schools are working well together to secure that improvement we all want to see. Ofsted has recognised that our Raising the Bar strategy is moving us in the right direction, and these results reaffirm this strategy is enacting the change we desired.

The number of Suffolk schools, colleges and academies assessed as being in a good position to help their students achieve good or better learning has increased significantly.

Across the county, 108 schools have received a positive "Green" rating, 31 more than in 2014 (equivalent to 11% improvement in top-rated schools).

The growing number of schools with Green risk ratings is further proof of the really good progress being made in improving education in Suffolk. Standards are consistently

improving, and are now better than nationally in some respects. Through our 'Raising the Bar' programme we have set ambitious targets to ensure every child in Suffolk can achieve their full potential, and will continue to work hard until this is achieved.

More five-year-olds in Suffolk are 'school ready' according to new figures published today by the Department for Education.

With an 8% increase in the proportion of Suffolk children achieving a 'good level of development' at the end of reception, this puts the county above the national average at age five. Nationally 66.3% of pupils achieved this level, with Suffolk pupils 1.3% above this at 67.6%. The 'good level of development' measure is the assessment of children at the end of reception class, or Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Teachers assess whether children are achieving the expected levels in literacy and maths, as well as in physical development, communication and language, and personal, social and emotional development.

Enabling every child to have the best start in life is a fundamental ambition for the county council. This increase in the number of pupils being school-ready is a real boost, especially for the children who have achieved these great results as they continue their education.

Suffolk CC is seeking views on its proposed admissions policy for the 2017/18 school year; ensuring school places are offered to children in a fair way.

The consultation runs until Monday 14 December 2015. As part of this, the council is considering whether or not to include the children of staff employed by a school within the oversubscription criteria to give them some priority for school places. These criteria are used to rank applications when a school receives more applications than it has places available. There are different ways we could introduce this and your views are important to us. To view the consultation documents and to have your say on the proposals, please visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations), alternatively you can write to Georgina Beard, Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX or email: [admissionsconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:admissionsconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk)

School admissions are a very sensitive subject, and so we are keen to listen to what residents and parents are telling us before making any decision. We encourage parents and carers to go on-line and take a look at the proposed admissions procedures and tell us what they think.

Suffolk businesses turned out in their hundreds to support the second annual Suffolk Skills Show; a skills and careers event reaching over 4,500 young people. The event set out to engage with Suffolk's young people and provide an insight into the career opportunities available to them locally. The show, which took place at Trinity Park in Ipswich, targeted those aged between 11 and 24. The diverse range of businesses exhibiting at the event worked hard to ensure those attending left with their eyes opened to the many career streams across Suffolk. Developing the aspirations of Suffolk's young people is a key priority of our Raising the Bar programme. By giving young people the chance to meet employers, try interactive activities and find out about their options, we hope that they will have left

the show with their future ambitions raised and with a clearer picture of how to achieve them

Suffolk CC is inviting bids from the county's publicly-funded schools for money to enable projects that will boost the attainment of disadvantaged students.

In the latest round of the 'Raising the Bar Challenge Fund' a maximum of £250,000 has been allocated for innovative that will help reduce the gap between the examination success of students who are disadvantaged, and so help improve social mobility. Successful bidders will receive up to half the cost of projects and the remainder of the costs must be covered by the schools. Up to 80% of each grant will be funded up front, with the final 20% paid if the project achieves its targets.

Projects need to enable parents to be involved, and to be able to continue once Challenge Funding ends. Each school involved in a successful bid can receive up to £5,000 from the County Council. For more information and an application form visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/challengefund](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/challengefund). The deadline for schools to make applications is 5pm on Wednesday 25 November.

Cllr Clements also drew the Parish Councils attention to the 'Fit Village' initiative as follows:  
Hi Terry

Thanks for ringing this morning and for expressing an interest in promoting Fit Villages to the Parishes that you work with. As promised, here is some basic information about the project which might be helpful for you to circulate to your contacts. As discussed, I am always happy to come out and talk to Parish Councils, or do talks to community groups if they are interested in finding out more about the project.

### **What is Fit Villages?**

Fit Villages is a project run by Suffolk Sport, which is supported by Suffolk County Council and Sport England as part of Suffolk's aim to be the Most Active County (MAC). The project aims to set up sustainable sport and physical activity sessions in rural villages across the county. We want to help people living in rural areas to be more active locally, making good use of village halls, community centres and playing fields. Previous successful projects have included activities such as Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, Beginners Running, Chair Based Exercise, Gentle Stretching, Zumba, Dance etc but we are always open to new ideas and suggestions. We endeavour to set up activities that people have expressed an interest in at a time to suit them.

### **How can your village get involved?**

We are always pleased to hear from new villages who want to take part in the project. Get in touch and we can chat about what you could do. If people in your village have already expressed an interest in a particular activity, we will try to make this happen. However if you are unsure what activities people would be interested in, we can do a Community Consultation to assess demand, which helps ensure we are setting up sustainable popular projects which appeal to your local community.

## **How does a project work?**

The project provides funding to set up new activities. We will fund free taster sessions so that people can come and have a go and see if they want to continue with the activity. We will then provide kickstart funding initially for an 8 week beginners course in your chosen activity (or activities). This funding pays for a professional, qualified and insured instructor to deliver the sessions, it covers the village hall hire costs and it enables us to subsidise the cost of taking part in the 8 week course for participants. We also fund and produce promotional materials to help advertise the project locally. At the end of the 8 weeks, if the group is keen to continue we will then hand the class over to the instructor, who will continue it on a longer term basis. At this point, the instructor would usually slightly increase participant fees (by a small amount) to help them cover the venue costs. We provide ongoing promotional support throughout the project and like to keep in touch with our projects a long time after they are initially set up to ensure that things continue to go well.

## **What are the benefits of taking part in Fit Villages?**

Fit Villages is a fantastic way to help your local community to be more active. We provide activities in your village, which means people don't have to travel too far to exercise. Also, it makes good use of your village hall/community centre or other village facilities where we set the project up. In addition to providing an opportunity to be active, we are providing people with a social opportunity too. We fund refreshments at the end of activity sessions (especially for older age groups), which is a really important element of the project, we want to encourage people to socialise and get to know other local neighbours. This improves community spirit and brings together different people in the local area who would otherwise potentially not have the opportunity to meet. In older age groups, the importance of an opportunity for social interaction cannot be underestimated; this can help to reduce the feeling of loneliness and social isolation which is felt by many.

## **Recent feedback from project participants:**

*"I have lost half a stone over the last 8 weeks, just from doing this Fit Villages activity and I am absolutely delighted".*

*"I have thoroughly enjoyed this completely new activity and doubts about whether I could cope with my new hip haven't arisen. Wonderful to be able to dance without pain. Never thought it could happen."*

*"Beyond expectation - thoroughly enjoyable. Having never done any exercise before I didn't know how I would cope, but want to carry on now and do more."*

## **For all queries and for more information, please contact:**

Maddy Knox: 07825790832/ maddy.knox@suffolksport.com

15/081 In the absence of Cllr Mildmay-White Cllr Mildmay-White's report was read out as follows:

- 1 .Borough web site: More work is continuing to improve our online form offer with more mapping functions to enable people to stick a pin on a map to report incidents/problems. And how we link better with the County Council and other services to prevent people being passed from pillar to post.
2. 'Find my nearest' is a button on the website that provides a wealth of information about an area.
3. Bury Bus Station: Cabinet have approved options to modify the bus station building. Work will begin in January to divide the building into lettable space on the St Andrews Street side and retain a public waiting room and lavatories on the other. Real time technology boards will be provided by Suffolk County Council.
4. Parish Conference: This was held in Haverhill in October and not as well attended as normal but the workshops were well received and the Neighbourhood planning delivered by a representative from Lavenham was excellent. The next conference will be in mid -April 2016 venue to be decided any suggestions gratefully received along with topics of interest to you.
5. Finances: We are awaiting the budget review in November but are under no illusions that government grant funding will continue to be reduced. Our medium term financial strategy is assuming that the grant will eventually be phased out. Meanwhile we are working towards becoming an investing authority with the several projects under consideration.
6. West Stow: A revised planning application is live at present for 100 pitches caravans and camping at West Stow. Two open days were held and the planning consultation ends this week.
7. Smiths Row Art gallery: The art gallery are due to leave their position in Market Cross in December to pursue a joint venture with another operator at the Station masters house at the Bury St Edmunds railway station. The Market Cross building will then be vacant.
8. Housing. I have had strategic liaison meetings with both Havebury and Flagship housing to hear about their future plans. Both organisations have indicated that whilst they plan to continue with their development plans the majority of these homes will be market rent, for sale or shared ownership. Their view is that Homes and Communities money will be more targeted at shared ownership for first time buyers. They estimate that the Chancellor's rent reduction of 1% for the next 4 years will result in an average £14 per week saving for tenants.
9. St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath together with Suffolk County Council have agreed to set up a housing development company. It will bring together a major landholding authority together with ourselves in West Suffolk who have the statutory responsibility for housing and planning. The primary aim of the company will be to provide good quality homes for private sale and rent at the same time as meeting our planning policies on the provision of affordable housing and low cost home ownership thus addressing the local housing need and generating a financial return to the councils.

10. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the submission on the boundary review, it is an excellent document.

Finally locality funding. I have about £1,500 of my locality budget unspent and would welcome suggestions, discussions about projects requiring funding in the villages.

#### 15/082 Planning

- a) Waterlow Cottage, Eastlow Hill - (i) Single storey side side/rear extension to form family room (ii) Single storey flat roof rear extensions to form Utility Room, Garden Room and new entrance (iii) Insertion of 4 no. Conservation Roof Lights to side elevation. It was agreed that this application was approved.
- b) Land Adjacent To 10 Smithy Close Rougham Bury St Edmunds Suffolk (i) Proposed 2no. 2 Bed Semidetached dwellings (ii) Shared driveway with 10 Smithy Close. It was agreed that this application would be objected to on the following grounds
  - i) Overdevelopment of the site. The site did not seem big enough for one property let alone two dwellings
  - ii) Parking already was an issue and this would create a bigger issue, particularly as two spaces appeared to be on the turning circle
  - iii) When the original application for Smithy Close was made the play area was reduced to allow for more parking
  - iv) Emergency services could have difficulty reaching the properties and neighbouring properties
  - v) The proposed properties would overlook existing properties
  - vi) It was uncertain whether the conditions laid down for Havebury were being applied in to this Planning Application.
- c) Kirkville, Almshouse Road 9i0 continued use of land to garden land and 9ii) construction of an outbuilding and garage (existing outbuilding to be demolished). Resubmission of DC/15/0925/FUL). It was agreed that this application was approved.
- d) A presentation was then made by Philip Reeve – chairman Great Barton Parish Council - and Adrian Graves a resident of Great Barton regarding the placement of the proposed Waste Hub. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes. It was suggested that as one of the sites being considered was on junction 45 of the A14 that representatives from this Parish could join a working party with Great Barton and the two Fornhams. Cllr Poole agreed to be one of the representatives and it was agreed that Cllr Langdon should be approached to ascertain if he was willing to be the other representative –the first meeting was likely to be the second Saturday of December as the consultation could be during six weeks of January/February.

#### 15/083 Finance

- a) Bank balance reported at 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015 as – Current account £16718.62 and Deposit account £13274.96
- b) Income – Bank interest £16.74
- c) Payments approved:
  - i) R Peters – half year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 £390.00
  - ii) SALC £16.80
  - iii) T Poole re material for bus shelter and dog bins £282.36

- d) Budget as per the attached approved
- e) Precept form as per attached approved for submission
- f) Cllr Poole reported that a number of elderly people had approached him about the building of a bench in the bus shelter. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Poole would supply such a bench.

15/084 Prior Close – no response received from Suffolk Highways to report. Cllr Steel to chase.

#### 15/085 Highways

- a) Pot holes and hedges – nothing to report
- b) Hedges re Rojanda and next door – nothing to report. Cllr Cocksedge to chase
- c) Vehicle Activated Signs – nothing to report
- d) Field View – nothing to report. Will need to wait for Clerk's return from hospital to follow this up with Highways.
- e) Mount Road/sow Lane – no response received from chase up e-mail. Cllr Steel to follow up.
- f) Proposed new drainage layout on New Road – nothing to report.

15/086 Footpaths – nothing to report

#### 15/087 Community

- a) Village Fete – Cllr Chapple reported that all was progressing smoothly. However he needed guidance regarding the request to business for some form of minor sponsorship i.e. cash or donations in kind – this was agreed.
- b) Mouse Lane – apart from the repeat problems of paths etc. there was nothing to report. Cllr Old will discuss these problems with Cllr Cocksedge.
- c) Public Transport – Cllr Ottley reported that he would keep a keen look out on the Chancellor's Expenditure review on 25<sup>th</sup> November as he expected Rural Bus Services would come under pressure.
- d) Web-site – Cllr Shaw reported that unfortunately because of illness she could not attend the web-site course and that the clerk was looking to re-arrange.
- e) Emergency planning – a report was received from Mr John Drewienkiewicz; Emergency Co-ordinator as follows:

I attended the Suffolk Community Emergency Planning Conference at Stowmarket on Friday 13th November 2015.

It was well attended, over 100 people there from all over the county. Obviously a lot of the Conference was devoted to the problems associated with coastal flooding which is not an issue in Rougham.

Specific points which are of interest to Rougham are:

- Good Neighbours Scheme: Stowmarket has a good scheme, which was described. They reckon that they need 10+ volunteers to make it work in their area, which is more populated but also more geographically concentrated than we are (900 houses and 2000 inhabitants there). The volunteers have an ID card and they have one mobile phone which is passed around the volunteers a week at a time. Much of the activity involves running house-bound folk to doctors' appointments and hospital appointments. They produce a Welcome pack in conjunction with the other agencies

in Stowmarket, although they do not visit new arrivals. If there was an appetite to start a Good Neighbours Scheme here they would be happy to discuss the detail of starting up such a group.

- UK Power Network: These are the folk who keep the electricity cables up and running. They have a 'priority service register' onto which vulnerable folk can be placed, which makes the Network aware of who are the vulnerable folk in the event of a power outage. It is described as a 'free service designed to provide additional welfare to those most at risk during prolonged power cuts'. Some folk who might be registered may be long-term vulnerable (eg elderly or disabled), others short-term (eg pregnant). It may be worth the Parish Council considering having a discussion before the power outage happens rather than waiting until we are all stumbling around looking for the torch. The Network are prepared to send a representative to brief a Parish Council if requested. They are on 0845 601 4516 as a start.
- Anglia Water. They have a similar scheme to the UK Power Network (but are not allowed to share information about who is vulnerable due to our bonkers privacy legislation).
- Rushbrooke and Rougham Emergency Scheme. I had a chat with Sue Herne who the person who covers Community Emergency Plans for Babergh, Forest Heath, Mid Suffolk and St Edmundsbury. (Tel 01449 724 851 or 01473 826 635). I mentioned that we were hoping to get a group of 3-4 people together who have good knowledge of the community on a specific day to pool knowledge and to do the next stage of the Community Emergency Plan (the contact tree). She offered to attend the meeting to help us if she was invited.

It was agreed that Cllrs Old, Chapple and Ottley would assist Mr Drewienkiewicz to pool their knowledge and draw up the contact tree. Regarding meetings with Sue Herne and UK Power Network it was agreed to defer discussion on this until a later meeting.

- f) Bus shelter – James Stiff Cottages. It was reported that this had been passed back to Haverhill as it was their tenants who were seeking this and that therefore Haverhill housing should be the lead authority.

15/088 Correspondence – nothing to report

15/089 Matters of report only

- a) Dates of the 2016 meetings approved as follows:

25<sup>th</sup> January

21<sup>st</sup> March

18<sup>th</sup> April        APM

16<sup>th</sup> May        Annual

18<sup>th</sup> July

19<sup>th</sup> September

21<sup>st</sup> November

The provisional dates for planning meetings to follow

15/090 Matters for consideration at next meeting

- a) Request for meeting with Sue Herne and UK Power Networks regarding Emergency Planning
- b) Grant in respect of the publication of the book on the Rougham WW1 and WW11 fallen

c) Footpath report

15/091 Date of next meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 19.30 at Rougham Sports Hall