

**MINUTES OF HITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2018 AT HITCHAM VILLAGE HALL FROM 7.30PM**

Present: Allan Scott, Chairman; Pauline Squirrell; Wendy Crease; Brian Hubbard, Jim Morgan;
Rob Whiting; District Cllr Michael Creffield and a resident

1.	Apologies for Absence: These had been received from Paul Beedham.
2.	Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: None were declared.
3.	Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 10th September, 2018: These were signed as being a true record of that meeting. Proposed: Brian Hubbard. Seconded: Pauline Squirrell.
4.	Matters Arising from Meeting held on 10th September, 2018: a) Neighbourhood Plan: The Clerk had circulated a NALC document for information. Mrs Crease had attended a workshop on this which emphasised how important it was to have a Plan. It is a legal document which will influence future planning. CIL is 25% instead of 15%. Mr Morgan had started to prepare a document setting out issues the Parish Council would need to agree. He hoped to have a paper prepared for the next meeting. Mr Scott suggested contacting other villages as it would be helpful financially if several local villages joined together. He had already contacted Preston-St-Mary, who had housing issues, but had not had a response yet. b) Hitcham News: Mr Scott is waiting to speak to Revd Robinson about the way forward, as there is only one more issue of The Roundabout before it ceases publication for good. c) 4G: There are various schemes available. Mr Hubbard had applied for an upgrade but was still waiting. Mr Scott will put some information about a local company who could help in Hitcham News and on the village website. He would like to hear from residents who have complains about their broadband speed. There is a grant available for anyone who has a speed of under 2mg to get a better speed broadband. d) Causeway Estate: Recently an ambulance had been unable to turn round in the banjo following a visit to a house on the estate and had, like other vehicles, to reverse out backwards. Mr Scott will write to the Council Cabinet member for Highways. It was suggested that going to the press might help. It was still felt that taking out the grass areas between trees to allow parking off the roadway was best suggestion, however, any final decision taken with regard to assisting with access to the estate will be down to Highways Department. e) Luckeys Corner: The Clerk will ask Cllr Lindsey who should be contacted regarding instigating a 40mph limit in the area of Luckeys Corner.
5.	County Councillor's Report: Due to Cllr Lindsey's absence there was no report available. (Since the meeting Cllr Lindsey had sent his apologies to the Clerk together with a copy of the report he would have presented. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes)
6.	District Councillor's Report: Cllr Creffield reported as follows: a) James Cartlidge had been re-adopted as MP for South Suffolk until the next election. Liz Malvisi has been appointed Chairman of the Conservatives Executive Council and will stand in this year's May 2 nd elections. b) Planning permission has been given for 48 houses near Artiss Close in Bildeston, this will last for three years. The area known as Taylors Garage, Bildeston and the field behind is being considered for a further 42 houses, but nothing has been submitted to Babergh planning at the moment.

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- c) There is a new Town & Country Permission in Principle which came into force on 1st June 2018. This applies to housing developments where some non-residential development is included. At present this does not affect any sites in Babergh or Mid Suffolk.
- d) It is hoped that 98% superfast broadband coverage will be achieved in 2020 in Suffolk. A lot of work is being done to install fibre optic cables in the roads. It will then be down to individual households to request connection. There may be a cost involved in this.
- e) The new National Planning Policy Framework contains revisions which state the following: "Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited. Planning permission should be refused to major development."
- f) The final stage of the recent Boundary Review will be go for parliamentary approval in May 2019. Our area will be called North West Cosford and will include:- Wattisham, Bildeston, Hitcham, Kettlebaston, Preston St Mary, Thorpe Morieux and Brettenham. It will have one District Councillor with 2,279 electors forecasted for 2023.
- g) The annual cost of the emptying of dog bins has been reduced to £41 each.
- h) If a planning application has to go to the Planning Committee then it will first go to a Delegation Panel who will decide whether it gets permission without having to go to Planning. This is held in private and made up of the Planning Chairman, Vice Chairman and senior planning officers. Mr Morgan agreed to investigate this new Panel.

7. Police Report:

Nothing to report.

8. Community Play Area:

The annual safety report had been received and although several points had been raised none appeared serious. It was agreed a sub-committee of Mrs Squirrel, Mrs Crease, Mr Whiting and Mr Morgan would look at the play area in the light of the document and report back at next meeting.

9. Chairman's Report:

- a) There is a slight problem with charging the speedwatch sign batteries. At the moment by Mr Scott at present. It was suggested that whoever charged the battery be paid an annual amount, £50 was suggested, to cover their electricity costs.
- b) The speedwatch team is in need of three or four new members as some current members had had to stand down. Mr Scott will put a request in the next Hitcham News.
- c) Mr Scott and the Clerk had had a phone call from the shop owner's mother over the ownership of the shop. An estate agent had said the market value of a shop in this location is going down. Ruth Crocket had got a fifteen year lease so all she would be getting would be a new landlord if the shop was sold to a private purchaser. Mr Scott will speak to Ms Crocket before getting back to the caller.

10. Correspondence:

- a) A request had been received from the Friends of All Saints Church asking for help with the cost of an asbestos survey which had to be carried out to protect the grade one listed building. It was found that this survey was also needed before an application could go to the Lottery Fund regarding a grant towards the Tower Project. As the survey had already been done the cost could not be included in the application and the Friends have to bear the cost. Three quotes had been obtained and the lowest cost of £450 had been chosen from A C Environmental Services, who had done the job well and promptly. After discussion it was agreed the Parish Council would pay half the cost as the church is part of the village's heritage. Proposed: Mr Morgan. Seconded: Brian Hubbard.

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- b) Information had been received from a resident regarding large speed limit reminder stickers which can be fixed to wheelie bins. It was agreed this was a good idea in principle and the information would be put in Hitcham News so residents could purchase them should they wish.
- c) Information had been received from Babergh Electoral Services as to the cost of the upcoming Parish Council election being held, along with District Councillor elections, on the 2nd May. A contested 4-year Parish Council election will cost £1,325.60; a 4-year contested Parish Council election combined with District election (as this year) will cost £846.79; the charge for an uncontested Parish Council election £104.78.
- d) A draft Babergh/Mid Suffolk District Councils Homes Strategy 2019-24 and Homelessness Reduction Strategy consultations will open from 26th October to 7th December 2018 and can be found on Babergh Housing Strategy webpage.
- e) As agreed at the last meeting the Village Hall Committee had been approached with regard to having a locked noticeboard put on the roadside outside the hall. The committee had responded by suggesting that the current noticeboard could be modified by putting a lockable framework on the front. After discussion it was felt that as so many organisations use the current board it would be inconvenient to have a locked board for local events/information. After discussion it was agreed that the current board should be left as it is but a new board for specific Parish Council information should be purchased and could be placed next to the current board as there is room. The Clerk will order the new board and Mr Scott was happy for it to be delivered to his address.

11. Planning Matters:

- a) The planning application for replacement French doors and bathroom and kitchen windows at Sefton Cottage, Brettenham Road has been withdrawn.
- b) Mrs Crease reported more from the Planning Workshop she had attended. It would appear any planning meeting should be held in a public place and advertised. Also whoever is putting in the application should be asked to attend. If there are no objections to application then why there is no objection still needs to be reported. It was agreed that these points needed confirmation in regard to small local resident applications.

12. Financial Matters:

- a) The RFO circulated information showing the current bank and budget figures. The bank balances are as follows:

Hitcham Parish Council a/c
Hitcham Community Play Area a/c

- b) The following payments were approved and cheques drawn accordingly:

from Hitcham Parish Council a/c:

Chq 306	£250.00	Hitcham Parish Church – ‘Lest We Forget’ donation
Chq 307	£31.20	SALC – Planning Workshop, 6.11.18, Mrs Crease attended
Chq 308	£1,500.00	Hitcham Parish Church – annual grounds maintenance donation
Chq 309	£40.00	Information Commissioner – annual Data Protection fee

from Hitcham Community Play Area a/c:

Chq 137	£150.00	Odd Job Jan – Play area maintenance
Chq 136	£170.00	Hitcham Countryside Services – Play Area Maintenance + consumables

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13.

Questions to the Chair:

A letter had been received from Anne Turner regarding finding a new home for the printer that is used for producing The Roundabout. As The Roundabout is ceasing publication after the December issue Mr & Mrs Turner would like to find a new home for the large machine. Mrs Squirrell offered space as had the Village Shop. It was agreed to come to a decision in the New Year after further discussion. It was felt that it could still be of use for any village publications, flyers, etc. in the future.

14.

Dates of Meetings throughout 2019:

All are being held on a Monday in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm unless advised otherwise:

14th January

11th March commencing at 7.00pm (followed by Annual Parish Meeting, 7.30pm)
(2nd May Parish and District Council elections)

13th May (Annual Parish Council meeting)

8th July

9th September

11th November