

SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on 21st July 2021 at 7pm

In the Sutton Memorial Hall (small hall)

Present: George Franks (Chairman), Ingrid Franks, Sue Collins, Jacki Schafer, David Gunson, Alan McManus, Mary-Jane King.

In attendance: Linda Gunson (Clerk) No members of the public present.

1. Welcome by the Chairman
2. Apologies – Peter Youngs. Nigel Albertini.
3. Declarations of Interest – Mary-Jane King declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8, regarding the planning application at Hare House, Sutton Estate.
4. Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting held on 17th May 2021. Agreed as true record, proposed DG, seconded JS.
5. Matters arising – village sign – no update yet.
6. Co-option of Mary-Jane King to the Parish Council. GF as Chairman welcomed Mary-Jane King to the Parish Council and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Mary-Jane and witnessed by GF.
7. Pliocene Forest. Prior to the Parish Council Meeting taking place, Mr. Barry Hall and his wife Judy attended at the Memorial Hall, to give background information of Geo Suffolk and the Pliocene Forest on the Sutton Estate. Barry has been involved with Geo Suffolk for some considerable time and has improved the site on which two hundred trees were planted. There are many young saplings, and it appears that the new owner of the Sutton Estate, Mr. Paul Clarke, and Barry have been unable to reach an agreement in respect of the watering of the young saplings, the need for fencing around them and the question of insurance, should the public be permitted to visit the site. Barry has therefore looked for a new site on which twenty saplings could be planted. Christchurch Park had been suggested but Barry wished to keep all the saplings in one place as at the park, they would have to be split. Barry now has twenty saplings at home where he can look after them. Mr and Mrs Cook who live on the Estate, (who unfortunately were unable to attend the meeting) have shown an interest in siting the saplings on their land and a discussion with them has tentatively taken place. Barry would have access to the saplings and an information panel could be erected. Deer may have to be managed to protect the saplings. Barry brought a young Hickory sapling to the hall for the Parish Councillors to look at, along with a booklet containing information. GF querying how large the saplings would grow, Barry

confirming a piece of land, the size of a tennis court would be sufficient for their needs. AM confirming that he will speak with Mr and Mrs Cook and Barry to see if an agreement could be reached, as to the siting of the saplings and the possibility of erecting deer proof fencing. The remainder of the saplings will grow on Mr. Clarke's land. He has to date not touched any other trees.

Footpaths - The Parish Councillors also had a pre-Parish Council Meeting with Brian Atkinson who gave some background information regarding the condition of the footpaths in the vicinity. During the Summer months there has been some warmth, but it has also been very wet, this has resulted in footpaths becoming waist high with grass and overgrown vegetation. The County Council is responsible for surface maintenance only and the land owners for trees and hedges that grow over the paths. Land owners and farmers will keep paths clear but only if it benefits them. Brian has had a conversation with a National Trust member of staff at Sutton Hoo who would be happy for him to borrow a wheeled strimmer, it would mean collecting it and would need two people to place it in a vehicle. Brian would be happy to trial the strimmer firstly on AJ's land before he moves onto Paul Clarke's. Ben Johnson had recently explained that he did try to keep up with the clearing of footpaths, but his machine had broken down. Broxstead Estate have many overgrown paths. Brian will send out a map which shows the County Council's maintenance plan. Paths that are extensively used he will aim to keep clear, but he cannot do all of them. Brian did report a tree which laid over the footpath by the river, this has now been removed. The overgrown footpath reported to the Clerk by one resident, borders on Shottisham land. The PC confirmed that the cost of fuel used by Brian would be borne by the PC. Brian will liaise with the Clerk. GF said Annette Robinson, the Area Rights of Way Manager at Suffolk County Council is a particularly useful contact.

8. Planning Applications:

Land adjacent Plum Tree Hall – the date for objections has been extended to 31st July. James Mallinder is dismayed by the application. JS advising there have been many objections including one from the Adeane Bawdsey Settlement. We await the outcome.

Garden Studio/Methersgate Drive. No objection to this application.

Middle Barn – Discharge of change of materials of roof etc. No objection. However, the footpath running through the property may still present an issue. JS feels the sign on the gate could mislead walkers who are not local, encouraging them to walk the diversion (which is no longer in force) instead of walking through the middle of the property. JS felt the PC should keep an eye on this situation. The PC would object to the footpath being re-routed.

Hare House (previously Eve's Cottage) Cart lodge with accommodation above. Discussion regarding reason for application. It appears to be a fairly large structure. Could it be converted into a holiday let in the future? If the application were to be permitted, it would double the size of the property with the annexe being larger than

the original house. Neighbours have objected to the application and the PC will also object on the grounds of overdevelopment of the property.

Rockhall Wood - there is still building works ongoing. The footprint of the new building appears to be only a little bigger than the original. Apparently, this could be used as a hunting lodge. Paul Clarke is selling shoot dates off.

9. Finance:

Items in Accounts since the last meeting:

Income 21p of interest

Expenditure Cheques

£190-30 SALC renewal

£195-00 AM – for purchase of Speed Gun

£75-00 Roger Ray – payment for grass cutting.

All above cheques issued had been previously approved at the last meeting.

May and June – Clerk's wages £120-00 per month.

Nancy Darke has still not presented a cheque for £60-00 dated 25th Feb 2021

Transfer from Business Premium to Current Account £1,500 on 1 June.

Balances at Bank at date of meeting

Current Account: £1,545-20

Business Premium Account: £6,470-54

Common Rights Account: £1,960-68

Total Bank Balance £9,976-42

Speed Gun will be added to the insurance policy.

Ray Kay audited the accounts and reiterated once again that it would be sensible to merge the Current Account and the Business Premium Account into one. Other than that one point, he was happy overall with the accounts. A smaller than previous year's Audit fee of £70-00 was paid on 28 June.

The PC's responsibilities under the AGAR Return were completed and submitted before the end of June deadline.

Clerk's expenses for the period to date of £110.37 were approved for payment and signed by the Chairman.

10. Correspondence:

Clerk had received an email from Community Action Suffolk regarding Image Copyright – A company called PicRights UK work on behalf of various clients to identify breaches of copyright, especially where websites are concerned. CAS are urging all Councils to check every image on their One Suffolk website and any others they may have and remove immediately anything that is not licenced or do not have permission to use. DG advising, he had checked Sutton's website and could see no photographs/images that would raise any concerns for the PC. However, we must keep an eye on the website.

11. Meet Up Mondays – James Mallinder had sent out a general email promoting this scheme. Various villages already take part. SC – Sutton already ran a Coffee and Chat morning once a month and it was agreed it would be difficult to find someone to run the scheme here.

Clerk also had email from James Mallinder about the Good Neighbourhood Scheme. SC said that Melton run a similar scheme through their Church. Clerk said James Mallinder had advised there was funding available to set a scheme up. If we went ahead there would need to be DAB checks carried out etc. GF said he felt that Sutton was already covered with several people including SC helping with various tasks for residents within the village. After a discussion it was felt that this should be re-visited at the next PC meeting.

Recent thefts in Sutton. Various incidents had been reported over the last few weeks. One resident had a petrol can stolen from a shed overnight and another had plants stolen from a greenhouse, and vegetables had been dug up from a garden in daylight. SC reporting a resident had recently been driving through the village at 1.30 am (he was travelling home from fishing) when he noticed some youths loitering around the entrance to Chequer Field near the Plough Pub, he switched on his main beams and the youths turned their backs to him so as not to be identified. Clerk had reported the petrol can theft to the Safer Neighbourhood Team and a Police Officer had emailed back. They would investigate but need all those affected by such incidents to report them, so a picture could be built up. Any information would of course be useful to the Police.

12. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was felt that the village should become involved in this celebration. There will be a four-day public holiday, but a date will need to be confirmed by the PC and the Memorial Hall Committee, who will work together to produce some ideas.
13. Textile Bin. SC, as the village has lost the newspaper bank, a resident has asked if the village could have a textile bin instead. Discussion took place and Clerk was asked to enquire how other villages managed their textile bin. Clerk could contact James Mallinder who may have useful information.

DG explaining that the Memorial Hall were going to extend the concrete pad alongside the glass bottle banks, fencing would be placed around the area with a gate. A meeting style bench has been donated and access could be gained by a wheelchair user. A meeting will take place next week between Pete Marvin and Kath Backhouse, who has donated the bench.

14. AOB:

Clerk had contacted Peter Riches, Agents for the Crown Estate in Suffolk, regarding the fencing at Methersgate Quay. He confirmed he had recently spoken to Sarah Zinns of the River Deben Association about the same subject. Unfortunately, as he had advised Sarah, there was nothing that could be done regarding the fencing, the Crown only controlled up to the mean water line. The foreshore after this line and abutting

the Sutton Estate land was in the hands of Mr. Clarke. He had seen the photographs we had provided. He wondered if the Highways or Planners could assist, although as he understood it, some footpaths on the Estate were not formally adopted. He did however comment that the River Deben area is an SSSI site and Mr. Clarke may well have required permission to erect the fencing. It may be worth contacting Natural England to see if they could help in any way.

Regarding the orchid meadow, which is as we understand it, a SSSI site, AM will contact James Mallinder at East Suffolk Council to see if he can ascertain if the orchid was a protected species.

MK was invited to become part of the sub committee dealing with planning issues, as GF would like to step down but would like to still receive any planning applications etc. MK happy to take this on.

AM will arrange a site meeting in a couple of weeks with Barry Hall and Mr and Mrs Cook. If they are happy to site the saplings on their land, AM is not sure we can look to them for the cost of the deer proof fencing etc. An ideal site would be the right-hand side of Wood Hall Drive, but we will await the outcome of the meeting.

Meeting Closed at 8.50pm

Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 6th October at 7pm at the Memorial Hall (small hall)



6th October 2021

