

EARL SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 5th March 2020

At 7.30 pm Earl Soham Village Hall

Minutes

Attending David Grose chair, Anna Goymer, Andrew Patterson, Lucy Murrell, Neil Warden, Candida Cooke

- 1) Apologies for absence GH John Starke, Mark Rutherford and Celia Peacher
- 2) Declaration of interest None
- 3) a Approval of minutes from 9th January 2020 approved and signed
b. Matters arising from January meeting None
- 4) Public Comment a member of the public was surprised that there was no opinions about a caravan application for a static caravan. Another member voiced his concerns over the removal of the 7 day referral process for planning it was unanimously agreed that DG would write to Simon Garrett. There was also question about why the district council hadn't attended any of our meetings DG to enquire.
- 5) Reports from councillors Robin Vickery none
Report from Maurice Cook see attached
- 6) Planning applications and notifications no applications received to date
- 7) Update on current projects; grant receipt for defibrillator and purchased from London hearts waiting for delivery when up and running to advertise in village magazine, web site, fete, The Vic, John Huttons, various village societies, School and notice board. DG To contact RV about help with funding for the posts around the village green. There was much about maintaining the greens and it was agreed to look at planting perennial bulbs on the main green and perhaps making the bridge green a wild flower green DG made the point that

someone would need to head this project. CC To contact highways about traffic calming options in the village. Telephone box library to be organised by CC

- 8) Neighbourhood Plan update CS All the site information had been submitted to AECOM and I had a meeting with them in the village at the end of February where we went round and looked them all. They have now gone back to London to prepare their assessment of the sites. We will then get the draft version of that report for comment.

I also met with their design consultants who will help us to prepare a design guide. This is where they look at the 'essence' of the village and hopefully make recommendations for the sort of things we should consider including in our design guide.

Finally I had several meetings with them to discuss a housing needs analysis. This is where they look at the statistical information from the the Census, compare this with national averages for comparable communities, compare with the residents view as expressed in the consultation questionnaire and then come up with an analysis of housing needs for the next 10 or so years. We are now waiting for these reports to come back to us.

- 9) Financial matters GH attached
- 10) Cheques signed GH East Suffolk cemetery rates £89.82p, SALC advice £193.20p
Precious Gardens sign cleaning £240.00
- 11) Correspondence since last meeting GH Concerns from residents about speed of traffic and traffic calming in the village CC to contact highways as per item 7
- 12) Any other business Hedge Cutting and removal CC is very concerned about the amount of hedge removal happening and would like this to be explained by the land owners AP commented that the hedgerows needed to be cut back periodically to help maintain their size and not to become overgrown CC would like a list of landowners to be able to contact them. LM asked for the a report from NW about the village hall and how it's managing
- 13) Next meetings Annual Parish Meeting 30th April 2020 7.30pm
AGM 7th May 2020 7.00pm

ES Council Meeting 7th May 2020 7.30pm

Signed

David Grose



Councillors's weekly bulletin – May 1st 2020

This is my latest weekly bulletin, bringing you up to speed with developments relating to the COVID-19 epidemic. This bulletin contains a wealth of information from across the District as well as links to useful websites. Everything you need should be here. If you have any questions, ideas or comments, please do let me know.

Please distribute this information electronically as widely as possible via your websites and Social media.

Regards,
Maurice

Maurice Cook
Councillor for Framlingham Ward, East Suffolk Council

Remember STAY AT HOME, PROTECT OUR NHS, SAVE LIVES

Latest national information on coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
NHS advice: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

The refreshed COVID-19 pages present a range of information that you and your communities may find helpful. <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/covid-19>

Communities and supporting residents

Referrals to the Customer Services and Communities Teams have slowed a little, although a postcard is being delivered to every house in Suffolk next week. This is likely to cause a spike in new referrals although hopefully between the local community schemes and promotion of 'Home But Not Alone' to date we will have reached most people in need already.

As of Wednesday 29 April, 4365 people have been identified in East Suffolk on the 'shielded' list, of which 1,342 have said that they need support with food, prescriptions and other basic supplies.



In addition, there is the Council's Hardship Fund, with each Councillor contributing £1,000 of their Enabling Communities Budget and £20,000 from the Community Partnership Board, giving a total initial fund of £74,000. £57,000 of this funding has been allocated to date through grants to 38 different groups.

There are a number of good examples of how support through Home But not Alone has worked effectively. For example:

In a family of four, the wife has an illness that means she had to shield for 12 weeks, so had to give up work and the husband has given up work in order to protect his wife and so is not getting paid by the cleaning company he works for. Both have claimed UC but were told it would be 28th April before they would get any money. They contact HBNA as they had not been able to access the free school meal vouchers and had no money. They have been waiting for a government food parcel which has not arrived so we have sent them two food boxes and food bags (the latter donated by Morrisons), bought some fresh produce with a grant from the Hardship Fund and send the children some Easter eggs.

A man living alone, was working on brick weave pavement laying. Has lung disease and was told to isolate. Still awaiting UC payment after 4 weeks and has used all his money on electricity for his bedsit as his GP told him to keep warm due to his lung condition. Has no food in the house so was provided with a food parcel and Morrisons bag and we used the Hardship Fund to put £20 of electric on his card so he can keep using electricity.

A man who burnt his feet and was having to go to his GP 3 times a week to dress them. Spent all his money on taxi fares to GP surgery. We provided him with a food parcel and also set him up with free Taxi trips to his surgery (via 515151) Taxis using some funding secured through Business in the Community to support our response. So now he can get treatment without using all of his benefits on getting his feet dressed.

Grants, funding and business matters

Business support grants:

The Council has now paid out over £47m in business support grants to more than 4,100 small businesses and those in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors. The focus of the ED team is still dominated by the push to ensure as many eligible businesses as possible in East Suffolk receive their grant funding as soon as possible.

We know that many small businesses, which these grants are aimed at, are experiencing



huge falls in revenue meaning that these grants are a lifeline. Whilst the majority of eligible businesses have received their funding there is still, a significant minority who have not responded to ESC's communications. In order to address this, the ED team, with great support from other teams across the Council, are directly calling over 2,000 businesses to encourage them to apply for funding.

Economic recovery:

Whilst we are still heavily focussed on managing the immediate business impacts of the pandemic there is also significant work taking place to develop a comprehensive economic recovery plan. We are working closely with Councils across Suffolk, the LEP and Suffolk Chamber to produce a county wide plan to enable a swift recovery from what is expected to be a massive economic downturn. The plan will focus on what the public sector response should be in the short, medium and long-term as well as having a sector and place focus. Alongside this the ESC ED team are preparing an ES economic recovery plan which will align strongly with the County plan whilst having a greater focus on the key employment sectors and growth areas within our district.

Good progress is also being made on the Lowestoft Town Investment Plan which will be used to draw down the up to £25m allocated for Lowestoft within the national Towns Fund programme. The projects within this plan will help address many of the economic issues which have been exacerbated by the Covid 19 lockdown and will provide a blueprint for a 10-year regeneration investment plan.

Operational updates

Garden Waste

We are looking at ways in which the garden waste service can be resumed within the coming weeks. This may include an extension to the normal collection period – possibly including Saturday collections – so that we can maintain smaller crew numbers in cabs and maintain staff safety. Announcements will be made soon, with time given to ensure that all residents are aware of the commencement date and their collection days. We will ensure that all members are also aware. Other districts in Suffolk are also due to announce the recommencement of their garden waste services.

Recycling Centres

County are making more positive noises about re-opening Recycling Centres within the next few weeks. As the collection authority, we would welcome recycling centres reopening.



Weekly monitoring has shown that the volume of waste collected through the black bin has increased by up to 20% in recent weeks. It is believed that some of this increase is because recycling centres are closed – therefore their reopening would be positive news for East Suffolk Council.

Civil Parking Enforcement

We are planning to commence enforcement of on street parking offences from Monday 4 May. Given the current situation, enforcement activity will be focused on drivers who are parking on double yellow lines, or causing a danger, or an obstruction that could stop emergency vehicles or essential services being delivered. This service will be delivered through a new team of Civil Enforcement Officers, supported by a new in-house Parking Services team. CPE has been long awaited, and it is an important new power to ensure community safety.

Housing

Our first major COVID-19 response disabled adaptations were completed this week – just five weeks from referral. In that time we have implemented a policy change to allow rapid response, approved the grant application, arranged installation of a level access shower and ceiling track hoist and widened doors. This has all been completed despite challenges obtaining materials. The resident, who suffered life changing injuries in an accident, can now be released from hospital, where they are at risk of contracting COVID, to a safe home.

The Housing team have also enjoyed positive partnership working via the Communities Team with Community Dental Services offering to deliver 40 dental packs for those rough sleepers that have been provided accommodation in the former Waveney (CCG) area. We have arranged for delivery via Access Community Trust at Bostock House as a central point and these are now ready for distribution.

Environmental Health

The Port Health Service is busy with the trade in imported food through Felixstowe remaining strong. The new working arrangements put in place at Port Health to enable social distancing to protect the staff who need to be present on site to deliver this essential service is under constant review and we are now looking at how we can accommodate both teams on site without compromising staff safety or delivery of the service.



As an interim measure to ensure that food sampling frequencies can be increased closer to pre-lockdown numbers we have welcomed back three ex-members of the Port Health Team, two who recently retired and another who transferred to the Council's Food & Safety Team. This will provide some much-needed additional capacity to undertake sampling until revised working arrangements can be put in place.

The government and Public Health England are working on plans for a national Test, Track and Trace Service which will be introduced alongside a mobile app designed to alert members of the public, who have a smartphone on which the app has been downloaded, if they come into contact with someone who subsequently tests positive for Covid-19. These contact tracing arrangements will need to be in place before lockdown restrictions can be eased. Although the details are still being drawn up by government and PHE, it looks likely that there will be call for volunteers with a professional background in public health and infection control to assist with contact tracing and officers from the Council's Food & Safety Team are poised ready to offer their technical expertise.

Food Exports

In East Suffolk we have food manufacturers that are continuing to produce food for the domestic market and export. Where food is exported to countries that are not in the EU, an export certificate from the competent authority i.e. East Suffolk Council is required. We have ensured that this service is being delivered without hindrance as and when requested. It is of interest to be aware that an export certificate has just been issued to a speciality chocolate manufacturer based in Woodbridge, to enable the export of 700kg of chocolates to China.

STAY SAFE EVERYONE and remember

STAY AT HOME, PROTECT OUR NHS, SAVE LIVES