**EARL SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting held 9th May 2024

In attendance: T.Johnson (Chair), C.Cook, A.Patterson, P.Russell, P.Beckwith & T.Carr

1. Apologies for absence – received from C.Peacher & G.Harvey.
2. Declaration of interest – none received.
3. a) Approval of minutes of meeting held 7th March 2024 – minutes approved and signed.

b) Matters arising from meeting held 7th March 2024 – no matters arising that are not on today’s agenda.

1. Public Comment - members of the parish attended to discuss:
2. Flooding – see item 10 below.
3. Planning Applications – see item 7 below.
4. Report from Councillor Elaine Bryce (Suffolk County Council) – as Councillor Bryce did not attend no report / feedback received.
5. Report from Councillors’ Owen Grey and Vince Langdon-Morris (Framlingham Council) – report had been received previous week. No follow-up action or matters arising.
6. Planning Applications

DC/24/1522/P3MA – property unit previously occupied by Chiropractor has been vacated result in a further application submitted (now becoming 5 proposed new properties). After discussion ESPC voted in favour of supporting the application on the basis of the concerns previously feedback being considered.

DC/24/08096/FUL – discussed and supported.

1. Application for Earl Soham PC councillor vacancy – application from Alec Edwards had been received and was discussed. After a vote Alec was accepted to fill the councillor vacancy. Action: GH to send Alec appropriate forms to complete etc.
2. Neighbour Plan – need a stocktake of where the Earl Soham Plan is at, this having got caught-up in Covid. Action: TJ to speak to MR (previous councillor leading) and feedback to next meeting.
3. Response from Suffolk County Council Highway regarding ditches in Earl Soham
4. Suffolk County Council (SCC) Highways Dpt had responded to confirm they had closed the case regarding 2 notifications for waterway section adjacent to the Causeway Cottages although one notification for section along Church Lane remained open.
5. Members of the public may be writing to MP Dan Poulter to outline their concerns.
6. Earl Soham Parish Council (ESPC) is currently in the process of seeking quotes for clearing sections of waterways running through the village (including the section running adjacent to the Causeway Cottages as agreed at the previous meeting 7/3/24) – action TJ
7. TJ reported that he and Councillor Russell had started inspection of waterways throughout the village to help identify issues to address in advance of next autumn / winter as was agreed previous meeting 7/3/24. This to include the stretch from Mill Hill along Low Road and in particular the drain outside Foremans Cottage that has been blocked for a long time (reported to SCC on numerous occasions without action) – action TJ & PR to complete survey and feedback to ESPC

* Action TJ, with support from PR, to write to SCC Highways Dpt plus Lead Local Flood Risk Manager to outline our ongoing concerns (copy-in Cllr Bryce).

The survey and work to be completed by the autumn 2024.

1. East Suffolk Planning Alliance (ESPA) – TC had forwarded the ESPA annual newsletter to councillors prior to this meeting. No new updates.
2. Earl Soham Village Hall - CC reported funds accruing for planned renovation work. Currently selecting a company to assist with fundraising. Plan to address heating and issues with doors by next winter.
3. Earl Soham Parish Council Projects

* SID locations approved, just awaiting delivery of devices to be installed.
* Telephone Box – work about to commence. Need quote for glass replacement.
* Newsletter – to be aimed for summer all items (including Tennis Court, new councillors, village hall update, flooding update, water pump etc) to TC by 31/5/24.
* Replacement tree village green – tree planted does not meet required conservation specifications. Action: GH to speak to family re adopting a trio of native trees
* Water pump – order submitted awaiting delivery / installation.
* Website – needs an update and new lead councillor (Councillor Beckwith agreed to take this on).
* Plaque – completed and to be presented at annual village fete in August.

1. Footpath issues
2. Notice posted in Church Lane is being pursued with East Suffolk Council. CC needs copies of forms printed for distribution (to willing parishioners), completion and submission. Action: CC.
3. Jubilee Gardens – Action: TJ to raise issue of overgrown hedges (both sides of pathway) + poor condition of path from Low Road entrance to end of Chapel House garden with the Jubilee Woods committee. This to include consideration for an improved path.
4. Update on Sizewell C – update provided. Action: TJ & CC to draft letter for sending from ESPC to all neighbouring Councils / those bordering A1120 road plus appropriate companies.
5. Finance Report – this had been circulated by GH in advance of the meeting. Brief discussion. Action: GH to provide a summary of existing / outstanding ESPC financial commitments. The AGAR was signed.
6. Cheques to be signed – none.
7. Any other business
8. Councillor Training – TC confirmed that he and Councillor Beckwith will commence this training next week. TC & PB to provide feedback to the committee.
9. Correspondence – A parishioner had raised concerns regarding the danger of narrow pathway outside Bridge cottage / opposite village green. This had previously been raised with Councillor Bryce (SCC). Action: TJ to raise again with councillor Bryce / SCC Highways re: possible action.

Date of next meeting:

Annual General Meeting + Annual Parish Meeting – 28th May 2024

Parish Council bi-monthly meeting – 4th July 2024

Signed Thomas Johnson