

Minutes of the Meeting of Groton Parish Council held on Wednesday 6th July 2022 at 7.00pm in Groton Village Hall

Present: P Roberts (Chair), A Dixon-Smith, R Cheeseman, J Long, S Price, N Chapman, R Jones (Clerk)

Guests: J Finch (Suffolk County Council, B Hurren (Babergh District Council)

- 1. Apologies for absence – G Becker**
- 2. Councillors' Declarations of Interests in any item on the Agenda - None**
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting of 4th May 2022 - Approved**
- 4. Reports from**

4.1. Suffolk County Council

Councillor James Finch reported the following:

Carers Week – From 7-12 June, SCC and other organisations celebrated the work of all carers in the County through promoting the help that is available, including financial support and practical support such as giving the carer a break by offering respite care to the person being cared for. It was suggested that a 'stand-alone' article be placed In Box River News to promote this initiative.

Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Proposals: SCC confirmed it would be making a formal objection to the proposed pylon run as it believes there are more suitable ways to transmit electricity through the region that have not been properly explored, such as an undersea network.

Reclaim the Rain – Joint initiative between SCC and Norfolk CC to introduce more efficient water management to help flood prevention and water loss. As Boxford was one of the areas selected to be part of the initiative, Edwardstone and other neighbouring Parishes could benefit.

Extra funding for SEND – SCC had agreed an additional £15.9m in funding towards creating at least 879 specialist places for young people with special educational needs. 500 places had already been taken up with a further 325 due between September 2022 and September 2024.

4.2. Babergh District Council

Councillor Bryn Hurren reported the following:

Local Needs Housing - official opening ceremony taking place in on 8th July.

Council Vehicles – All vehicles now converted to HVO. First Council in England to achieve this.

Energy from Waste – Council holding two days of tours of the depot on 13th & 20th September. Parish Council invited to send representatives.

Peer Challenge – The Council had received a 4.5 start rating

CIPCO – BDC borrowed and invested £100,000,000 to help fund itself and had earned £6,000,000 in the past year.

Development in Sudbury – A proposed development of housing, business and a cinema was being considered.

Planning Application Sand Hill, Boxford – The latest application for 64 homes was being recommended for refusal and would be heard on 27th July.

5. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Following meeting held on 21st June which was attended by a Neighbourhood Plan representative from Edwardstone PC, a formal online application to be made by the Clerk. N Chapman leading and to form a sub-group and produce a supporting statement on behalf of the Council. Need to agree what the message should be and what the key aims of the plan are.

6. Planning Matters

6.1. Planning Applications - None

6.2. Planning decisions received and noted - DC/22/02141 Land and Buildings at Daisy Green. Prior Approval - Agricultural to Dwelling – Refused

6.3. Other Planning Matters - None

7. Re-siting of Noticeboard

The wall which was part of the old dog pound had been suggested as a good place to site the new Noticeboard although it wasn't clear who owned the wall. It was suggested that a land search should be made to establish ownership before moving forward.

8. Chairman's and Clerk's reports and correspondence

8.1 Tree Felling in Groton Wood

The Council had received correspondence from a concerned member of the public about the felling of mature Oak trees in Groton Wood. The person concerned had received a detailed explanation from Suffolk Wildlife Trust as to why the work had been necessary and in view of this, it was agreed that the Council note the concerns but not become further involved.

9. Highway and Footpath matters

9.1 Footpath Cutting

Two cuts had been carried out so far but due to the dry weather, growth was currently slow.

9.2 Highways Investment Fund – Footpath & Vegetation Clearance

SCC was offering to carry out extra footway clearance and was asking for suggestions for areas to be cut back. A suggestion was put forward for an area in Butchers Lane.

9.3 Other Highway or Footpath Matters - None

10. Financial matters:

10.1. Statement of Finances and Orders for Payment and Q1 accounts - Approved

10.2. Other financial matters

Due to a cheque for £500.00 donated to Boxford Primary School in November remaining uncashed due to being lost by the bank, it was agreed to issue a new cheque for the same sum.

11. To set future Agenda items – Noticeboard. Neighbourhood Plan

12. Next meeting –Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.20pm