

LINDSEY PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting for Lindsey was held on 15th May 2019 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor Arthey would take the Chair for the meeting. He continued by welcoming the newly elected Parish Councillors R. Corcoran; M. Hainsworth; Mrs. R. Howe and A. Sturgeon, as well as Mrs V Waples (Clerk), District Councillor Leigh Jamieson and past District Councillor Bryn Hurren.

1. The Chair of the Parish Council welcomed all to the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr. James Finch.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting of 9th May 2018 were approved by all present and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council as a true and accurate record.
4. To receive a report on Village Issues that have arisen over the past year: there were no issues raised at the previous Annual Parish Meeting.

The following reports were then given as follows

5. MR JAMES FINCH - COUNTY COUNCILLOR – no report was received from County Cllr. James Finch. The clerk agreed to contact Mr. Finch to ascertain if he wanted to submit his report for circulation by email.
6. MR BRYN HURREN – EX DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – Mr Hurren was invited to submit his report to the meeting as the outgoing District Councillor and commented on the following items:

Ward changes - after last year's appraisal of the district by the Government Boundary Commission, the representation of Councillors at Babergh has been cut from 43 to 32. This has meant that each Councillor will now be responsible for more residents and villages. The new Box Vale Ward now consists of Boxford, Groton, Edwardstone, Milden, Brent Eleigh and Monks Eleigh, having lost Lindsey to the Cosford Ward and gained Brent and Monks Eleigh.

Housing - this has been increasingly at the forefront of what Babergh and myself as your Councillor have been involved in for the past and every year. We have about 70 Council houses in the pipeline to be built plus 6 more on a Council-owned plot which were given permission recently. Permission has also been given for 22 general needs houses on the old Angel Court site in Hadleigh which was purchased from the County Council by Babergh for 1 ¼ million pounds. We are able to use receipts from the right to buy sales that we still have to process as per Government legislation, also some grants and we are able to borrow finance from the Public Loans Board to facilitate this. Having said this, these builds are only a small part of what is really needed to fix the housing crisis in our area.

Planning - recently permission was granted to build 58 houses on the old Corks Lane Babergh HQ site which is the end of an era for local Government in this area. We have firmed-up on our landbank for building new housing and are claiming now to have 6 ½ years land supply which is well over the 5 years required. This hopefully means that we can take a robust approach to unfriendly applications that must not be allowed to swamp our greenbelt and countryside. We now have C.I.L. which is effectively a tax on planning applications to provide money for infrastructure. A fair portion of this comes back to the local villages and can be bid for to obtain funds for local projects such as village hall refurbishments and sports facilities. Also, bids can be submitted for money from the district-held pot for bigger projects.

Environment - we will need a bigger push from now on to save more and waste less. None of our kerbside and household collections of waste now go to landfill anymore but we still have to pay the Government-levied gate fees/fines for all waste collected. These currently stand at: -
 £50 per ton for recycling (blue bin), material which is quite light, approx. 1 ½ ton per load.
 £90 per ton for EFW (black bin) which is much heavier per load.
 £120 per ton for anything which still has to go to landfill which is mainly builder's rubbish and clinker from the bottom of the incinerator. Our project of the solar panels on Council house roofs continue to perform well with receipts of around ½ million pounds per year in feed-in tariffs plus the benefits of cheap electricity to householders and the huge reduction of 2,237 tonnes in carbon emissions.

General - in my opinion, this is the era in which local Government at Babergh lost its way and concentrated on political clap-trap, vanity projects, expensive consultations and expensive self-promoting brochures, having said that I do sense that reality is beginning to kick in and there has to be a hope that in the new Council reality will surface and the new intake of Councillors along with the

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established and experienced ones if elected, will take Babergh forward in a different direction on behalf of its constituents.

Myself - I have been your Councillor for 20 years now and have stood one more time and am thrilled to bits to be re-elected as a District Councillor albeit for a different ward. I am also pleased to have endorsed Leigh. I will hope that during our time local Government can be re-formed and realigned into meaningful and compact unitaries which will have a clear meaning and purpose.

My thanks as always to all Councillors and the Clerk and I am pleased that we are still working together after the recent elections.

7. MR LEIGH JAMIESON - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR - Mr. Jamieson was invited to submit his report in which he commented on the following items:

Delighted and honoured to represent the South Cosford – biggest turnover in BDC and 2nd highest in Suffolk. Conservatives lost overall control. I am delighted to have won the Babergh council elections in the ward of South East Cosford and I look forward to working with the Lindsey parish council and village community for the next four years.

South East Cosford ward had the highest turn out of any ward in Babergh and the second highest turn out in Suffolk with 55% of people voting, which shows that there is still a healthy interest in local democracy here.

The results across Babergh could be transformational. The Conservatives now have 15 councillors and other political groups have 17, which means the Conservatives no longer have a majority.

The second largest group is the Independents with 8 councillors, the Greens including myself with four councillors, LibDems with 3 and Labour with 2.

Babergh council used to run with committee system of governance which involved councillors from all parties by proportion to the size of their groups in decision making. When the conservatives won their first majority in 2015, they moved to a cabinet system with the leader choosing his or her own cabinet. By law this cannot be changed for five years. So however, the administration is eventually made up – and negotiations are ongoing – we will have to have a cabinet system for at least the next three years. The leader and his or her cabinet will be voted on by the whole council at its first annual meeting on May 22.

On a personal level I have lived in Bildeston for the last 15 years with my wife. We moved up, from our childhood home in South Essex, back in early 2004. I moved up to follow work and it was the best move we could have made. From the very moment we moved up here we fell in love with the whole area and still do to this day. It will now be an honour to represent the residents of the area to the best of my ability to maintain the communities we love.

8. SUDBURY SNT – no annual report had been submitted on behalf of Inspector Danny Cooper from the Sudbury Safer Neighbourhood Team. The meeting was advised that further information about Suffolk Police and in particular Sudbury SNT could be found by going online via www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area and typing in the post code for the area to be researched. There are details of local police officers, contact information and on an-line contact form along with current and previous editions of the Sudbury SNT report. There was also a link from the Parish Council's website to the Sudbury SNT Reports. The Clerk confirmed that she had signed the parish council up to Police Connect and any crimes that were reported in the locality were passed onto Councillors once received.

9. REPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY:

- i) Parish Council - on behalf of the Parish Council, Mr Clive Arthey, reported that 2018-2019 was the last year of the Parish Council's four-year term. He offered thanks to all of the councillors for their attendance and contribution and confirmed that Councillor Frances Moore and David Waldron had stepped down from the Council and thanked them for their time as Councillors and David for his period as a past Chairman.

Whilst we are a small village, we have to attend to the same statutory requirements as all Parish Councils, so particular thanks to our Clerk, Vicky Waples, who ensures we attend to everything we should, and as our Responsible Financial Officer keeps our accounts in good order. Thanks also to our County Councillor, James Finch, for continuing his regular reporting of County issues during a year when he was still recovering from illness.

The Boundary Commission's changes to the district ward boundaries resulted in Lindsey being grouped with Aldham, Chelsworth, Elmsett, Kersey, Nedging, Naughton, Semer and Whatfield in Babergh's new South East Cosford ward. For Bryn Hurren that marked the end of sixteen years as our District Councillor. We have been fortunate to have had Bryn's help and support throughout that time, and we are immensely grateful for his commitment to the village. As a token of our thanks he was presented with an inscribed tankard at his last Lindsey Parish Council meeting. Among the local issues we have considered are two that are highway related. Road safety on the A1141 between the

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Semer/Lindsey boundary and Canada Cottages had been raised, and we have asked Suffolk County Council to look into a possible speed restriction on this stretch of road. Unfortunately, our long-standing concerns over visibility at the Kersey crossroads junction onto the A1141 remain unresolved. We are hopeful that a bit more pressure from Councillor Finch might finally improve the situation.

There were two particular highlights of the year. Firstly, following the installation of fibre to cabinets at both ends of the village 'superfast' broadband was finally available to us all. There had been times when we had thought it might never happen, and even after the cabinets were installed it was a long wait before they were connected. Now our memories of living with 0.3Mbps are fading fast. The main highlight was the commemorative beacon, commissioned by the Parish Council for the memorial to mark the centenary of the First World War armistice. The beacon was erected on the meadow opposite the Lindsey Rose and the ceremonial lighting and remembrance was attended by over a hundred people from the village and beyond. The beacon will remain in place and available to commemorate future events. Once again, this year our meetings have not attracted many parishioners, which I hope means they are content with life in our wonderful little village!

- ii) Village Hall Management Committee - on behalf of the Committee, Mr Clive Arthey reported that during 2018 – 2019, the hall has continued to be hired for a wide range of uses. We arranged a well-attended Village Supper at the Lindsey Rose in January and had our annual fund-raising in the Village Hall in February. There were two main achievements during the year. The fence has been erected on the roadside, which looks even better than we had hoped. Thanks to Jason Hurd for a good job well done. We were also successful with our CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) bid for an electrical vehicle charging point at the hall. Thank you to the Parish Council and Bryn Hurren (District Councillor) for their support. Also, thanks to the committee members, including Liz Potter (Secretary) and Ron Mills and Ben Howe who do so much to keep the hall secure and well maintained. We don't have large reserves and try to cover our one-off expenses from income, but with increased running costs for the hall we are particularly grateful to the Parish Council for its grant contribution towards our overheads.
- iii) St Peter's Church Council – on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, a report was read out from the Churchwarden, Mr Michael Moore, which stated that this had been a quiet year. There had been no weddings or funerals with four services for the four major events, Easter, Patronal Festival, Harvest Festival and Christmas Carol Service. We are grateful to the retired clergy who have helped us in the absence of a benefice priest. Financially we depend on the good work of the Friends of St Peter's. The main sad event of the year was the theft of lead in October from the church roof. Repairs for the damage and replacement were completed today (15th May), the day of our Annual General Meeting. It was noted that as Mr Moore was standing down as Church Warden, his replacement would be Frank Taylor.
- iv) Friends of St Peter's Church – on behalf of the Friends' Committee, a report was read out from the Chair which stated that there had been a number of events organised by the Friends to raise funds for the upkeep and repairs to our historic medieval church over the past year. The theatrical event at The White Rose in September 2018 was very well supported and hugely enjoyed by a packed audience. Out thanks once again to our hosts for arranging this enjoyable evening. The Harvest Supper was held for the second year at The Red Rose. It was well attended and a good evening bringing the village together before the Harvest Festival the next day. The Red Rose kindly made a donation to the Friends from the supper. Out thanks to Charlie and Sophie. The wreath making afternoon in December is now well established and this year had a maximum of attendees with the village hall fit to bursting. Everyone enjoyed the experience including newcomers and it raised a considerable sum for the ongoing repairs to the church. Our thanks once again to Sarah Turndrup for organising this event. Special thanks to Harriet and her friends who ran the raffle and the coffees and mince pies. 2019 fundraising started with the Soup and Cheese Lunch and scrumptious puddings at Holly Farm in March. This event is now so well established that people ask in advance for the date for their diary! It continues to raise a modest amount restricted to the capacity of a maximum of 30 people manageable in a house built in 1450. The finances of the Friends are healthy but the need to cover ongoing costs for the upkeep of the church is vital. This year alone the Friends assisted with the cost of the new electrical work in the church and with the cost of trimming the lime trees around the churchyard. The good news is that the repairs for the roof following the theft of lead were covered by the church's insurance.
- v) Kersey Village School – on behalf of the Headteacher, a report was read out which stated that following on from our Ofsted inspection in February this year, the school has come together to focus

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in on the key areas for improvement, most notably, the inconsistencies in the quality of teaching and learning across the school. Prior to the Ofsted visit, the school had undertaken its own independent review, where an action plan was drawn up: the staff and governors are keen to demonstrate the improvements and will consider a return inspection in the near future. This action plan has also been discussed with parents at our parents' forums held in the church; we have found the forums to be of benefit to all concerned and will aim to run further meetings in the future. Our Learning Council this year chose four charities to support, including Cancer Research and WWF. The children have hosted events to raise money for these charities during the academic year. The school's Worship Council continues to govern and lead acts of worship at St Mary's Church including Harvest, Candlemas, Eucharist, Christmas and the Easter service, all of which were well received. The children have continued to share their learning with their parents and the community. The pupils have enjoyed several educational and sporting visits this year which are shared on the school's website along with dates and events which are included in a fortnightly newsletter. The KS2 pupils took part in a local area litter pick supporting the community and out eco-status. The Friends of Kersey continue to support the school purchasing educational equipment; providing transport to and from events; running film nights for pupils; providing refreshments and presents for all pupils at the Christmas Carol Services and holding an Easter Egg hunt in the Spring.

We are very aware of the vital involvement the community has facilitated through shared venues and facilities, without which the School would struggle to fully function; the village hall, the church, the Glebe and The Bell Inn. We thank them all for their cooperation and continued support.

- vi) Lindsey Newsletter – it was confirmed that the Newsletter was published 4 times a year. It contains some 31 pages of interesting articles and adverts. Delivered to Lindsey households by the committee by either hard copy, e copy and it is also uploaded onto the Lindsey Village website and also the Lindsey Facebook page. The committee would like to thank David Ross for his continued support in printing the Newsletter. Contributions are always welcome on any interesting topic; the articles do not necessarily need to be Lindsey Village centric.

10. PUBLIC FORUM: there were no issues and/or concerns raised by the members of the public present:

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35pm by thanking all for their attendance.