

LINDSEY PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th July 2024 in Lindsey Village Hall, Church Road, Lindsey which commenced at 7.30pm.

In attendance: Cllrs. C Arthey (in Chair), B Howe, R Howe, J Moore and A Sturgeon, Mrs V Waples, Parish Clerk, District Cllr. Jamieson (in part) and County Cllr. Finch (in part).

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chair, Cllr. Arthey, opened the meeting and thanked all for attending. The statement on reporting at meetings of the parish council was taken as read.

2. APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:

- i. To receive apologies of absence – verified apologies of absence were received from Cllrs. Corcoran and Hainsworth.
- ii. Council consented to accept the apologies so submitted, aif.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTEREST:

- i. To receive declarations of registrable, other and non-registerable interests as detailed in Appendix B of the LGA Model Code of Conduct Model Code of Conduct 2020 – there were no declarations of interests.
- ii. There were no declarations of gifts of hospitality received exceeding £50.
- iii. There were no requests for dispensations for the agenda under discussion.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- i. To approve the minutes of the following Council Meetings:
 - 8th May 2024 - the meeting agreed that the circulated minutes, following an amendment to the list of apologies given, Agenda Item 3i and the removal of Agenda item 3ii, were a true and accurate record of the meeting that took place and agreement was forthcoming for the Chair to sign the minutes, aif
 - 12th June 2024 - the meeting agreed that the circulated minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting that took place, and agreement was forthcoming for the Chair to sign the minutes, aif.

5. PUBLIC FORUM: (maximum 10 minutes)

- i. To receive a report from County Councillor James Finch – Cllr. Finch was invited to submit his report in which he commented on the following: *a copy of the written report submitted can be seen at Appendix A*
 - Solar farm given planning approval in West Suffolk.
 - Climate Action – annual event.
 - Cold callers as reported by Suffolk Trading Standards.

Questions / issues raised by Councillors:

- Crossroads on A1141 – overgrown vegetation is impacting visibility – Cllr. Finch agreed to raise this issue again and to ask that the recommendation for this area to have increased cuts be reinstated as previously agreed.
 - Potholes on Church Road – whilst they have been reported and yellow lines have been placed around the holes no work had been undertaken to date. Cllr. Finch agreed to look into this matter.
- ii. To receive a report from District Councillor Leigh Jamieson – Cllr. Jamieson was invited to submit his report in which he commented on the following: *a copy of the written report submitted can be seen at Appendix B.*
 - Listed Building – improvements in terms of energy efficient – paper to be brought to the District Council the following week.

Questions / issued raised by Councillors:

- When questioned over the abundance of electric charging vehicle spaces in public car parks and the lack of use of the charging stations, it was confirmed that this was being monitored by the Public Realm department.

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- Results of General Election – when questioned as to whether this would have an impact on local government, it was mentioned that it was anticipated that there will be an impact once the full implications of changes to the planning system as outlined in the King’s Speech
 - Solar Farms, energy security and food security – when questions as to whether there was an expectation that this will impact those in the system, it was stated that it was unclear at this stage, but it was anticipated that there will be an impact given recent approvals on the borders of Suffolk. It was noted that there were such applications within the planning system for Babergh and Mid Suffolk.
- iii. To receive comments from the public on the agenda as published – there were no members of the public present.
 - iv. To receive comments from the public as submitted:
 - speeding in the village within the 30mph zone – given that there had only been a further verbal comment relating to speeding issues in the vicinity of The Rose, it was agreed that, for now, the council would continue to monitor the situation.
 - churchyard maintenance – lack of maintenance work – it was noted that investigations had been carried out over this matter with confirmation that the costs to the PCC were £600+ a year and that the PC provided a £400 a grant per annum for the maintenance of the churchyard. Whilst some work had been undertaken, further work was required and agreement given that this matter, including further financial assistance, should be explored further. It was agreed that Cllr. Sturgeon would speak with the Church Warden to ascertain the extent of the current contract and Cllr. Moore would investigate a contractor option.
6. PARISH MATTERS
- i. Climate Awareness / climate emergency – to receive an update / information on climate related issues coming forth – Heating Bildeston project was progressing well – community energy fund has been drawn down in the sum of £40K and the feasibility contract was underway. More funds will be available at a later date for the next stages. Cllr. Sturgeon also made the meeting aware of work being undertaken to help communities get started with community wind turbines. The website: <https://wewantwind.org/> provided assistance across the country identifying sites for such turbines. A site in Lindsey had been explored for a wind turbine and the landowner was onboard with this being explored further. It was agreed that any energy generated should be able to be fed into those dwellings surrounding the area. All noted that Groton substation is due to be upgraded soon. Heating Bildeston Community Interest Fund – discussion followed over the rural benefits that might accrue from a suitable sized turbine being located in the village and agreement was forthcoming for the PC, in principle, to explore this matter further under the Heating Bildeston Project banner.
7. STATUTORY MATTERS:
- i. Financial Regulations 2024 – to review and adopt the new financial regulations as adapted to Lindsey Parish Council – *Paper Lindsey Financial Regulations* – all agreed to adopt the model financial regulations as adopted to Lindsey with immediate effect, aif.
8. CORRESPONDENCE:
- i. BMSDC – [Summer Holiday Activity Programme](#) – all noted the activities on offer.
 - ii. BMSDC – Town and Parish Updates – all confirmed that the monthly updates were emailed to Councillors for their perusal.
 - iii. SALC – all confirmed that the weekly news bulletins were emailed to Councillors for their perusal. Councillors to contact the Clerk if there are any items of interest / training courses they wish to attend.
9. FINANCIAL MATTERS:
- i. To consider schedule of receipts received and payments made since the last meeting – *Paper A* – all confirmed receipt of Paper A (*details can be seen at Appendix C*).
 - ii. To consider and approve the verified items awaiting authorization as per the schedule submitted – *Paper B* – having reviewed the paper submitted, all approved the payments awaiting authorisation for settlement via online transfer, aif.
All noted that there was no expenditure settled via the internet banking system since the last meeting for approval (*details can be found at Appendix C*).

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- iii. To consider the Council's financial position to date – *Paper B* – Council noted the reconciled position of £9,974.08 once the accounts awaiting payment had been settled, aif. Cllrs. Howe and Moore confirmed that they had verified the position against the bank statements and cashbook. (*Details can be found at Appendix C*).
 - iv. To consider the actual versus budget for the period ending July 2024 - *Paper D* – all noted the slight underspend as at the end of July 2024 and the allocation of CIL monies for the street licence for the corner setts and contribution to the community defibrillator located at The Rose.
 - v. Council to approve the costs to transfer the current website to a new .gov.uk domain name to be hosted by suffolk.cloud with dedicated emails address for the clerk and councillors – *Paper .Gov.uk names* – following receipt of the clerk’s paper and noting that the clerk had applied for a government grant of £120.00 towards the cost, council approved the services of suffolk.cloud to register and administer the .gov.uk domain name: lindseyparishcouncil.gov.uk at a cost of £90 for two years which will provide a linked dedicated council email address for the clerk, aif. Council also considered and approved the use of dedicated email addressed once the domain name was up and running. It was agreed that the cost implications of this matter would be brought back to council in November for inclusion in the annual budget for 2025 onwards.
10. YEAR-END PROCESS: to note the following as part of the Council’s Year-End Process:
- i. That the council has received an automated response confirming receipt of the Exemption Certificate – council noted the receipt of the confirmation.
 - ii. That there had been no requests to view the council’s accounting records during the period of the exercise of public rights – this matter was duly noted.
11. CLERK’S REPORT
- i. To receive an update on the repairs to the parish and church noticeboards – it was noted that the work had been completed with cork boards for the interior. All agreed that this noticeboard was sufficient for both parish and village notices and that the adjacent wooden noticeboard should be removed. Cllr. Arthey made the meeting aware that he would arrange to discuss the renovation and re-siting of the village sign with the party who had agreed to carry out the work and firm up a date.
 - ii. Improvements to the two triangles near the Rose Pub – to receive an update on the project to install improvements to both areas – council noted that work was due to commence on both triangles by the end of the month, weather permitting.
12. PLANNING MATTERS: <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/application-search-and-comment/>
- i. To consider the following planning applications: *none received at time of serving*.
 - ii. To note the following planning applications determined by the local planning authority: *late submission*:
 - DC/24/01686 – Planning permission for the erection of single storey two bay cartlodge (following demolition of garage) @ Cob Cottage, Rose Green Road.
13. PARISH COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS: the following reports on village issues were received from Councillors present:
- i. Cllr. Moore made the meeting aware that he was intended to build a new pond on his land for drainage purposes and there was an anticipated that this will also become a haven for great crested newts.
 - ii. Cllr. Moore requested that any wind turbine needed to take into account local needs and not be expected to service a wider community.
 - iii. Cllr. Sturgeon asked that thanks be offered to James Buckle for his informative farm tour as arranged by Heathpatch Ltd as attended by three parish councillors.
 - iv. Cllr. Sturgeon informed the meeting that a resident had requested whether the white lines could be improved at the White Rose crossroads.
 - v. Cllr. Sturgeon informed the Clerk that the 30mph further along Kersey Road (east) was hidden by the overgrowth.
 - vi. The Clerk’s attention was brought to the hedgerow of the property between Frogs Hall and The Martins which is overgrown and encroaching the highway.

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- vii. The Clerk's attention was drawn to the hedgerow of The White Rose which had overgrown and was encroaching the highway.
 - viii. The Clerk was asked to ascertain whether CIL money could be used for churchyard maintenance and bring this back to the council as an agenda item once information have been obtained.
14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: all meetings will take place in the Village Hall, Church Road, Lindsey.
- i. To note the dates of meetings for 2024 – 25th September (TBC) (post meeting date changed to 16th October) and 13th November.
15. CLOSE OF MEETING: There being no other business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.03pm.

APPENDIX A – COUNTY COUNCILLOR JAMES FINCH REPORT:

Council's shock at £600m solar farm go-ahead in West Suffolk - Suffolk County Council has expressed its extreme disappointment that a huge solar farm has been approved in West Suffolk. The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Miliband MP, has announced that approval had been granted for the Development Consent Order, as proposed by Sunnica Ltd. The project will see 2,792 acres of solar panels and battery storage, installed across parts of West Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Cabinet Member for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, (NSIPS) said: "The approval of this solar farm is a massive blow to local communities, agriculture, nature and our landscape in the west of Suffolk. "I am frankly shocked that the poorest infrastructure application that I have ever dealt with, has now been approved - we highlighted numerous deficiencies in the submission.

"The voices of thousands of local residents, businesses and organisations have not been listened to. This scheme will permanently and detrimentally impact the landscape of a vast part of West Suffolk and remove thousands of acres of land from food production.

"Despite some improvements to the initial application, we felt that the proposals did not meet the standards we, and local communities, would expect from a project on this scale. Local residents will quite rightly be asking what it takes for a project to be refused, when the worst project we have dealt with gets consented in the face of so much opposition."

Suffolk County Council supports national aims to adapt to climate change and provide low carbon energy for the country, which often bring benefits to support the local economy. However it also has an ambition to protect and enhance Suffolk's communities and environment.

The council had many issues with the application, including:

- The geographic scale of the proposal which will permanently transform the landscape
- The impact on local communities of the 24-month construction period
- Sunnica's serious shortcomings in terms of both evidence and methodology
- Sunnica's presentation of proposal which made it, and impacts on local communities, unclear.
- Mitigation proposals did not appear to be tailored to the local context

Hundreds of local businesses celebrated for taking climate action - Suffolk County Council's annual Carbon Charter event, hosted at the Coddendam Centre on 11 July 2024, honoured businesses from Suffolk and Norfolk for their achievements in environmental sustainability. More than 100 delegates from a range of local businesses shared their experiences of reducing their environmental impact and heard from guest speakers from Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Volvo Trucks UK. The Carbon Charter was set up in 2010 by Suffolk County Council and the Environment Agency. Since then, over 500 businesses have received Carbon Charter awards for taking climate action, by reducing their carbon emissions, supporting their local community and developing green spaces. Earlier this year, the Carbon Charter itself was an award winner, receiving the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) award for Delivering Clean Growth in the UK – recognised for the effect the Charter is having on moving the economy towards a low carbon future, and praised for its very practical approach to helping businesses transition to net zero.

Residents advised - don't do business with cold callers - Suffolk Trading Standards is reminding people to stay alert to the risk of being ripped off by cold callers knocking on their doors. The warning comes after recent incidents of people approaching householders on the doorstep and touting for business. Suffolk Trading Standards advises people to only use businesses registered with the Suffolk Trusted Trader scheme and should only use those businesses vetted by this scheme. Residents can also protect themselves and their neighbours by nominating their area to become a No Cold Calling Zone, of which there are now more than 200 across Suffolk. Anyone wishing to nominate their road should go to the No Cold Calling page on the Suffolk County Council website. For more details about Suffolk Trusted Trader go to: [Learn about Suffolk Trusted Trader](#). Anyone contacted by traders on the doorstep should report them to Trading Standards via 0808 223 1133. In the last few weeks, Suffolk County Council Trading Standards had been made aware of a caller in Hadleigh: – A doorstep caller convinced the elderly individual to have foil insulation installed, despite the property being a new-build bungalow. £7,600 was paid. The client's son later learned of the installation and on investigating found only half the loft space had had the insulation added. He also found old insulation had not been removed and was in perfect condition.

Suffolk County Council Backs Youth Justice Plan with a focus on keeping families together - Suffolk County Council has backed the Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 at a meeting of Full Council on 11th July. The plan has a focus on supporting young people into education, training and employment and reducing the **numbers of young people**

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offending, supporting the council's ambition to keep more families together and to keep Suffolk safe. Each year the Suffolk Youth Justice Management Board produces a Youth Justice Plan for Suffolk. The Board includes representatives from: Suffolk Constabulary; Suffolk Probation Service; NHS Suffolk and North-East Essex and NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Boards, and Suffolk County Council. The Youth Justice Service also consults with staff, children, and volunteers. With the new plan, the partnership is aiming to support more children that the service works with into education, training, or employment. This year the service is running a pilot project with specialist staff to work with education providers and children to support them to remain at, or return to, school or college. The service also offers children short, accredited courses, which have been proven to have positive outcomes for young people and can encourage young people into further training. Another key theme of this year's plan is to take a restorative approach to Youth Justice. This is when The Youth Justice service works with victims of youth crime to find out how they think the harm caused to them can best be put right. The service then supports the young person involved to understand how their own behaviours impact on others and to re-engage with their community and society by repairing harm and restoring relationships. As well as helping to prevent re-offending we know this approach improves outcomes for victims. This year the service is aiming to deliver more restorative approaches including within families where relationships have been fractured by the child's contact with the youth system. The plan also outlines how the service will be looking in detail into the reasons why some groups of children are more likely to enter into the youth justice system, to inform interventions which aim to reduce the number of young offenders in Suffolk.

Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley - Fostering is a flexible role with options for short term care from a weekend a month to longer term opportunities, all providing life-changing support for local children. Suffolk will continue with Foster Carer Recruitment Event on the 1st Wednesday of every month, and an Adoption Event is on the 1st Thursday all 7:00pm in the home of the applicant. To book a place please email Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk.

APPENDIX B – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR LEIGH JAMIESON REPORT:

Green Party take over Leadership - Green Party Councillor, Deborah Saw, who represents the North Cosford Ward, has started her tenure as Leader of the Council. Under the original coalition agreement, drawn up last year, the Green Party as the largest group are to lead the Council in years two and four. Deborah, who has been a deputy leader during year one, takes over with a number of ambitions. Continuing to improve Babergh's council housing for tenants remains an urgent priority. Babergh have invested c£1m already to clear a repairs backlog, with new systems planned and improved communication with tenants pledged.

The council also wants to encourage more community-led housing and stimulate the formation of Community Land Trusts. More parishes will be supported to complete Neighbourhood Plans or People and Place Plans to help shape future development, with a renewed emphasis on good design in residential and commercial buildings. Deborah also outlined further action to combat climate change, including a desire to explore how communities can create local renewable energy plans. Work will also continue to remove red tape around making listed buildings more energy efficient will continue, while Babergh also hopes to become the first council to allow property owners to put solar panels on outbuildings without planning permission. A report on this is due to come to full council next week.

Cabinet restructure - The Council have restructured and renamed the cabinet portfolios to bring them in line with the Council's action plan. Renaming the portfolios also brings them in line with Mid Suffolk to prevent confusion for the officers. In addition to this Councillor Busby, who was leader of the council last year, has taken a step backwards due to his ongoing health issues and Cllr Helen Davies (Pinewood & Sproughton) has taken on an official role.

47 new electric charge points in council car parks thanks to £300k grant - An additional forty-seven new electric vehicle (EV) charge points are now available in Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils' car parks, to help more people transition to EV cars and reduce emissions. The 22kW fast charge points can charge two cars at the same time, resulting in ninety-four new EV parking bays spread across a number of council car parks in the districts. Funded by a £300k grant from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV), their aim is to help more people transition to EV cars over the coming years – in turn helping to cut carbon emissions and reduce air pollution. However, although this is good, residents have commented that these chargers are always empty. While we do need the infrastructure first to encourage people to transfer to electric I, and other members of our group, understand people's frustrations and we have asked the council if there some spaces can be freed up for normal cars e.g. placing a hood over the charger, until the demand increases.

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Community Fun Days - Community Fun Days are coming to Babergh and Mid Suffolk this summer, giving people the opportunity to come together and have fun during the school holidays. The fun days will be slightly different, but there will be lots of free activities available to all members of the public. Activities will vary on each day, but activities may include a climbing wall, facepainting, a multitude of sports, and circus workshops. In addition to the activities, there will be the chance for members of the public to get advice on Anti-Social Behaviour, fitness and health opportunities, mental health support, support with benefits, debts, housing, and recycling, to name a few. Funding for these days comes from the Holiday Activity and Food Programme, and therefore, lunches and a select few activities can be pre-booked by children eligible for free school meals. Anyone not eligible can turn up on the day and are encouraged to bring a picnic.

APPENDIX C – FINANCIAL REPORT:**Items received since the last meeting:**

Income	Description	Nett	VAT	Gross	Ref
	Total Income			£0.00	

Items Paid out since the last meeting:

Income	Description	Nett	VAT	Gross	Ref
	Nil	0.00	0.00	0.00	DD
	Total Expenditure			£NIL	

Items Authorized for Payment:

Expenditure	Description	Nett	VAT	Gross	Ref
Clerk	Clerk's Salary & Expenses	496.55	0.00	496.55	BACS
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE due – 1 st Quarter	134.40	0.00	134.40	BACS
SALC	Planning Training	140.00	28.00	168.00	BACS
T Brown	Internal Audit	157.00	0.00	157.00	BACS
	Total Expenditure			£955.95	

Financial Report

	Date	£
Opening Balance	09.05.24	10930.03
Add Income Received	June – July	0.00
Less Expenditure Incurred	June – July	0.00
Less Verified Expenditure	17.07.24	955.95
Closing Balance	17.07.24	9974.08

Bank Reconciliation

Community Account	Statement at 07.07.24	10930.03
Less uncleared payments	At 07.07.24	955.95
Plus unaccredited income	At 07.07.24	0.00
Reconciled Total	At 07.07.24	9974.08

Within the balance above are the following reserves:

(Restricted) CIL reserve -	£7,185.18
Earmarked General reserve -	£1,000.00
Election reserve -	£ 836.59
Current year reserve -	£ 952.31

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