

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON  
MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

<b><u>Item.</u></b>	<p>Councillor Maggie Dunn chaired the meeting. Councillors attending: Philip Reeve, Matthew Parker, Andy Baker and Peter Fisk.</p> <p>2 members of the public were present. The meeting was held remotely via zoom and took place during the Coronavirus pandemic where meetings were restricted due to lockdown.</p>	.....
<b><u>1.0</u></b>	<p><b><u>Chairman's Welcome</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Maggie Dunn welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
<b><u>2.0</u></b>	<p><b><u>To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held 2 years ago on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were approved. Proposed Councillor Maggie Dunn seconded Councillor Philip Reeve , unanimous decision. The Annual Parish Meeting of 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic.</p>	
<b><u>3.0</u></b>	<p><b><u>Chairman's summary of the last year</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Maggie Dunn commented on what a strange time we have lived through since the last Parish Meeting and that even with all the difficulties, the Parish Council has continued to meet via zoom so that Parish business can continue. During the Pandemic and various lock downs the Parish Council has supported the Emergency Response Team who have supported the vulnerable people in the village. Many volunteers came forward to offer their help which shows what a great village we have the privilege to live in. Councillor Dunn thanked all those on the Response Team and the volunteers who accepted the challenge to help.</p> <p>As part of this the Parish Council delivered 30 Christmas Dinners which were gratefully received. They were cooked by the Bunbury Arms and delivered by Parish Councillors with a card made by the Primary School, thanks were given to all those involved.</p> <p>Parish Councillors have continued to liaise with the developers, West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council on the North East development at the Barton Severals site. We are discussing the traffic assessment, the designs of the properties and what facilities the site can give to the village.</p> <p>The discussions also include the Triangle site, liaising with West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council, to try and ensure the development is in-line with the Neighbourhood Plan. The Telephone Box on Livermere Road have been renovated and it will be used once the current restrictions are removed.</p> <p>Work on the Mill Road tree belt by the Livermere Road crossroads, will be carried out by West Suffolk Council imminently.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council will remove the bus shelter on Livermere Road. This requires a road closure order.</p> <p>The School Lane/Downing Drive link footpath is in hand and quotes for the work are awaited.</p> <p>Work has continued on the Neighbourhood Plan which goes to referendum on May 6<sup>th</sup> with the County Council elections. Thanks were given from the whole village, to the team who have worked tirelessly preparing it.</p> <p>The lease has been signed for the piece of land between the A143 and Iceptits Wood. The Parish Council will consider how to use the land to enhance the wood and it's use by the village. They are looking at projects within the wood but these were put on hold during the last year.</p> <p>Councillor Dunn commented that everyone must appreciate what we have around us here in the flora and fauna. Sometimes prior to planning applications, trees are removed from the site and then the Arboricultural report says there are no trees to remove. These trees do not have tree protection orders on them but some of them are over 100 years old. Gt Barton wants to be a green village but if we continue to cut down established trees and</p>	

	<p>make a fuss about planting a few saplings we are destroying the environment we love . A full grown tree is better than several saplings at carbon capture. Councillor Maggie Dunn asked everyone to play their part by looking in your garden or land near you and see what we can do. In her own garden she has an oak tree that is well over 100 years old and she will be applying for a TPO to protect that tree for future generations. . There is no cost for TPOs and when work needs to be carried out on the tree, there is no charge for the planning application. This is a legacy we can leave behind for the future.</p> <p>Lastly Councillor Dunn thank the Parish Councillors for giving their time and effort for the village as without them we wouldn't be able to achieve what we do.</p> <p><b>4.0</b> <u><b>Report from Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger</b></u> Councillor Hopfensperger was unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p><b>5.0</b> <u><b>Report from Councillor Sarah Broughton</b></u> Councillor Sarah Broughton reported that West Suffolk Council had a huge amount to do when they went into the first lock down in 2020 - firstly with finding accommodation for the homeless, helping those isolating, and still carrying on day to day business. The workforce who could work from home did so, but front line works such as waste operatives, bins still needed emptying and they still went to work on a reduced number as many had to isolate. We have helped the community with the Home But Not Alone initiative, and administered the test and trace payment. Home But Not alone – handled 2035 calls, 5,480 clinically extremely vulnerable people were identified for pro active contact, with over 4,600 calls to individuals in 20 days.</p> <p>Council business has continued - all meetings being held on line from planning to licensing to full council - voting all takes place in an electronic format and although there can be technical hitches or loss of internet most meetings have progressed well, meetings can be viewed on line. The council has consulted on the new West Suffolk Local plan and received over 3,500 comments.</p> <p>As a council we have seen a £8.8 m reduction in income. This has come from reduced car parking charges, trade and garden waste, markets, planning applications, leisure and cultural service and Apex sales. We have had Covid cost pressures of £3.3m - which was to do with homelessness provision, deployment costs, supporting our leisure services, increased home working equipment, PPE, cleaning costs, increased bad debt and Test and Trace Provision. The total impact for covid on the council is £12.1m, we have received £8m from government which is made up of different grants, we have managed £1.5m of costs within existing budgets.</p> <p>The council has distributed Covid 19 restriction grants - this is Government support to businesses ranging from one off grants to businesses in non-essential retail, hospitality, leisure, personal care and accommodation to help them reopen, as well as grants for businesses which were required to close under national lockdown restrictions.</p> <p>The council has also been looking to the future - the Mildenhall hub is about to be completed, work continues to convert the old post office in Bury St Edmunds to flats and shops. The work is about making West Suffolk a better place to live and work.</p> <p><b>6.0</b> <u><b>Further Updates from Village Groups</b></u> No updates had been received.</p> <p><b>7.0</b> <u><b>Village Matter</b></u> No items were raised. There being no further business the meeting finished at 7.30pm.</p> <p>.....Sign &amp; Date .....Print name.</p> <p>CHAIRMAN Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.</p>	
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