

Minutes of meeting of Aldham Parish Council

held at Elmsett and Aldham Village hall

24th of January 2023 commencing at 8:00 PM

Present: Parish Councillors Ralph (in the Chair), Beaver, Crockatt, District Councillor Jamieson, and the Clerk

1. Apologies for absence

Parish Councillor Hart, County Councillor Lindsay

2. Minutes of previous meeting

These were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising

None

4. County Councillor's Report

Mr Lindsay's report had been previously circulated (he being absent due to a meeting conflict). The matter of Hadleigh Quarry was highlighted by the Chairman. It seems that Suffolk County Council Highways have agreed there is danger at the junction of Whatfield Road with the A1071. There has been little progress, but there will be a planning meeting.

5. District Councillor's Report

Mr Jamieson's report had previously been circulated and he highlighted the Hadleigh Road planning application. Babergh are at loggerheads with the applicant's agent concerning an ecology report. Also, Highways have objected to the application due to the issue of surface water drainage. There is a letter on its way from the Babergh Planning Officer summarising the current position and seeking the views of the parish council.

The Babergh Local Plan is still with the Examiner and the District Council has provided information requested.

No solar farm applications have yet been determined.

6. Time for residents

None were present.

7. Update on Quiet Lane status for Holly Lane/Cosford Road

The Clerk read out the correspondence received from Mr Turner in support of the proposal. There was a general discussion. The view was that little or no notice would be taken of any signs and in any event the layout of the road restricted traffic speed.

On balance, the meeting decided that no further action should be taken.

8. Finance

The Chairman reported on the proposed Queen Elizabeth Oak to be planted in the St Mary's Aldham churchyard. The meeting agreed that the acquisition and planting of the tree should be funded by the parish council.

The Chairman presented his analysis of likely expenditure for 2023/2024 and proposed a precept requirement of £1,326. This was seconded by Cllr Crockatt and all were in favour. The Clerk presented the completed precept requirement form and this was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

9. King's Coronation

The Chairman reported that he had received no notification of support for a village celebration and there was uncertainty at Elmsett whether that village would do anything. Cllr Crockatt felt it unlikely, but he was happy for his barn to be used. However, if for example a barn dance was planned, there would need to be a live band. After further discussion, it was decided that the village should not have a function. (There will however be a Loyal Toast to His Majesty following the service at Aldham Church on 7th May).

10. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had received notification that the parish council election would take place on 4th May and the anticipated cost of contested vs. uncontested election. He further reported that he had received the new Register of Electors. The casual vacancy due to the resignation of Cllr Glazin had not been filled and there seemed little point in pursuing this, due to the imminence of the parish council election.

11. Planning

Concerning the Chapel House planning consent, which had been granted despite the parish council's concerns over the location of the library/telephone box, Cllr Beaver reported that he had inspected the application plans and it seemed the box was to remain in its existing location.

Concerning the Hadleigh Road development, it was agreed to wait until we heard from Babergh (see Mr Jamieson's report), but then it would be necessary to remind Babergh that the drainage issue was still live. (Note: the Clerk has responded to the letter from Babergh Planning Officer received since the meeting).

12. Footpaths

Nothing was raised under this item.

13. Any other business

There was none.

14. Date of next meeting

If a meeting is required in April, it will be on 25th. Failing that, it will be on 30th May, the same date as the Annual Parish Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm.