

Minutes of Combs Parish Council Meeting
Monday 11 February 2019 at 7.30pm, Battisford Village Hall, Straight Road, Battisford

Present: S Scarff (Chairman); C Todhunter (Vice Chairman); D Thorpe (Councillor); J Crooks (Councillor); T Chaplin (Councillor); K Oakes (County Councillor); T Bamber (clerk); Cllr J Mattissen (District Councillor for Onehouse)

Absent: Cllr D Whybrow (District Councillor)

1. Apologies for absence

S Reynard (Councillor); V Whitehead (Councillor);

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Public Forum

No presentations were made

4. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 14 January 2019

Minutes for 14 January 2019 were reviewed and were signed as a true and accurate copy of the meeting by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising that are not covered elsewhere.

6. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Oakes provided the attached report. She also confirmed that funding for the Citizens' Advice Bureau was now in place for 2019/2020.

7. District Councillor's Report

Cllr D Whybrow was not present, but Cllr Oakes again invited councillors to route any enquiries of the district council to her and she will ensure they reach the appropriate person. Concern was expressed that, while recognising the district councillor's bereavement, he was nevertheless apparently still receiving pay and yet had not sent any apology nor was he allocating any funds that were entrusted to him.

8. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Nothing to report that is not covered elsewhere.

9. Clerk's Report

Nothing to report that is not covered elsewhere.

10. Planning

- a. Applications received for consideration
 - i. DC/18/05397 – Details under 1492/15 – 110 dwellings West of Farriers Road, Edgcombe Park. (deadline extended to 12 February). The clerk was instructed to comment on:
 - 1. the importance of green belt /trees around the entirety of the boundary with arable land;
 - 2. the disappointing reduction in subsidised housing (from 'up to 60' to 42)
 - 3. the council looks forward to eventual completion of phase three (recreational land to the East of Poplar Hill)
 - ii. DC/19/00216 – The Old School House, Park Road – erection of single storey rear extension. *The Council had no objection.*
- b. Decisions received from MSDC
 - i. DC/18/05259 – Bowl Road, Battisford – outline Planning permission for 9 dwellings –*Granted*. Noted
 - ii. DC/18/05324 – Jockeys Hall, Jockeys Lane – Prior approval of change of use request – *Refused*. Noted

11. Finance

- a. **Accounts review to date** – Current Account balance as of 26 January 2019 was £16,450.96 and the savings account balance as of 3 February 2019 was £1,907.79. The Budget analysis was reviewed and accepted.
- b. **Payments received**
 - i. Interment fee – T/L Mr & Mrs Hodge - £370.00
 - ii. HMRC – VAT refund £4115.90
- c. **Payments to hand**
 - i. SALC – Election briefing for clerk - £30.00. Payment was agreed by all councillors. Cheque number 22191 was written, and signed by Cllrs Thorpe and Scarff. (*Local Government Act 1972, s111*).
 - ii. Data Protection Fee - £40.00. Payment was agreed by all councillors. Cheque number 22192 was written, and signed by Cllrs Thorpe and Scarff. (*Local Government Act 1972, s111*).

12. Pensions Regulator compliance

The Clerk confirmed that the statutory declaration of compliance had been lodged with the Pensions Regulator.

13. Speed Signs

Cllr Todhunter reported on a demonstration that had been provided to some councillors by one of the possible SID suppliers. A summary of the options and procedures had been circulated and it was **agreed** that the model (Morelock) demonstrated should be purchased. Cllr Oakes confirmed that she would speak with Highways to ensure they would provide reasons should they disapprove any of the proposed sites. Cllr Oakes also advised that she may be able to assist with some of the funding. The estimated cost is in the region of £2,500 plus brackets and batteries.

14. Street Lighting

In consequence of the refurbishment of three more lamps, Cllr Thorpe is pursuing the energy company for a reduction in charges to reflect the lower power consumption. The clerk will then seek alternative suppliers.

15. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllrs Chaplin and Whitehead will attend a meeting with the Planning Department on 25 February.

16. Litter Pick

It was noted that the litter pick will take place on 10 March commencing 9.00 at the Tannery.

Cllr Oakes reported that she will be able to purchase the required pickers, hoops and hi-vis vests. Cllr Crooks will place the orders.

17. Parish Magazine

Cllr Chaplin circulated a draft newsletter and it was **agreed** that this be sent to the printers, at an estimated cost of £200.

18. Combs Cemetery

Cllr Thorpe reported that he will fill in some graves that have sunk.

19. St Mary's Churchyard

Nothing to report

20. Training

Nothing to report

21. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had received details of the election process and that these would be circulated.

22. Any other business – potentially for inclusion on the next agenda

- a. The footpath outside the Schoolhouse in Park Road is in poor condition and the clerk was asked to report this.
- b. It has been noticed that BT vans parked to work on the junction box at Scotches Corner no longer put out warning triangles and the clerk was asked to write accordingly.
- c. The collapsed sewer in Mill Lane has not been repaired and the clerk was asked to pursue this.

Action: Clerk to write accordingly.

23. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 11 March 2019 at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at 9.25pm

Suffolk County Council report February 2019

Suffolk's roads warming to £300,000 thermal patching technology

Suffolk Highways is celebrating road repair success following a £300,000 investment in Nu-phalt Thermal Patching technology.

The investment, which has been funded from the extra £9.67 million received from central government in the autumn, has aided the county's Highways teams to carry out more effective, longer-lasting repairs to Suffolk's road surface.

Over the last month, Suffolk Highways has deployed three thermal road repair machines which have repaired approximately 1,700 potholes county-wide.

The process includes an eight-minute heating cycle of the road surrounding the defect allowing for the existing road surface to be heated to 200 Celsius. The surface is then raked, topped up with bitumen binder and pre-heated material, then compacted. This all takes place within the service's much-favoured 15-minute temporary closure.

The process does not require excavation of the highway, meaning no dust or noise, and better still, no waste material. The result also means there are no surface joints, which can be prone to faster deterioration.

Following its success, Suffolk Highways is now looking to accommodate this technology by adapting some of its own fleet to self-deliver this repair technique from March.

On rural roads, when preparing roads for next summer's surface dressing, the funding will allow for work to clear drains and gullies, cut back hedges, cut grips and clean signs.

Department for Education recognises outstanding performance by Suffolk students

On 24 January 2019, the Department for Education published revised GCSE and A Level results.

GCSE

Suffolk has risen in national league tables for students in the county achieving the standard GCSE pass in English and Maths.

Today's validated figures from the Department for Education confirm that 1% more students in Suffolk are achieving the expected standards in English and Maths at GCSE compared with last year.

Since 2015 there has been a change to the way that English and Maths GCSEs are graded. Results are now graded from 9 to 1, (previously A to G) with 9 being the highest and 1 being the lowest.

The expected standard for pupils to achieve is now a grade 4 (a standard pass) and above (previously a C grade and above), with grade 5 considered a 'strong pass'. These changes will be phased in to cover all subjects by 2020.

64% of students in Suffolk are now achieving the expected standard in English and Maths, putting Suffolk in the top half of authorities achieving this standard.

GCSE progress remains above average and Suffolk students have seen a steep increase this year with a Progress 8 score of +0.08, compared with -0.02 nationally. This figure puts Suffolk in the number 1 position in our statistical neighbour group.

Progress 8 measures how well pupils of all abilities have progressed by comparing them with students who achieved similar levels in Key Stage 2 across the country. Suffolk is in the top half of authorities for this figure, ranked 42nd out of 151.

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils in the county achieving the standard pass in English and Maths is in line with national figures. The Progress 8 figure for disadvantaged pupils is also above the national level and is in the top half of authorities, ranked 42nd out of 151 (up from 67th in 2016).

A Level

The validated A Level figures confirm that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the number of A* - E grades remaining above the national average figures.

The figures show that 98.1% of A Levels taken in the county have been awarded an A*-E grade, compared to 97.6% nationally. A Level attainment is measured by the Department for Education using a points system. Points are given based on the type of A Level and the grade achieved. For example, an A Level at grade A is worth 50 points, whereas an AS Level would be worth half of this.

Suffolk's A Level average points per entry this year has risen by 0.3 to 30.3 compared with this time last year.

10,000 Suffolk homes say 'no' to cold callers on their doorsteps

Suffolk Trading Standards recently gave out its 10,000th No Cold Calling sticker, just four years after launching the campaign.

The stickers are placed on a homeowner's front door to declare that the resident does not want uninvited traders to call at their property.

The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008, state that traders who approach a resident after having seen the sticker, are committing an offence.

Further details on No Cold Calling zones and how to get a No Cold Calling sticker can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk.