

Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Joint Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held at Shadingfield Village Hall on 21 June 2023 at 7.05 pm

Present:

Councillors C Ellis (Chair), Blunn, Chipperfield, Drane, Mather and Sheldrake.

In attendance:

Mr S C Blackburn (Clerk), District Councillors T Hammond and A Specca and one member of the public.

23.081 Apologies for Absence: Cllr R Ellis (business commitments), R London (unwell), A Thornton (family commitments) and County Cllr Judy Cloke.

RESOLVED: that the apologies be accepted.

23.082 To receive Declarations of Acceptance of Office from Councillors London and Mather

Noted that these forms had been completed.

23.083 To receive notices of accepting summonses by electronic means from Councillors London and Mather

Noted that these forms had been completed.

23.084 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

Cllr C Ellis declared her interest in planning application DC/23/2182/FUL as she is the applicant and owner of the property.

A dispensation was granted to allow any explanation to be given to Councillors but not to remain for the discussion or take part in the vote.

23.085 To sign as an accurate record the minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by Cllr Blunn, Seconded by Cllr Drane and RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2023 be signed as a correct record.

23.086 Public Participation

District Councillors Hammond and Specca introduced themselves to the meeting, they were keen to offer their help and support to the many local councils in their ward and will try to attend meetings regularly.

23.087 Chair's Report

As you will be aware, following the elections on 4th May, we have new council representatives at East Suffolk – welcome to Cllrs. Anthony Specca and Toby Hammond who have found time to join us this evening. I hope we will enjoy as positive, open and constructive a relationship with them as we had with Cllr Judy Cloke, who remains our representative on Suffolk County Council. On a similar note, Sam Kenward, our Communities Officer at ESC is moving on and I wish him well in his future endeavours. We can only hope that his successor is equally positive and committed in the role and I look forward to building a strong relationship with them also. The Neighbourhood Development Plan will be considered at ESC's full meeting on 28th June 2023 and, all being well, will be formally approved – the final hurdle. In anticipation of this, I have drafted a follow up letter to go to ESC on the subject of the planning application for the Intensive Poultry Units (DC/19/2195/FUL). We will consider this in more detail under item 10 of this evening's agenda. Can I remind you all that with so many new Councillors at all levels across East Suffolk that training opportunities (and presumably, demand) are at a peak, so please consider if you think you need any training – initial or 'top-up' – and contact Steve if you wish to see what's available and sign up. Also to complete your Declaration of Interest forms if you have not already done so. Following their short presentation last month, I hope that those of you who want enhanced internet capabilities have registered your interest with County Broadband – if the parishes can't demonstrate sufficient interest then they will not roll this out to us. The issues with the Speed Indicator Signs are ongoing but I am confident with the evidence and communications trail that we have we are entitled to a full refund under the Sale of Goods act, and Legal Advice Steve has received supports this. You are, of course, each entitled to your opinions but to keep our case and chronology clear and clean, please can you refer any direct contact you may have from the Company (SG Manufacturing/Smart Group) to Steve and myself and do not engage with them directly. Thank you to everyone who has invested time and energy trying to resolve this matter. If you have any concerns following SG Group's e-mail to some Councillors on 13th June, contact Steve or myself and we can share with you all the relevant communications to date. Last, but by no means least, I am sure you are all aware of the recent passing of Ted Potter, who had served on this Council for many years before stepping down in May. His funeral took place last week, on the 14th June. While an inevitably sad occasion it

Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

was, as befitted Ted, a quiet and dignified affair without undue pomp or drama. Ted's wife, Amanda, their children, a fellow musician and a colleague, friend and neighbour (Ian Russell) each spoke movingly, fondly and eloquently of Ted. It was evident that despite his enormous contributions and commitment to this Council and our community that this was but a small part of his life – in itself a cause for celebration. We then gathered at Henstead Pavilion for a perfect afternoon tea, the sun shone, the gardens were beautiful, and Ted's beloved Irish Folk music played in the background. As one of the speakers at Ted's funeral said, "he was a colleague, he was a friend, and I will miss him"

23.088 Reports

(a) County Councillor and (b) District Councillor: Reports had been circulated as and when received including one from Cllr Cloke yesterday.

(c) Police: No report. The Clerk will follow this up with Cllr Cloke.

RESOLVED: that the reports be noted.

23.089 Correspondence: None.

23.090 Planning Applications

(a) New Applications

DC/23/1513/FUL – Dropped kerb at 3 Hill Cottages, London Road. RESOLVED: to support the application

DC/232230/AGO – Jays Hill Road, proposed irrigation reservoir. RESOLVED: to support the application subject to a satisfactory Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Cllr C Ellis left the meeting.

Cllr Chipperfield took the Chair

DC/23/2182/FUL – Fox Farm House, reinstatement of loggia. RESOLVED: to support the application.

Cllr C Ellis returned to the meeting and took the chair.

(b) Updates on previously considered applications

DC/19/2195/FUL – Intensive Poultry Units. Cllr C Ellis read the text of a proposed letter to East Suffolk's Planning Department re-iterating the Parish Council's objection, referring to the unresolved issues as outlined in previous correspondence and the continuing will to object including a further judicial review. The timing of the original application vis-à-vis the formal adoption of the Neighbourhood Development Plan was discussed. RESOLVED: to (1) confirm the Council's continuing objections and (2) to send the letter (on file).

Energy recovery Facility, V C Cooke. The Clerk had been given a flyer originated by Barnby Parish Council which, whilst acknowledging the granting of planning consent by Suffolk CC, urged residents to write and attempt to persuade East Suffolk Council not to grant an environmental permit. The flyer did not mention the potential hazard to aircraft as, apparently the Civil Aviation Authority had not objected to the plans. Clerk to raise these concerns with East Suffolk Council.

Cllr Chipperfield referred to an application for a 'digestate lake' and North Green Farm which is near but outside our boundary. Clerk will investigate and circulate to members as appropriate.

23.091 Finance

(a) To approve payment of outstanding invoices: Proposed by Cllr Blunn, seconded by Cllr Mather and RESOLVED: That the payments listed in Appendix 1 be authorised.

(b) To note the financial situation and bank reconciliation as at 31 May 2023: Proposed by Cllr Drane, seconded by Cllr Sheldrake and RESOLVED: That the situation be noted.

(c) Bank Mandate: Noted that Lloyds Bank have changed the mandate to remove Mr Barne and Mr Potter; a mandate variation adding Cllrs Blunn and Drane had been completed and would be delivered to the Bank this week.

23.092 Cemetery and Chapel(a) To consider a request to SCPT for the celebration of a wedding in the Chapel

It was agreed in principle that the Parish Council had no objection but the chapel is not licensed and a specific licence, either from the Church or Registrar, would be required. A question was raised as to whether such a licence would be permanent or for a one-off celebration and SCPT were asked to advise the council when this has been established. It was also agreed that it would be the responsibility of the parties to the ceremony to ascertain the legal status of any such ceremony.

(b) Proposed changes to the agreement between the Council and SCPT

The 2+2 group have felt that the agreement needed review and the late Ted Potter felt that the wording could be softened but without altering the decision making process. Although there was no reference to SCPT minutes, it was agreed that these would be available to the Parish Council upon request.

RESOLVED: to accept the wording as amended.

(c) Proposed black waste bin for public use at the Chapel

A quote of 50p per week and £7.50 per casual emptying had been obtained. It was agreed that a surplus bin would be found and bin liners provided and emptied by local volunteers.

23.093 Speed Indicator Devices

The Clerk had summarised the correspondence with Smart Group Ltd and our rejection of the faulty goods. Following legal advice from a consultant retained by SLCC, a letter rejecting the goods under the consumer Rights Act, 2015 had been sent. Subject to clarification of certain points with Mr Lancaster it was now proposed to confirm submission of the case to court.

Proposed by Cllr C Ellis, seconded by Cllr Chipperfield and RESOLVED: to begin court action for recovery of monies paid.

23.094 Village Matters(a) East Suffolk Pantries Grant Scheme

Discussion took place as to how and where a Pantry could be set up and how it would be run. It was agreed that, for accessibility reasons, the most likely place might be the Shadingfield Fox and Cllr Ellis agreed to take the details to them for consideration.

(b) Full fibre broadband - update

Canvassing is under way with a positive response so far. An offer has been made to provide the service to the village hall and the company has been put in touch with Mrs Dyer. In response to a question, it was stated that it would be beneficial for residents to accept the basic package and add services later, rather than to commit at the outset.

(c) Neighbourhood Development Plan

The plan passed the referendum test on 5 May 2023 and will go to East Suffolk Council on 26 June to be 'made'.

(d) Future articles for Sheaf Magazine

Cllr Chipperfield agreed to write for the next issue.

(e) Playing field An approach will be made to Mr Miles Barne by the Clerk and Cllr Blunn upon the latter's return from holiday.

23.095 Items for discussion at the next meeting:

- Review of policies and procedures
- Date for the next litter pick
- Payment to Clerk for use of home as office

23.096 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Appendix 1 – Payments Authorised

	To	For	Net	VAT	Gross
225	S C Blackburn	June salary and expenses	303.60	-	303.60

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_