

## CHARSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting Held on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022

**Present:** Councillors Pedgrift (Chair), Moor (Vice Chair), Haird, Sharp, McArthur and Pam Hembra (Parish Clerk)

Councillor Tony Fryatt

#### Members of the Public:

		Action
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies and Approval of Absence</b>	
	Councillors Murray and Laird (approved).	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	None	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and Extraordinary Minutes held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022.</b>	
	Minutes were approved and signed by Councillor Pedgrift.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Progress Reports for Information or Matters Arising</b>	
	Phyllis and Percy Mapperley's bench is now in place and is to be blessed by the church soon.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Points from the public</b> – A chance for the public to raise matters of relevant interest.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Reports</b> Our District Councillor gave us his report which is set out below.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Road Safety</b> The Parish Council participated in this year's Road Safety Week and the school organised many activities including their own SpeedWatch.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Planning:</b>	
	DC/22/4158/P3R - Prior Notification - Conversion of Agricultural Barn to Flexible Commercial Use - Shrubbery Farm, Ipswich Road, Charsfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 7PS. Whilst the Parish Council support the enterprise they feel the increased traffic would make the current access unsafe and suggest the driveway for the main residence is used as the main entrance to site. With the increased traffic ultimately expected due to Sizewell C and the new Granary Store on the Dallinghoo Road this corner could become even more dangerous.	

	Construction has started on two bungalows on St Peter's Meadow which may be liable for CIL. The Parish Council to contact East Suffolk in case they are unaware.				<b>Cllr Moor</b>
	Buttons Meadow – The PC to revisit the plans and the Appeal to see if anything can be done.				<b>Cllr Moor</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Finance</b>				
	9.1 To authorise payments as listed below:				
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Power</b>	<b>Amount</b>
	19/10/2022	SALC – Payroll	Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 s.111	£22.80
	26/10/2022	Seated Furniture	Bank Transfer	PHA 1875 s 164	£579.78
	04/11/2022	Community Heartbeat Trust	Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 s 139	£126.00
	06/11/2022	Charsfield Village Hall	Bank Transfer	Section 137	£91.80
	22/11/2023	Alan Ward & Son Ltd	Bank Transfer	PHA 1875 s 164	£387.30
	9.2 Bank Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022 – £7,624.37				
	9.3 To note receipt of income as listed at 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022 –				
	9.5 Bank reconciliations were agreed and are attached to minutes.				
<b>10.</b>	<b>Potsford Brook Water Quality Testing</b>				
	Peter Clitheroe has agreed to take water samples from above and below the Charsfield recycling facility as part of Woodbridge Town Council Deben project. See report attached.				
<b>11.</b>	<b>Budget 2023-2024</b>				
	The budget was discussed and proposed by Councillor Pedgrift and seconded by Councillor Sharp. A precept of £7,003 will be requested for 2023-2024.				
<b>12.</b>	<b>Full Fibre in Charsfield</b>				
	The PC agreed to invite Billy Rutter of County Broadband to the next meeting of the Council.				
<b>13.</b>	<b>Queen's Green Canopy Update</b>				
	No update at the moment.				
<b>14.</b>	<b>Parish Council Elections</b>				
	The Clerk has received notification from East Suffolk Council that the estimated costs for the next local elections in May 2023 will be £842.16. The Parish Council already hold in reserve £750 and agreed to budget another £100 to cover this expense should it be needed.				
<b>15.</b>	<b>Telephone Kiosk</b>				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Clerk and Councillor Pedgrift will try the electricity point in the kiosk to see if it is working and decide how to affix the Charsfield Signs.</li> <li>- Door security to be looked at. Clerk endeavouring to find someone to do odd jobs.</li> </ul>				<b>Clerk/ Cllr Pedgrift</b>

<b>16.</b>	<b>Village Historian Update</b>	
	<p>Our historian has downloaded all the 1921 census records for Charsfield (which became available earlier this year).</p> <p>A few initial features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Population 371 (includes visitors and boarders); 96 households</li> <li>- Largest household size was 10, two of them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Arthur &amp; Mary Western at Park Farm + 4 children + 2 in-laws + 2 servants</li> <li>o Arthur &amp; Florence Johnson in Davey Lane + 8 children</li> </ul> </li> <li>- One foreign born resident, William Dugald MacColl at Pear Tree Farm; British citizen, born in Batavia (now Jakarta, Indonesia)</li> <li>- 17 likely foster children across 6 households, 7 specifically from Dr Barnados</li> <li>- An entry for William Harris, Sieve Maker – this is the renowned gypsy fiddler Billy Harris who lived in his caravan on the Monewden Road (near the Mapperley house)</li> </ul> <p>Prompted by the recent Armistice Day, he made contact with Chris Pratt of Earl Soham who produced detailed research findings a few years ago on the soldiers named on the war memorial in Charsfield Church. He is sending a digital version to supplement the printed copy we have.</p>	
<b>17.</b>	<b>Village Website</b>	
	<p>The web designer has been unwell as well as his wife. We are hoping it will be back on track soon as we are having problems with the old website.</p>	
<b>18.</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meetings</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023     }  20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023     } to be advised </p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.</p>	

## **District Councillor's Report – November 2022**

### **Road Safety Week**

The theme of Road Safety Week 2022 is SAFE ROADS FOR ALL, bringing together communities and professionals to shout out for everyone's right to make safe and healthy journeys on safe roads. We will raise awareness of key areas of road safety the Government supports, including safe roads, safe vehicles and speeds, the new hierarchy of road users, and the importance of inclusivity to keep us all safe.

What has been the feedback?

### **New Chief Executive brings wealth of experience**

Chris Bally has been chosen to succeed Stephen Baker as Chief Executive of the Council. Chris will succeed Stephen following his retirement later this year.

He is currently Director for Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive at Suffolk County Council.

### **Significant improvements in air quality at Woodbridge junction**

An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Woodbridge has been revoked following significant improvements in air quality.

The Woodbridge AQMA was established in 2006 after high levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) were detected at the junction of Lime Kiln Quay Road, The Thoroughfare and St John's Street. Since this time, NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations within the AQMA have decreased, and since 2014, have been consistently below the national objective levels.

As a result, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs requested that the AQMA be revoked, and an assessment was carried out in 2021 to establish whether removal of the AQMA was appropriate. Using measurements taken in 2019 and 2020, the assessment predicts future NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations within the AQMA over the next five years and concludes that the AQMA could be revoked.

### **Consultation launched on major energy projects**

East Suffolk Council have begun engagement with local communities following the launch of consultation on two major energy projects.

National Grid Ventures (NGV) and National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) have launched consultations on the EuroLink and Sea Link projects.

Sea Link is a domestic interconnector between Suffolk and Kent, required for network reinforcements, while Eurolink is an international, multi-purpose interconnector between the Netherlands and Suffolk.

Both are informal and non-statutory consultations, followed next year by formal, statutory consultations. NGV and NGET are seeking comments and feedback on their potential landfall, cable route and converter station options.

### **Sizewell C**

This development has gained renewed support from the Government again. We still have had no proper resolution to the potential road problems that this will cause in our area. Lots of promises and little action.

### **East Suffolk Council adopts Cycling and Walking Strategy**

A new planning document has been officially adopted by East Suffolk Council to enhance its cycling and walking network.

After gaining Cabinet approval in October, and following the prescribed 'call-in' period, the new East Suffolk Council Cycling and Walking Strategy will now be implemented to ensure that communities have access to high quality infrastructure across the district.

The strategy sets out to create safe, coherent, direct, comfortable, and attractive cycling, walking and wheeling environments that lead to improvements in health and wellbeing, facilitate greater social interaction and play, encourage more environmentally sustainable lifestyles, reduce road congestion and support economic growth.

### **First Responders**

Otley and Clopton PCs have set up an opportunity establish a local first responders group (first responders are volunteers for the ambulance service where they train you to manage urgent medical situations to save time in rural areas and there were actually 3 people from Clopton and 5 people from Otley who attended).

Communities have to buy the medical kits and the ambulance service will replenish the stock The initial cost is £1,500 and subsequent kits also require a communicator which adds another £750 initial cost plus £250 per year.

The ESC Community Grant scheme will be providing part funding for both PCs.

### **Free festive parking**

Christmas shoppers and visitors to festive events across East Suffolk can enjoy free parking in council-owned car parks on selected dates.

To coincide with Christmas lights 'switch ons' and other festive events across the district over the coming weeks, East Suffolk Council is offering free parking in council-owned car parks from 4pm on the following dates:

- Beccles - Friday 25 November
- Southwold – Saturday 26 November
- Framlingham – Friday 2 December
- Saxmundham - Friday 2 December
- Lowestoft – Saturday 3 December
- Aldeburgh – Saturday 3 December
- Wickham Market – Saturday 3 December
- Felixstowe – Saturday 3 December
- Woodbridge – Sunday 4 December
- Leiston – Saturday 10 December
- Oulton Broad – Friday 16 December

Free parking will also be available from noon to 6pm on Saturday 17 December across the district.

Tony Fryatt,

District Councillor for Carlford and Fynn Valley

21 November 2022

Potsford Brook - Water Quality Context Water quality and availability are becoming hot topics all around the country. Stories of closed beaches, polluted rivers and hosepipe bans seem to have been in the news all summer. East Anglia has lower rainfall than almost any other part of the country. At the same time our population is among the fastest growing in the country. New houses are going up everywhere which creates more demand for water supplies and for the resources used to collect and clean the water once we have used it. In common with many parts of the country, water supply and treatment infrastructures have been subject to chronic under-investment for many years. Waste water is expensive to clean; a lot of chemicals are required to remove and neutralise pollutants and to reduce bacterial content. Rainfall, on the other hand is a valuable source of relatively clean water. Two separate materials needing quite different handling and processing. Quantities of sewage are relatively small (around 150 litres per person per day). Existing treatment infrastructure can generally cope well with all the sewage we produce. So what's the problem? Concerns about water quality A key issue is that our sewers are often old and failing so that ground water can enter the sewage system and add to the quantity of water that needs treatment. Critically clean rainfall from our roofs that we need to maintain supplies of drinking water feed into combined foul and surface water sewers, meaning that both have to be processed. In times of heavy rainfall more of this combined foul and surface water arrives at the sewage treatment plant than the plant can deal with or store. Rather than have the sewers back up and flood homes, excess untreated materials from the sewer are released into our rivers and seas. These sewage discharges create serious problems in our watercourses, for wildlife and for people using those watercourses for work or leisure. Human waste (most commonly indicated by the presence of E. Coli bacteria) in the water is a serious issue. Human waste also contains antibiotics and hormones (from HRT, etc) which can affect reproduction by beneficial organisms in the rivers such as shrimps and fish. Agricultural runoff into our watercourses brings with it toxic pest control chemicals and huge doses of phosphate and nitrates which are again harmful to organisms living in and near the rivers. On the supply side, the Environment Agency has classified the whole Anglian Water region as an area of "serious water stress" (AKA shortage) and Anglian have had to increase the quantities of water abstracted from natural underground supplies (aquifers). In some parts of the region this has resulted streams and rivers running dry, thus killing all aquatic species in those sections. Save the Deben campaign group The Save the Deben group has been set up to campaign for much better, more responsible waste water collection and treatment processes by Anglian Water to enhance the quality and safety of the Deben. Water quality testing Woodbridge Town Council is supporting the Save the Deben group in testing water in the Deben and the tributaries that flow into it. A comprehensive testing regime is in place which is endorsed and overseen by scientists at the University of Suffolk. Regular testing is being done from Felixstowe right up to Debenham. As part of that testing Peter Clitheroe has started collecting Peter Clitheroe 20 Nov 2022 1 of 2 Potsford Brook - Water Quality samples from the Potsford Brook for analysis at the Save the Deben lab in Woodbridge. Current testing is for E. coli bacteria. Further tests are expected to be introduced soon after piloting and validating. Interesting fact: tests at Debenham reveal the presence of cocaine in the Deben's water! This is most likely contained in the human waste being flushed to the treatment works but not removed by the process. "Safe" E. Coli levels for people in direct contact with the water, e.g. swimming are revealed by a count of up to nine colonies per 1ml of water. The most recent sample taken at the road bridge near Potsford Farm and processed the same day shows 28 E. Coli colonies (right). The Potsford Brook regularly dries out in summer when there is insufficient rain to maintain a flow. This sample was taken before recent rain when there was no flow above the sewage plant and only limited flow downstream. This suggests that what

flow there was at Potsford Farm was dependent on the combined output of showers, baths, washing machines and flushing toilets in Charsfield, reaching the brook AFTER processing at the STW. Anglian Water Sewage Treatment Plant at Charsfield Sewage Treatment Plants (which we are now asked to call “water recycling facilities”) vary in their capacity and effectiveness. They rely on a variety of biological, filtration and chemical processes to ensure that the water they discharge complies with minimum standards. I don’t have any data on the Charsfield plant apart from the testing data described above. Wetlands project In 2018 Anglian Water funded a landscaping project on the River Ingol in Norfolk to supplement the work of their small sewage plant in which the outflow is channeled into a series of wetland habitats where reeds and aquatic plants further filter the water and take up excess nutrients before it is discharged to the stream. Anglian Water claim that an acre of such habitats can clean around 700,000 litres per day. Anglian Water have announced the construction of three further wetland projects on other rivers across their region, one of which will be completed at Charsfield in 2023. (See Anglian Water link below.) Links <https://www.savethedeben.org/> <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment/get-river-positive/river-biodiversity/wetlands/> Further information The Save the Deben invites all those interested to connect with them for updates. I hope be sampling the Potsford Brook over coming months for E. coli and other pollutants and will make the data available to the Parish Council. If parishioners would like to get involved, please contact me [peter@raggedboy.com](mailto:peter@raggedboy.com) Peter Clitheroe 20 Nov 2022 2 of 2