

Kettlebaston Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 12th May 2022 at Kettlebaston Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs Rob Butler (Chairman), Ben Flockton, Louise Daniels, and June Carpenter

County and District Cllr Robert Lindsay

Attending: Lucinda Rogers (Clerk)

28/22 Election of Chairman

Cllr Carpenter proposed Cllr Butler as Chairman and Cllr Flockton seconded the proposal. Cllr Butler signed his acceptance as Chairman.

29/22 Apologies for Absence

Stephen Phillips, Graham Cranfield and Steve Marzal

30/22 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

None

31/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 30th March 2022

The minutes of the meeting were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

32/22 Report from Cllr Lindsay –

Flooding near Bridge -After much prodding I have a fuller explanation of issues here from Highways drainage. I have forwarded your clerk this but in summary, the gullies have been jetted, but the issue is twofold:

1. The ditches where the gullies are supposed to outflow were silted up around the outflow. The landowners have been written to and they have been cleared a bit but not adequately apparently. The landowners have been written to again.
2. Even with the ditches fully dug out, the engineers believe drainage is not adequate. They have listed it as works needing to be done but given the ten year backlog for such projects, are unable to give a timetable.

I will be raising questions at the council to highlight the need for extra staff in the drainage team to make use of the £10m over three years that the county council proudly announced in December.

Roundabout - Roundabout magazine's current printer is on its last legs and does not put papers together. I have agreed to contribute £4k towards the cost of a new printer which should help secure their future. As you know Roundabout's distribution area includes Kettlebaston, as well as 10 other villages in Cosford division.

Petition to pause Highways outsource tender

Since the county outsourced its maintenance contract to Kier 9 years ago, charges for one off road safety projects have sky rocketed. The contract with Kier expires in October next year and the county is about to re-tender for the contract for at least another 10 years and up to 20. Kier could well be a frontrunner again. The administration appears to have ruled out taking the work back in-house although there has been no public debate or explanation. Our group has launched a petition to ask the county council to prepare and cost an in-house bid to see if it stacks up economically with outside companies. We need 3,675 signatures to get it debated.

https://www.petitiononline.uk/for_suffolk_county_council_to_develop_an_in-house_bid_for_suffolk_highways_maintenance

Suffolk's Bus Back Better bid fails Suffolk's bid for £77m from the Bus Back Better fund has failed with the county receiving not a penny. The Government's original £3bn pot was cut massively and in the end only just over £1bn was handed to councils. However our political group from the start said that the county's bid was unambitious and appeared to be cobbled together in a hurry. The county urgently needs a strategy for public transport in the county, and for encouraging people to leave their cars at home and take the bus instead. The DfT made it clear that they were looking for bids that encourage everyone to use the bus, not just those that couldn't afford a car.

Ukraine, full County Council meeting 24th March Full Council presented a rare show of solidarity between Councillors, as our Group and the Conservatives shared a single motion in support of Ukraine. The motion condemned the actions of the Russian government, as well as agreeing a commitment to supporting and welcoming refugees as they become a part of our Suffolk communities. However we did raise the Government imposed bureaucracy surrounding current attempts of Suffolk residents to house Ukrainian refugees.

Freeport East Suffolk's Cabinet met 29th March to vote on a plan to establish 'Freeport East'. This is part of a controversial national attempt to generate economic activity through tax incentives with freeports across the country. Felixstowe Port, Harwich Port, and Stowmarket's 'Gateway 14' Business Park are set to become part of Freeport East. My Green group believes this project is more likely to benefit foreign owned businesses seeking tax havens onshore than existing home grown businesses. It will also generate huge quantities of lorry and other traffic and be unlikely to fit with zero by 2030 targets.

Businesses on the Freeport sites will be exempt from business rates so development at the three sites will be, in my view unfairly, funded by business rates levied on all businesses within a 25km radius of them.

Babergh Cabinet rejig Following an internal row amongst the Conservative group at Babergh, the council leader and three others have quit the group to become "independent Conservatives", the cabinet has been reshuffled with Conservatives being removed and a Green councillor, Jane Gould will become portfolio holder for climate change. This is the first time the Greens have been allowed to form part of the cabinet at Babergh, despite them being the second largest party political group.

Cycling and walking plan Thanks to a motion I introduced to the county council nearly four years ago, and after a Green colleague at Babergh proposed a similar motion at that council in 2019, Babergh have now unveiled a list of cycling and walking improvements which will require funding from developers and any Government grants. This is meant to be a "living list" so new items can be included, should for example, you identify a clear need for a footway or cycle link in Kettlebaston.

Traveller Site Cllr Lindsay to check if a notice can be made to prevent the applicant from further developing the site prior to the Planning Inspectors Report.

33/22 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

34/22 Chairman's Report

Cllr Butler thanked the Councillors for their full support over the last year and the way they volunteer to carry out tasks without being prompted. Just cracking on without having to be told what to do. He also gave thanks to those organising the Jubilee celebrations and the Music Festival. Cllr Butler welcomed Cllr Daniels to the parish council. He also thanked the Clerk for her help. It was noted that we hope to hear about the new notice board soon.

35/22 Speed Watch/SID

Clerk to explore if other local villages would like to share a SID. To carry over to the next meeting.

36/22 Footpath Modification

The Councillors have no objection to the footpath modification order

37/22 Clerk/RFO Report

The Councillors approved the outstanding invoices and noted the finance report – see appendix.

The Councillors agreed to donate £200 to Roundabout towards the new printer. Clerk to inform Cllr Lindsay and ask him to tell the other parishes who receive the magazine.

The councillors agreed to adopt the new Code of Conduct for Parish Councils

38/22 Planning Matters

The Councillors noted approval of the following application:

DC/22/00927 DC/22/00927 - Application for Listed Building Consent - Remove cement render from parts of south and east elevations, completion of timber frame repairs as required, and replace using lime plaster. (Revision to DC/20/02969) at Church Farm, The Street, Kettlebaston

39/22 Councillors reports

No reports made

40/22 Date of the next meeting

Parish Council Meeting 7pm Wednesday 29th June 2022

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Finance Report

Income received since 28.1.22

Babergh	Precept	£1,375
		<u>£1,375</u>

Expenditure since 28.1.22 and to be agreed for payment

Community Action Suffolk	Website	60.00	LGA 1972 s111
HMRC	Feb/March tax	59.80	LGA 1972
L Rogers	Feb/March wages	258.80	LGA 1972
SALC	Annual subscription	65.24	LGA 1972
L Rogers	April wages	119.70	LGA 1972
HMRC	April tax	29.80	LGA 1972
L Rogers	May wages	125.08	LGA 1972
HMRC	May tax	30.40	LGA 1972
		<u>748.82</u>	

Unpresented cheques

Community Action Suffolk Website		60.00	LGA 1972 s111
HMRC	Feb/March tax	59.80	LGA 1972
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Bank Reconciliation

Account	Statement Date	Balance	Balance less unpaid cheques
Community a/c	28.1.22	£4,099.98	<u>£3,351.16</u>

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