

**Minutes Of The Meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council  
held on 20 January 2020 at Edwardstone Village Hall**

**Present: P Baker (Chairman), D Williams, S Norman, P Clarke, T Woods, M Gibson**

**In Attendance: J Finch (SCC), B Hurren (BMSDC), R Jones (Clerk)**

- 1. Apologies for absence - None**
- 2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest in any item on this Agenda - None**
- 3. Report from Suffolk County Council and Babergh/Mid-Suffolk District Council:**

3.1. Councillor Finch reported the following:

Deadline for Primary School applications for September 2020 passed on 15 January. Parents advised to make applications as soon as possible as places may still be available.

Following Government inspection, Suffolk Fire and Rescue rated Good in three main categories; effectiveness, efficiency and managing staff. One of only three services in the Country to receive this rating.

SCC had invested a further £10,000,000 in the Suffolk Better Broadband programme. 68% of Suffolk properties now had superfast Broadband. Concerns were expressed that there were still properties in Edwardstone, around Mill Green, that were not directly connected and were receiving a slower level of connection. Councillor Finch to look into this.

New Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) units being attached to 10 schools in the County which will provide an additional 168 spaces for children from September 2020.

BMSDC taking over responsibility for parking management from 6 April 2020. Council employed staff will carry out street parking management duties which were previously a Police responsibility. Should Edwardstone experience any particular problems, enforcement action could be requested.

Three further Fostering and Adoption sessions taking place in Bures (28/1), Nayland (10/2), Boxford (27/2).

The Council had received information that SCC intended to reduce the footpath cutting in the Parish. Councillor Finch to investigate.

Concerns were expressed about the proposed reduction in bus services. Councillor Finch to investigate.

Large potholes in Mill Green scheduled to be repaired in 8 weeks but Councillors felt they were dangerous and deserved a higher priority. Councillor Finch to chase up and respond within one week.

3.2. Councillor Hurren reported the following:

Council Tax increases inevitable following the approval of the District Council budget for 2020/21.

Local Plan now moving forward. Due to go before the inspector in the Summer for adoption by the end of 2020.

Parish Liaison Meeting taking place on 4 February in Capel Village Hall (10.00 – 12.00). All Parish Councils encouraged to send a representative.

BMSDC taking over parking enforcement from 6 April 2020. Parking Wardens to be paid for from revenue collected from offenders.

Letter from BMSDC regarding potential boundary changes. Report from BMSDC Chief Executive in April 2020 recommending full Community Governance Review to be conducted in 2020.

Thanks expressed to BMSDC for prompt collection of 'dumped' tyres in the village.

- 4. Reports and questions from Councillors and Members of the Public - None**
- 5. Minutes of the Meeting of 18 November 2019 – Approved. Item 4 to be amended to read 'Long-Stay Car Park opposite Waitrose'.**
- 6. Highway and Footpath matters**

6.1 Footpath Cutting – Councillor Finch investigating SCC reduction in cutting. Councillor Baker to contact other local Parish Councils to find out if they have been similarly affected as this action did not

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appear to fit in with SCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Still looking for a local contractor to carry out cutting on behalf of EPC as Andy Adams was unable to do it. Some alternative operatives were suggested.

6.2 Footpath Signs – Broken Waymark sign on Footpath junction near Borehouse Manor Farm. Chevrons indicating sharp bend on Sherbourne Street broken.

6.3 Other Highway and Footpath matters – Large pothole in Sherbourne Street  
Clerk to report all of the above.

## 7. To consider Planning Matters:

7.1. Planning applications received - DC/19/05710 - Land South of Sherbourne Street. Following discussion, the Council agreed to support this application.

7.2. Planning decisions received - None

7.3. Any other urgent Planning Matters - None

## 8. Financial Matters:

8.1. The Statement of Finances & Orders for Payments and the accounts to date were approved and cheques signed as follows:

Business Savings Account as at 31 December 2019	£2,528.28
Business Current Account as at 31 December 2019	<u>£5,413.78</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£7,942.06</u></b>

Payments received:  
Bank Interest - £1.26

Cheque no	Amount £	Payee	Purpose
100900	£32.25	R J Jones	Clerk's Expenses Dec 19 – Jan 20
100901	£533.24	R J Jones	Clerk's Salary Oct – Dec 19
100902	£48.00	Community Heartbeat Trust	Annual Service Fee
100903	£31.40	HMRC	Tax on Clerk's Salary
Direct Debit	£24.07	e-on	Electricity Oct – Dec 19

8.2. The adequacy of the budget for 2019/20 was approved.

8.3. The budget for 2020/21 was approved. It was agreed to increase the precept for 2020/21 by 1.99% to £5,938 to help cover increased footpath cutting costs. This would mean an increase on a Band D property of £0.70.

8.4. The Financial Risk Assessment was agreed.

8.5. It was agreed to appoint Richard Norman as Internal Auditor for 2019/20 and that the Council's thanks to Richard for providing this service be placed on record.

8.6. Other financial matters - None

## 9. Chairman's and Clerk's reports and correspondence – Letter from BMSDC (see item 3.2)

10. **Defibrillator Training** – Boxford 3PR had agreed to provide training and White Horse Pub had agreed to provide the venue. Councillor Hurren to arrange suitable date in March.

11. **Street Party 2020** – Councillor Woods had tried to contact the organisers but had received no response. It was agreed to wait for further contact.

**12. Home Security** – It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda due to lack of information and recent incidents.

**13. To set future Agenda items** - None

**14. Date of Next Meeting** – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020