**MEETING OF**

**BROCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**ON TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2019, THE VILLAGE HALL, BROCKLEY AT 7.30PM**

**PRESENT** Cllr A English, Cllr I Robertson, Cllr K Fisk, Cllr R Dinsey

**1. APOLOGIES**

Cllr. D Boreham.

**2. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

None.

**3. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

**4. PUBLIC FORUM – Members of the public may raise issues they wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council**

No members of the public were present.

**5. REPORT FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY EVANS**

**District Report** The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has recently published population data for our new 2019 Ward boundaries. These figures (which are the [mid-year population estimates for 2018](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualsmallareapopulationestimates/mid2018)) have now been incorporated into the West Suffolk Ward reports that are available on the west Suffolk Council website here: <https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/Council/Data_and_information/wardreports.cfm>. The figures are slightly different to the previous population estimates that were calculated by West Suffolk officers, in advance of the new official statistics being made available by ONS. There are three councillor working groups active at the moment – a parking review working group plus  the rural task force and a climate change task force. WSC has invested £3.5m to secure more than 200 jobs in Haverhill. It has bought Provincial House on the High Street where AXA Insurance has its office employing more than 200 people. It now only needs one floor of the building but under the terms of its lease was paying for three. As the lease  was nearing its end it was considering whether to close down. The Council has bought the property, is letting the unused space and gaining rental income from AXA and retail tenants in the building – Greggs, Corals and Savers.

**Suffolk County Council report** I am sorry we had to cancel the rural crime meeting, but Sgt Calver was called away at very short notice. We are looking to re-arrange it. A new and improved recycling centre will open in Bury St Edmunds at the end of November.  The flagship site in Fornham Road will replace the current recycling centre at Rougham Hill, Bury St Edmunds, which will close its doors permanently. The new centre will be the first open air site in Suffolk where all containers can be accessed by the public from ground level, removing the need for struggling up steps. Visitors will be able to recycle the same wide range of materials currently available at the Rougham Hill Recycling Centre. A charity Reuse shop, which will take materials suitable for reuse from our recycling centres, will also be opening on site towards the end of the year. Suffolk’s care homes have improved markedly in recent years so that the Care Quality Commission now rates more than 87% of our care homes as good or outstanding.

Gritta Garbo has been patrolling our roads on the recent frosty nights. A competition to name all 41 Suffolk gritters was run at the Suffolk Show. Last month we had an award ceremony for the people who contributed the winning names were Sir Grittsalot, Gritta Garbo, Ice Road Trucker, Frankie Deiceatori.

The local government boundary commission for England is reviewing Suffolk County Council to bring the divisions into line – the population size can vary from just over 5,000 to nearly 9,000. Currently there are 75 County Councillors. We have agreed to cut the number to 70 although our Liberal/Green/Independent colleagues wanted to maintain the status quo or even increase the number. The decision to reduce to 70 means division sizes will be about the size of the existing Clare division but I do expect there will be changes in the make up of the division.

On a personal note, I have left highways. There was an unexpected reshuffle at SCC last month and I have taken over the role of cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Skills. I have launched a review of the implementation of the new home to school transport policy which is being led by Suffolk’s Fire Chief Officer Mark Hardingham. It is focussing on the implementation of the policy as the principle of nearest suitable school stands but we need to look at how that policy is implemented. I am also focussing on the children’s mental health, improvements to the support we provide to the young people leaving care; provision for more school places for children with SEND and the way we process Education, Health and Care plans for SEND children.

A Locality Budget Grant of £750 has been awarded to the Village Hall for electrical works.

**6. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2019**

Unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.

**7. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**8. PLANNING APPLICATION**

**DC/19/2130/FUL (i) 2 no, dwellings (ii) vehicular access Land North of Willow Tree Farm, Mill Road, Brockley**

**Brockley Parish Council does not support this application**

**Comments to be sent to West Suffolk Council Planning Department**

Biodiversity Document indicates development is NOT within 500 meters of a pond. Would raise the observation that it is within this distance of the Willow Tree Farm Moat and the Pond on the village green; there is also a pond in my garden.

Design & Access Statement

Concern that there is now a significant number of people who will potentially be walking from this area of Brockley to the village centre on the road way. Would propose the installation of paved footpath to at least Chapel Lane where street lighting has previously been installed as part of the development.

Within the Design & Access statement Mill Road is described as a “quiet lane with minimal amount of use”. I would challenge this as Mill road is regularly used by people accessing Rede, Whepstead, Hawkedon and the road to Haverhill and beyond. I have had Parishioners, especially those who are retired, bringing to my attention in the past the speed and quantity of vehicles using Mill Road during the day which is not noticed by those of us who work away from the village.

My view is that it was obvious there would be potential future development up to Ashlea when the other two properties gained Planning Approval. I would resist the extension of the village past Ashlea to the West.

Layout not in keeping with existing developments in Mill Road. Increased vehicular movement. Houses are one behind the other, not side by side along the road. It is not considered necessary for the applicant to maintain field access here as there is an access into the same field not far along the road.

**9. TELEPHONE BOX**

It has been confirmed by Highways that the former phone box has to be moved to within the boundary of private ground and off the Highway if ownership is to be transferred to a householder. An alternative option would be a maintaining lease agreement. The resident to be advised.

**10. PLAY AREA**

a) All repairs identified in the play area inspection report have been completed.

b) Purchase of replacement picnic table/benches deferred until Spring.

**11. VILLAGE HALL**

With monies raised at the choir concert of £306 and Mary’s locality budget, the main electrical works can now be carried out. Funding bids are progressing, Stage 3 of the Lottery Grant and final stage of the Acre application. Magic Minifund (grants for sports/health activity) to be approached for £500 towards the cost of a pool table for the village hall. The Parish Council are willing, in principle, to financially support the purchase.

**12. WEST SUFFOLK LOCAL PLAN: 2019 sustainable settlements review.**

Not applicable to Brockley.

**13. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

a) Overhanging branches bordering the village hall car park – all agreed the annual tree survey needs to be carried out prior to any works to the trees (an agenda item at the next meeting).

b) Overgrown hedges along the B1106 from the village to the cricket pitch to be reported to Highways. Location IP29 4AL to IP29 4AF.

**14. FINANCE REPORT**

a)The precept for Brockley Parish Council 2020/21 will be £8,965, This amounts to a 1% increase over the previous year. Parish Band D Council Tax: £68.12 compared to £67.44 in 2019/20.

b) Cheques to be authorised:

Grass cutting contract £225.00

Play area repairs E159.00

Cane & Co Insurance £346.40

Clerk’s salary x 2 months £180.00

Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Dinsey that the payments are approved – agreed.

**15. ORGANISATIONS CONTACT DETAILS**

Deferred until the next meeting.

**16. CORRESPONDENCE**

Clerk’s & Council Direct.

**17. PARISH MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

None.

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

January 7th 2020 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.