

GRUNDISBURGH & CULPHO PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, Grundisburgh
on Tuesday 24th April, 2018

NOTICES had been posted according with regulations.

Present: Parish Council Chairman Mr.S.Barnett (in the chair), 10 Councillors and approximately 60 parishioners.

1. Apologies for absence Mr.C.Burch, Mrs.R.Cambridge, Mr.G. Caryer, Mrs.P.Coomber, Mr & Mrs. Hirst, County Councillor R.Vickery

2. Minutes: As the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 2nd May, 2017 had been available for inspection in Williams Store and on display on the Parish Council's web site for eleven months prior to the meeting they were taken as read. It was proposed by Mrs.Willetts seconded by Mrs.Bignell, to unanimous approval, that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. Parish Council's Annual Report The Chairman summarised the report which had been circulated to every dwelling in Grundisburgh & Culpho with the invitation to the meeting. A copy is attached to these minutes.

4. County Councillor's Report County Councillor R.Vickery was unable to attend the meeting because of his County Council commitments. In his absence the Chairman read his report. Since the last Annual Parish Meeting Mr.Vickery had been re-elected as County Councillor for Carlford Division, and his first task was to attend numerous mandatory training sessions, covering such things as Health and Safety, Corporate Parenting, IT, Emergency Planning, his role as councillor and courses associated with committees he had been appointed to.

The councillor appointments he was given following the election in May were:-

- Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Pension Board.
- Suffolk Armed Forces Community Champion.
- East Anglian Army Reserve and Cadet Assn Representative.
- Cabinet Committee for Health and Wellbeing issues.
- Joint Advisory Committee for Areas of Natural Beauty.
- Suffolk County Council Observer on the Boards of The New Wolsey Theatre and Eastern Angles Theatre Group.

He had also been appointed to the Lord Lieutenant's 2018 Committee for Commemorating the Centenary of the Signing of the Armistice. The Committee has been planning 5 Major events across the County, as well as encouraging other events being organised by other organisations within the County. He is also encouraging the planting of Oak Trees across the County as a living memorial to all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, especially members of the Suffolk Regiment. The Parish Council may like to participate.

He has also been on the interviewing Panel to find a replacement for the retiring Armed Forces Commissioner, and their choice has been ratified by the Suffolk Leaders Board, and Lt Col John Ogden Ret. has been appointed.

In addition to attending all the main Suffolk County Council meetings, he has also attended as many Parish Council meetings as possible, and numerous fetes, coffee mornings and social events throughout the Division, in order to meet as many Parishioners as possible.

County Councillor's Report cont...

Most of the concerns he has encountered at Parish Council meetings were issues relating to Highways, whether it be potholes, speeding through villages, speed restrictions, hedge cutting, footpaths or signage. He wasn't allocated a local highways budget this financial year, which has meant that he hadn't been able to achieve much due to lack of finance to resolve these issues. However, he had been able to finance various projects, such as defibrillators and improvements to village halls, and a bench in memory of Peter Bellfield from his Locality Budget.

Apart from the Education Budget, the two main areas of expense are Children and Young People and Adult Social Care. Both those budgets have overspent in the last year, and the shortfall has had to be made good from the Council's reserves. As a result, Suffolk County Council's basic council tax rate has been increased for the first time in seven years, and the amount raised has been ring fenced for Adult Social Care.

Suffolk County Councillors have had some very difficult decisions to make, and have had to find different ways of providing services in a very difficult economic climate.

The Chairman advised anyone who had questions for Mr. Vickery to channel those through the Parish Clerk.

5. District Councillor's Report District Councillor Tony Fryatt reported.

Key points from last year

Deben Leisure Centre. The rejuvenation of the facilities at Woodbridge to provide a leisure centre to meet modern requirements is well under way and will be opening later this year. It is part of the five-year scheme to modernise leisure facilities. Plans are in hand for the redevelopment at Leiston and proposals are being formulated for the amenities at Felixstowe.

Green Waste. After considerable debate the District Council reluctantly agree to introduce a charge for green waste collections. The decision had been delayed for two years but the pressure on finances meant that it had been introduced this year.

Council Tax Increase Again, reluctantly, the portion of the council tax had to be increased by 3.1%. Although the Council had tried hard to run with no increase, it compares very favourably with the increases in many other District / Borough councils.

Shortage of Houses. Throughout the year the problems with the shortage of houses (particularly affordable houses) has been a major issue as the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The Government have tried a number of initiatives to boost the supply but without any real consequence. They did produce two papers – The White Paper and “Building the Right Homes in the Right Places”. After some lengthy consultation, these have resulted in some proposed changes in planning law and in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Local Plan Review The current Local Plan dates back to 2013. Last year the District Council began the review of the Plan such that it would be fully authorised and in place by May of next year. As part of the consultation process the first set “Issues and Options” proposals were issued for comment. The response to this was far better than the Council dared hope, showing that many communities are very concerned about housing, planning and how our part of the country should be developed.

New Development Planning consent has been granted to the Adastral Park development which will bring around 2,000 homes to Martlesham and surrounding areas together with supporting infrastructure. Very recently consent has been given for the redevelopment of the old Council site at Melton Hill for housing.

Creation of East Suffolk District The proposals for amalgamating with Waveney District to create the biggest District in the country have been formulated. This will bring some significant cost savings from the economies of scale. The Secretary of State has now agreed with the proposals submitted and it is full steam ahead.

District Councillor's Report cont...

The Coming Year.

Planning The final version of the Issues and Options documents will be circulated for consultation/comment in July, for 8 weeks. Thereafter, the Council have until May 2019 to pass through all the regulatory hoops to enable it to become the new Local Plan.

At the same time the many changes will have to be adopted that are likely to be made to the NPPF and ensure that the planning policies are up to date.

Creation of East Suffolk District Now that the proposal has been ratified, the Council has the enormous task of bringing all the activities of the two Councils together. Work is under way to ensure that it becomes one functioning team in time for the District Elections in May 2019, with one officer core and one constitution. One big decision has to be made at the earliest stage – how many Wards, and hence, how many Ward members. The final decision will be made by the Boundary Commissioner in the Autumn. He has asked us to submit proposals and there has been considerable discussion around these issues. The final figure agreed was for a total of 55 wards – a reduction of 35 on the current numbers. As a result, the current Warding pattern has to be changed. Again, the Boundary Commissioner would like the Council's views. The proposals developed will be discussed / endorsed at a joint Council meeting on 30 April.

The proposals for our patch are as follows. A New Ward comprising: Grundisburgh, Culpho, Otley, Clopton, Witnesham, Swilland, Charsfield, Dallinghoo, Debach, Burgh

The proposed name for the new Ward – Carlford - since these parishes represent almost the entire Carlford benefice. There will be one Ward member.

6 New Village Hall Update Mr.Peter Kendall, Chair Steering Group, reported.

Business Plan. The Plan had been approved by the Village Hall Management Committee, circulated to the Parish Council and made available to the community. It has had experienced, professional input and he felt that it is now a robust document. It is available to read on the Village Hall Website www.GrundisburghVillageHall.uk and in hard copy at the Drapery Café in Williams Store.

It contains detailed plans of the new hall and its size, background information on the history of the project, preferred construction methods, and the side range of facilities that are planned, now and in the future. There are estimates of income and running costs, pictures of how the inside and outside may look and details of the research that has been done over the last few years.

Funding update A leaflet has been widely distributed throughout the village explaining the latest funding position and gives the reasons why the Village Hall Management Committee has asked the Parish Council to apply for a loan to the Public Works Loan Board. Applications are now being made to a range of organisations and more fundraising activities within the village are planned. Support for these would be greatly welcomed.

Web Site The site is a simple one at present which will be expanded as the hall reaches the stages of tendering, construction and handover on competition. Currently it gives access to the Business Plan and to the funding update leaflet; when the building is open, the website will list the activities available with an online booking system.

New Village Hall Update cont...

The following issues and questions were raised...

- The Business Plan will change over time as the project progresses
- Mrs Hibble asked about publishing resident's reactions to the Business Plan. Mr Kendall suggested she meet him after the meeting to discuss this further.
- Three estimates of the cost have been obtained so far; more accurate ones will result from the tendering process.
- How much interest will be paid on the PWLB loan over 50 years ?
- Concerns were expressed at an increase in council tax
- Every resident must have an opportunity to express an opinion by voting not by a show of hands.
- Building insurance and non-domestic rates for the new hall cannot be determined at this stage.
- The old hall cannot be demolished and sold until the new hall is built and ready for use
- Questions were asked about the financing of the project and some concerns raised, the more detailed questions were to be responded to later. Other residents expressed support for the plans, and an impatience to get on with it. In response to questions over the request for a Public Works Loan the Chairman assured residents that residents would of necessity be consulted (and their support required) before any application

7. The late John Batchelor's bequests

7.1 Baptist Chapel Pastor Colin Grimwood said that the Chapel is very grateful to the late John Batchelor for his kind bequest. He didn't know why the Chapel was among the "chosen ones" of the village. How it is used is a matter for prayer and discussion, although the reserves have been gradually used up over the years. The bequest will help the Chapel to keep paying its way.

When John asked Mr.Grimwood whether there was anything in particular which needed help he told him the roof of the Chapel Hall needed re-felting, and, thanks to Mannie Martin and Barry Quinton, that has now been done. This will also benefit the various community groups that hire the hall. We will work on imaginative ways to use this money for good purposes.

Bruce, our gospel worker, has recently moved on to become pastor at Stradbroke Baptist Church. We wish him God's blessing there and thank him for the work he did with us over the last three years.

The Men's Group and Ladies' Meeting have now combined (with the unimaginative name of Men's and Ladies' Meeting). This meets at 2.30pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month (not 4th as in the Link).

The Easter Egg Hunt was affected by the rain, so it was held at the Chapel instead of the Millennium Meadow, but it proved as popular as ever, with over 90 children and their parents. Mr.Grimwood would love to see more involvement of families. A Family Fun Night and Barbeque is being held on July 9th. The Seekers group for children runs every Monday night during term time.

The Chapel is not just a social society or a place for doing our "religious bit" but has a key purpose, which is to show the love of Jesus and share the message that he can save us from our sins and give us eternal peace with God. It is about finding real life, peace and hope through Jesus. The Chapel would love to help others find out more in ways that are accessible to them – one-to-one conversations, small group Bible studies or coming to Sunday services. Messages can be listened to on the chapel website.

You don't have to be a Baptist or a Christian of any sort; you don't have to have any kind of belief or religion or moral lifestyle. Anyone is welcome.. John's bequest will help us continue our needful role.

7.2 The Sir William Brampton Gurdon Cottage Trust Trustee Iain Langdon reported that the Trust was endowed by Sir.William Brampton Gurdon in 1897 with four cottages at Vine Cottages and three at Chapel Row. The original 1895 objects of the Trust were: *Provision of cottages for the labouring poor in the parish of Grundisburgh.* This has been changed twice since then to reflect changes in modern conditions *for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Grundisburgh in such charitable ways as the Trustees think fit* Up to 1974 the Trust was administered by Grundisburgh Parish Council when the property and investments owned by the Trust were transferred to a board of Trustees under a Charity Commission Scheme. In the same year Vine Cottages, which had been condemned as "unfit for human habitation" and an adjoining building plot were sold. Chapel Cottages were renovated with the proceeds and the remaining funds invested.

The Sir William Brampton Gurdon Cottage Trust cont...

The Trust as part of their work pays for the installation and rental of Emergency Alarms for 48 Grundisburgh residents.

This is a touch-button “emergency call” service for older and other vulnerable members of the community who may be immobile, frail, living alone, isolated, lonely or afraid. It provides a personal response - 24 hours a day, 365 days a year offering security and peace of mind to users, family and friends.

How does it work ?

A special alarm unit is installed in the home and a small push button pendant is provided which may be worn as a necklace or wrist band. On pressing the button, the alarm unit automatically transmits a signal through the telephone line to a response centre where an experienced operator will instantly know who is calling where they are, together with other medical and personal contact details.

The alarm unit contains a microphone and loudspeaker enabling two-way communication. Even if a person is too far away from the unit to hear, or unable to speak, there is no need to worry, help will be summoned.

Please remember there is nothing to pay. The service for Grundisburgh residents is completely free.

The Trust can also give grants to Grundisburgh residents who need a helping hand and remembers them at Christmas with a gift and a card produced by Grundisburgh Primary School pupils.

The Trust still keeps to the original objectives of Sir William Brampton Gurdon in 1897 in providing affordable housing for Grundisburgh residents and in its charitable work. John Batchelor’s bequest of his house in Meeting Lane to the Trust will provide a very valuable addition to the number of affordable houses in Grundisburgh reserved for people with connections to the village.

The house is a semi-detached 3-bedroom, 2 reception room, utility room & kitchen with a range of useful small outbuildings and the Trust will modernise and redecorate it before rental begins.

Grundisburgh is very lucky in having 54 out of its stock of 134 Housing Association properties reserved for local people – that’s about 1/3rd. This is much higher than most villages but still there seems to be an unsatisfied demand, - remember how quickly the 8 units in Felgate Way were taken up recently. As house prices in Grundisburgh are so high this demand is unlikely to subside. So, the addition of John’s very generous bequest will make one Grundisburgh family very happy and enable them to live in the village where they probably were born, went to school and grew up.

7.3 St.Mary's Church Rev Canon Clare Sanders reported that thanks to the generosity of John Batchelor – St.Mary’s are now hopeful of being able to move forward on building on the North side of the church, a small extension to house toilet facilities and a new boiler.

Planning Permission has been granted and Faculty permission is awaited, which is the Diocesan part of the process. It is a requirement of the project that appropriate archaeological investigations take place, and we now have a firm price for that – but are unable to go out to tender until Faculty permission has been granted.

The Church is keen to move forward swiftly as CRIBFEST is held once again in November and that attracts visitors from far and wide. As it is also the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War separate services in Grundisburgh and Burgh are planned and there are plans afoot to create some form of art installation over that Remembrance period and to welcome a large congregation to the Remembrance Day service.

This past year has seen the life of the church in the community continue to grow, with Lunch Club full to capacity; Baby Café, Tiddlywinks and Messy Church growing in popularity; an occasional meeting of those engaged in caring for family members with memory loss and dementia- much appreciated. The coming together for 1st Saturday in the month Coffee Mornings, is appreciated by many people who live on their own and enjoy a cuppa with conversation and an opportunity to buy a homemade cake or stock up on reading material.

Involvement in school through Open the Book and taking assemblies continues and seems to be very popular with the children.

There were 21 funerals or burial of ashes during the course of the year. We are indebted to the Parish Council for their contribution towards the upkeep of the churchyard. The peace and serenity of which is much appreciated by those visiting loved ones.

St.Mary's Church cont...

But as we have been asked to report on the legacy of Nigel and John Batchelor, you might also be amused to hear the story of the burial of his ashes- earlier this year. The date was set, I made my way to the churchyard- his nephew arrived along with a few others from the village, and we made our way to the graveside. I looked at the nephew and said, "So have you got John's ashes"? His face fell- no he hadn't- as he made his way to Woodbridge, I went and rang the undertaker. The nephew arrived back 40 minutes or so later with the ashes and wryly reflected that Uncle John always did enjoy a ride in the car, with a bit of a turn of speed and that was the fastest he had ever driven between Woodbridge and Grundisburgh. John had indeed had his final car ride and then was duly laid to rest.

7.4 1st Grundisburgh Scouts Stuart Ross, Group Scout Leader, said that as the Group has become a beneficiary of the late John Batchelor and his son Nigel's Estates he had been asked to say how this will affect the Group now and in the future.

John and Nigel were both good friends to his family and always asked what the Scouts were up to and how we they were doing with our fundraising. It is believed that Nigel was in the Grundisburgh Scouts many years ago but there is no record of this.

It was a great surprise to Mr.Ross's parents when a letter arrived on the Saturday of the Scouts Big Firework Display in November last year. This was to let us know that the Group was a beneficiary in Nigel's Will. They didn't tell Stuart that day because of all the organising etc. that he was doing with the firework night, they thought it would be best left until afterwards.

Next day his parents handed him the letter to read and he had to go over it three times until he believed it. He spoke to John about this and he said it's what Nigel would have wanted.

When John decided to move into a Care Home in Kesgrave in the late Autumn the Ross family visited him there but to their great sorrow he died on Xmas Day, a very dear friend.

The money that has been left to the Scout Group by John and Nigel will hopefully enable us to build a purpose made Scout & Guide HQ with one or more rooms that can be hired by other organisations for Meetings.

Enquiries are now taking place to try to buy a plot of land near the playing field which will enable the Scouts to carry on using the playing field for their activities.

The bequest is tied up with Solicitors, so the Group will carry on fundraising, and will still have the Duck Race and the Fireworks Display, they also hope to apply for Grants, get help on how to go about this and perhaps someone will do it on their behalf.

The Scouts and Guides are forever indebted to John and Nigel and we give the Batchelor family our very grateful appreciation for thinking of us. Mr.Ross thanked everyone for their support.

8. Any Questions Questions had been sent to the Chairman prior to the meeting concerning speeding issues which are a cause of great concern to many parishioners are. It was claimed that traffic is travelling through Grundisburgh at speeds exceeding the 30mph limit and that the problem is getting worse and if action is not taken there will be a tragedy. This view was shared by many residents present at the meeting.

It was pointed out that evidence was needed if County Council Highways will consider installing any additional traffic calming measures. A Speed Indicator Device (SID) which records and analyses traffic speeds over a period of several days would provide this. The Parish Council is a member of SAVID (Safer Village Driving), a group of villagers campaigning for speed reduction in villages, who should soon have access to a SID which the Parish Council could use.

A 20mph speed restriction was advocated but the threshold criteria for initial consideration are severe. It was pointed out that parked vehicles are a very effective speed restriction tool and that the main speeding offenders were villagers themselves.

The Parish Council's Roads & Transport Committee will press for surveys to be carried out and investigate joining Community Speed Watch.

9. The Year in Pictures - Grundisburgh & District News Mr.Peter Kendall of the Grundisburgh & District News gave a very entertaining slide show of "News" photographs of village events during the year.

The Chairman closed the meeting and refreshments were served

GRUNDISBURGH & CULPHO PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

1st APRIL 2017 - 31st MARCH 2018

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Geoff Caryer, The Chestnuts, Rose Hill, Grundisburgh IP13 6TG	01473-738108
John Dunnett, Squeech Farm Cottage, Grundisburgh IP13 6TL	01473-735515
Sally Grahn, 15 Alice Driver Road, Grundisburgh IP13 6XH	01473-738219
David Higgins, Walnut House, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh IP13 6UB	01473-738694
John Lapsley, 1 Abbey Farm Barn, Culpho	01473-738008
Peter Kendall, Ford House, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA	01473-738267
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Meetings The Council met bi-monthly and two Extraordinary Meeting was held. The Council's Finance, Roads & Transport, Planning and Footpaths & Environment Sub Committees also met during the year. The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall on the 2nd May 2017 where reports were given by village organisations and an update on the new village hall project.

Web Site The Parish Council's web site <http://grundisburgh.suffolk.cloud> has expanded considerably over the years and is a valuable tool in keeping the villages informed of council activities and providing information. Information includes the minutes of council and committee meetings and sections on Planning, Housing, Environment, Local History and lots more. It also has many useful links. Please give it a look.

Welcome Pack There is always a danger that newcomers can feel isolated and lost when they arrive in the villages. Welcome Packs compiled and delivered by Sally Grahn help enormously to help them feel at home and are greatly appreciated. These packs are full of valuable information to help those new to the area to help them settle in. If you know of anyone who has been missed please let Sally know 01473-738219.

Planning The parish council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications in Grundisburgh and Culpho which means that the council receive details of all applications in the parishes and invited to submit comments to the Planning Authority. Planning is a very contentious subject and people can get very agitated about it but please remember that anyone can object to, or support, applications. Planning permissions are granted, or refused, by Suffolk Coastal District Council NOT Parish Councils. The Parish Council has established a policy which directs how it deals with the diverse types of applications and these can be viewed on the council's web site or a hard copy can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Roads & Transport The Parish Council receives more complaints about the condition of local roads than anything else. The County Council, like all principal authorities, have suffered swinging cuts in the funding they receive from central government. From 2010/2011 to 2018/2019 there will be a 40% reduction in revenue funding, that's funding used for routine maintenance, emergency repairs, grass cutting and energy costs for street lighting and signals. Examples of how this affects local roads is that the annual budget for the replacement of missing signs to sign cleaning is £112,000. There are 102,000 signs in Suffolk, so the budget equates to little more than £1 per sign. This may explain why many non-mandatory signs are not replaced if damaged and why many signs have remained uncleaned for many years. Road re-lining is only carried out when roads are re-surfaced. This explains why many road marking lines are practically worn completely away. When the Parish Council receives complaints, it encourages villagers to report road and traffic problems directly to the County Council using the reporting tool on their web site.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads-pavements-and-verges/potholes/report-a-pothole/>

Complaints from the people directly affected by the problem are more likely to be listened too.

Footpaths & Environment The Footpaths & Environment Committee, led by Chair Sally Grahn, has been very active throughout the year. It looks after the over-all appearance of the village. It carries out cleaning of street signs and made sure all were sparkling clean before the Cycling Tour of Great Brittan travelled though the villages on the 8th September. All the 13 benches in Grundisburgh have been inspected and many will be stained, and some have slats replaced in 2018.

A new bench in Memory of our late County Councillor Peter Bellfield will be erected on Lyttleton Meadow. The Sunday walks have again been very popular leaving the Village Green at 2.00pm on the second Sunday in the month. This is a fantastic way to discover routes you are not familiar with and enjoy the beautiful countryside surrounding the village in good company. The walks last about 2 hours. The walk on the 12th March was combined with a litter pick. 16 villagers took part. One of the most enjoyable walks is the Annual Christmas Torch Lit Walk on the 18th December from the Village Green to Mr & Mrs.Hill's home in Hasketon where 17 walkers were welcomed by mulled wine, fruit juices and festive fare.

The Millennium Meadow, a rare area of wet grass land, which was conceived by the Parish Council as a conservation area to celebrate the Millennium and made possible by the generosity of Lord Cranworth in granting us a 100-year lease. Whatever the time of year it is always in immaculate condition thanks to the regular work party which meets there on the second Saturday of the month 10.00am – 12.30pm. Please contact the warden John Dunnett on 01473-735515 if you can help. John and his helpers would make you very welcome.

The late John Batchelor The incredibly generous bequests to village organisations in the will of the late John Batchelor will make a tremendous improvement to Grundisburgh's infrastructure. St. Mary's Church and the Scouts and Guides have worked hard for many years in creating plans and raising funds for an extension to the Church and a new Headquarters for the Scouts and Guides. Despite the enormity of the task and the daunting amounts of money needed to fulfil their plans they have never given up hope and now with the help of this bequest their dreams will now be fulfilled. The Baptist Church will also receive a bequest to advance their work in the village and the Gurdon Trust will receive Mr. Batchelor's home in Meeting Lane which will be rented to a local family. All these organisations will tell us at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 24th April how their plans are progressing.