

**GRUNDISBURGH & CULPHO PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, Grundisburgh**  
**on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2023**

NOTICES had been posted according with regulations.

Present: Parish Council Chairman Mrs. Ann Willetts, 4 Parish Councillors, County Councillor E. Bryce, District Councillor Dan Clery and approximately 35 parishioners

**1. Apologies** Parish Councillors Chris Dow, Mike Harris, David Higgins, District Councillor C Hedgley.

**2. 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.

Mrs. Willetts said she was very angry when Hopkin's Homes commenced work on the building of 70 houses on Chapel /Field, on July 19<sup>th</sup> last year, the hottest day ever recorded in England causing an enormous dust storm. What a shock for so many people, particularly those living on the narrow roads around the site. Eventually water was laid on the site, so some damping down was possible and the lorries did eventually mostly use the designated route.

We have 70 houses being built on a field which should have never been built on by a developer who should have never been given planning permission by the planning authority supported by the highway authority. Never-the-less the people who move into these properties will be welcomed into our community just as her family were welcomed when they arrived 42 years ago. The Parish Council is continuing to try to get the best possible outcomes for the majority of villagers. Trying to make sure our roads will be repaired, banks and verges restored and footpaths surfaced with suitable material and free of trip hazards. Just to try to arrange meetings is taking months.

You will hear a little later in the agenda how the East Suffolk Planning Alliance ESPA has been formed largely as a result of the experiences of the Grundisburgh Action Group during their fight against the development of Chapel Field.

This is the second Annual Parish Meeting to be held in our magnificent new, very well used, Village Hall which has enjoyed a very successful first year in financial terms, in helping to start new ventures and expanding established ones. The Hall provided an excellent home for our very successful Coronation Celebrations on Sunday 7th May. Our village turned out in force to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles 111.

Our village is good and getting better at caring for the interests of young people with Baby, Toddler and Carers Groups, 456 Club, Youth Club, Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies and Beavers.

This is our Annual Parish Meeting, a Public Meeting where questions are welcomed during the meeting or over a glass of wine and a buffet supper at the end of the meeting.

**3. East Suffolk Planning Alliance** Mr, Rupert Herries explained that he is a founding member of the Grundisburgh Action Group that worked alongside the Parish Council to fight the proposed development on Chapel Field which is nearing completion. He read the following report.

"I have lived in this wonderful village since 1982. During a conversation last January, Chair of our Parish Council Ann Willetts and I decided together that the time had come to call a meeting inviting representatives of parish councils and action groups from across the region to join us and share their experiences with East Suffolk Council and to explore a way to bring our communities together, as up to this point so many of us have been fighting inappropriate developments in isolation and it hasn't worked.

### **East Suffolk Planning Alliance cont....**

The conclusion of that meeting was the formation of East Suffolk Planning Alliance - ESPA.

ESPA is not a political organisation and not solely about Chapel Field or Grundisburgh, but it was born here, and the Chapel Field development was its initial inspiration.

We are not Nimby's. We will be campaigning for sustainable, affordable housing in appropriate locations that have the infrastructure in place to support the inevitable increases of population.

Our experience here in our community is far from unique as we have discovered.

ESPA is an Alliance of: Resident Action Groups, Individuals representing many Parish and Town Councils and many concerned people that recognise the irreversible negative impacts the current Suffolk Coastal Local Plan and East Suffolk Local Plan are inflicting upon our towns, villages and rural communities across the whole of East Suffolk

### **Our ESPA Mission Statement is derived from community experience/engagement and challenges with East Suffolk Council and Planning Department. It encompasses the following key points;**

- Unsuitable large scale developments impacting villages and towns with insufficient, available or planned infrastructure network
- Traffic impacts on small rural lanes & roads
- Insufficient general infrastructure (roads, sewage, schools, GP's & other services)
- Unsuitable type of developments not catering for the local needs
- Size of homes often not realistic for local residents
- Homes not meeting the affordability thresholds sufficiently
- Lack of (and implementation of) appropriate environmentally driven policy
- Deficient net-zero / renewable provision in the planning process
- Unsuitability of locations: lack of public transport resulting in rural lane/road usage
- Increasingly problematic use of valuable high grade agricultural land for developments

### **The Mission Statement (Feb23) derived out of communities experiencing problems and encompassing the following key points;**

- Disallow purposeful use of dual planning applications by developers; Achievable based on existing legislation, section 43 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

What gives us hope that all this possible?

- Michael Gove's statement in December 2022 acknowledges issues with the current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and aims to demand a suspension, public review and revision of current Local Plans
- In Autumn 2023 the new Biodiversity Net Gain requirements are to become law, and all current applications must meet this criteria.
- Outcome of the local council elections where the Conservatives lost control of both East and Mid-Suffolk to the Greens/Lib Dems

### **Activities**

First Focus Group Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023

*Immediately after that meeting we formed our steering committee and wrote to East Suffolk Council CEO Mr Chris Bally announcing our formation. Mr Bally responded immediately requesting a meeting between ESPA and himself.*

Second Focus Group Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> Apr 2023

*We wrote a follow up letter to Mr. Bally outlining the concerns and issues that had been raised at this meeting and confirmed that we would like to meet with him to discuss these further*

*We have written to Parish Councils across the region inviting them to affiliate with ESPA. The response has been very positive, with Affiliations so far:*

- Parish & Town Councils 17 and growing rapidly
- Residents' Action Groups 3

## *East Suffolk Planning Alliance cont...*

### **Progress**

Next Step:

- We are in dialogue with Chris Bally, the CEO of East Suffolk Council, and we are planning to meet him in mid/late June.(By his request)
- This will be an introductory meeting where we will attempt and find points of consensus between our Communities and the Council.
- Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Focus Group Meeting will be convened following our meeting with Mr. Bally.
- From this we will seek to agree an action plan and next steps.

In 4 months we have made remarkable progress.

So....The main aims of ESPA are to bring together and work constructively and positively with communities across the regions of East Suffolk alongside working with East Suffolk Council to reset the relationships between this authority and its communities.

We foresee great opportunities ahead to make this happen.

We would like to thank our Parish Council who have provided us with the venues for meetings during our early stages of formation. We could not have progressed so quickly without this vital support.

**4. District Councillors Report** District Councillor Colin Hedgley's full report is published on the Parish Council's Web Site Home Page - Important Documents <https://grundisburgh.suffolk.cloud/> Mr.Hedgley was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

District Councillor Dan Clery introduced himself as the new District Councillor for the Carlford and Fynn Valley Ward. The Council's Green Lib-Dem Independent Group has been voted in as East Suffolk Council's new administration this week and he will be able, in later reports, to tell how the new team will be working with the community to create a green, fair, and flourishing East Suffolk. His report is also published on the Parish Council's website. <https://grundisburgh.suffolk.cloud/>

**5. County Councillors Report** Councillor Elaine Bryce summarised her report which had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and is published on the Parish Council's website <https://grundisburgh.suffolk.cloud/>

**6. Village Hall** Mr. Bryan Laxton, Chairman of the Village Hall Board of Trustees, reported a hugely successful first year with hundreds of people involved. The Hall is managed by a Board of 9 Trustees, all with delegated responsibilities, and a Management Committee comprising representative of 9 village voluntary organisations.

The finances are in a very sound shape with an operating surplus of £16,611 in its first year but it must be born in mind that a good proportion of this is allocated to a sinking fund for future repairs and maintenance and possible future hire receipts reductions. Cash Balance £68,203.

The Hall is extremely well used with 23 regular weekly bookings, a remarkable 8 bookings on Tuesdays.

During the year there were 1,300 bookings, 121 customers and 37 different activities,

Due to the building being highly insulated, air source heat pumps, solar panels and LED's the Hall is net positive.

The main aim is to encourage and support any person or group who wants to get something new going on in the hall and the Hall operates a "Community Fund" to offer financial support to help new initiatives.

Two free Community based events have been held in 2022 JUBILIE'VE IT and on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May CROWN IT,

The hall has fast broadband and hope soon to install a screen to display current and future events.

Many positive responses have been received from hirers "The new hall is a fantastic facility and we are very lucky to have this in Grundisburgh" is typical.

**7. St. Mary's Church** Rev. Gail Minter Assistant Curate explained the ways in which the church serves its communities which she sees falling into two groups based on the teaching of Jesus, namely to love God and love your neighbour as yourself.

Worship is offered every Sunday and at Church Festivals. Prayer and Bible Courses are held. Services are taken at particular times of family life such as baptisms, weddings and funerals.

In loving our neighbours Grundisburgh hosts many of the benefice groups due to its wonderful facilities.

The Ministry Team and Elders provide pastoral care to many people in their homes and care homes.

The Toddler Group hosts between 8 and 12 families each week during term time. 456, is an after school club for children in Years 4, 5 and 6 again in term time.

For adults there is a Coffee Morning in the Parish Rooms and a monthly Lunch club and a monthly carers support group.

For those who are struggling with the cost of living, support is offered through the "Bags of Food" project. She asked if anyone knows of someone who would benefit from this kind of help to contact her,

**8. 1<sup>st</sup> Grundisburgh Scouts** Mr.Pat Ross, Group Secretary, said the Group, formed in 1921 was flourishing with over 100 members with young people and Leaders, including Fynn Valley Explorers. Many come from towns including Kesgrave, Woodbridge and surrounding villages. There is a waiting list with youngsters wanting to join.

The Groups very successful Archery Team has won many awards and at the beginning of May joined with the Kesgrave Group at the National Scout Archery Finals in Hertfordshire, Four members gained awards.

In December 1963 a wooden building attached to a dwelling in the village was moved to the playing field and has served as Group HQ ever since. It is now in a very poor state with totally inadequate facilities. It has also been frequently vandalised.

The Group runs several fund raising events including a Duck Race on the Village Green Stream, a Firework Display and a Textile recycling bin.

Members take part in many events including hiking, camping, cooking, bowling, swimming, clip and climb, visit to the Police Museum, speakers visit to give talks, Church Parades on Remembrance Sunday and Mothering Sunday.

Mrs. Ross thanked the Parish Council, St.Mary's Church, Wood Trust and many organisations and individuals for all their support and donations kindly given to the Group.

### **9. The Year in Pictures - Grundisburgh & District News**

Peter Kendall presented a slide show of village events throughout the year before a buffet supper was served.

**GRUNDISBURGH & CULPHO PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**1st APRIL 2022 - 31st MARCH 2023**

<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Ann Willetts, 14 Gurdon Road, Grundisburgh, IP13 6XA	01473-738831

Vice Chairman	
Geoff Caryer, The Chestnuts, Rose Hill, Grundisburgh IP13 6TG	01473-738108

Grundisburgh Parish Councillors

Judith Bignell, 34 Orchard End, Grundisburgh IP13 6UA	01473-735459
Ben Cook, Round House, Post Mill Gardens, Grundisburgh IP13 6UR	07970 075761
Chris Dow, Greenacre, Half Moon Lane, Grundisburgh IP13 6TU	07984566367
Allen Dunnett, Fern Cottage, Lower Road, Grundisburgh IP13 6UQ	01473-735798
John Dunnett, 'Squeech Farm Cottage', Elm Tree Farm Lane, Grundisburgh IP13 6TL	01473-735515
Mike Harris, Willow Cottage, Otley Road, Grundisburgh, IP13 6RY	07710202077
David Higgins, Walnut House, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh IP13 6UB	01473-738694
Dr.Liz Hodges, Hillside, The Street, Grundisburgh IP13 6TD	07871943137
Mark Rankin, Half Moon House, Woodbridge Road, Grundisburgh IP13 6UF	01473-738597
Richard Youngman, White House Farm, Grundisburgh IP13 6RR	01473-735221

Culpho Parish Councillor

John Lapsley, 1 Abbey Farm Barn, Culpho IP6 9DG	01473-738008
---	--------------

Parish Clerk

John Ager, 8 Post Mill Close, Grundisburgh IP13 6UU	01473-735541
---	--------------

District Councillor

Colin Hedgley, The Coach House, Playford Mount, Great Bealings IP13 6PH	01473-738468
---	--------------

County Councillor

Elaine Bryce, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

**Meetings**

The Council met bi-monthly. The Council's Finance, Planning, Footpaths & Environment and Roads & Transport Sub Committees also met during the year. The Annual Parish Meeting was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

**Resignation**

The Council were very sorry to receive the resignation of Steve Barnett and welcomed new member Chris Dow.

**Web Site**

The Parish Council's web site [Welcome to our website \(suffolk.cloud\)](#) continues to expand with information about village life, the parish council and has many useful links. There are sections containing the minutes of council and committee meetings going back to 2013 also Conservation & Environment, Footpaths, Local History, Housing, Village Organisations, Planning, and much more. Please give it a look.

## **Queens Platinum Jubilee 2 – 5 June 2022**

A very full and well supported programme of events was held in Grundisburgh to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

The Festival of Suffolk Torch Relay came through the village on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Keith Burch was nominated to be Grundisburgh's Torch Bearer and rode in a rickshaw from the Village Green, up Meeting Lane and down Lower Road towards the B1079.

Jubilee leaflets were delivered to every house in the villages.

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

1000 Church Coffee Morning and opening of the Flower Festival

1300 Town Crier – Proclamation on the Village Green

1400 Village Hall – Street Party for older generation

1900 Scouts Campfire over the stream. Campfire sings and entertainment

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

1100 Playing Field – Games and races

1400 till late Village Hall and Grounds Family Festival, Fairground Games, Food Stalls, Tombola

1430 Grundisburgh's Got Talent – get your act together U12's, U18's adults

1730 – 1900 Ceilidh dance to Skedaddle

1930 till late Local Live Bands – all day bar

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June

1730 Songs of Praise – hymns chosen by villagers born in each decade of the Queen's reign

1900 Barbeque Village Green

John's famous musical fireworks over the Church at Sundown

The Dog Beer Festival ran throughout the Jubilee Holiday

## **Planning**

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications in Grundisburgh and Culpho which means that the council is informed of all applications in the parishes and invited to submit comments to the Planning Authority. Planning permission is granted or refused by East Suffolk Council, who consider recommendations from the Parish Council as well as comments from other organisations and members of the public.

Planning Application details are posted on the Old Forge Stores Notice Board, East Suffolk Council's and Parish Council Web Sites and on the site of the application. In certain circumstances East Suffolk Council notifies neighbours.

Planning can be a contentious issue and the Parish Council established a policy in September 2019 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.

## **Chapel Field Development**

The building of 70 homes on Chapel Field commenced during the year and the first occupants are expected to move in towards the end of year. The transport of building materials to the site has demonstrated again, if ever more proof was needed, the inadequacy of the narrow lanes leading to the site. The provision of footpaths is yet to be resolved.

The Grundisburgh Action Group and the Parish Council are conscious that although this battle has been lost, we must be prepared for any future developments which may be in the pipe line and that we should join forces with other communities who are similarly affected by contentious developments.

### **East Suffolk Planning Alliance**

Grundisburgh Action Group and the Parish Council invited villages in East Suffolk, dissatisfied with the way current planning applications are handled in this part of Suffolk, to a meeting in the Playing Field Pavilion on the 4<sup>th</sup> February. 33 people attended including representatives from 14 Parish Councils, including our Parish Council. Following a lively and passionate discussion a steering group emerged and produced a mission statement

- *To serve the local communities of East Suffolk by working to place local communities at the heart of local planning decisions”*
- *To support the development of locally led planning led planning policy driven by Neighbourhood Planning Partnerships*
- *To help deliver the right homes in the right places with the right infrastructure.*

### **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

The Parish Council has received Neighbourhood CIL Payments totalling £66,867 from East Suffolk Council for contributions received from the Chapel Field developments. The total remaining neighbourhood funding for the Chapel Field development should result in further payments in 2024.

Neighbourhood CIL Regulations states that parish councils must spend Neighbourhood CIL on:

- *The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or*
- *Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.*

A leaflet was delivered to every household in Grundisburgh and Culpho in January 2023 asking for ideas on how this money could best be spent. Over 100 suggestions have been received, and are being considered by a special sub committee of the Parish Council. Final decisions will be made by a meeting of the full council.

### **Roads & Transport**

The Roads & Transport Sub Committee met during the year and were disturbed that no progress had been made on the restoration of the Safety Scheme on Grundisburgh Corner – this issue was first raised with the Highway’s Authority five years ago but heartened by the repair of the Meeting Lane Verge and the installing of bollards although this was delayed for a similar period. It is increasingly difficult to get highway problems restored promptly unless it is in a life-threatening situation.

Grundisburgh Speedwatch Group was active during the year monitoring vehicles speed in the village. The group are members of SAVID (Safer Village Driving) and has shared access to two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) with 10 other villages, These are proving very effective in reminding drivers to watch their speed so much that the group have long asked to have their own SID. One has been purchased with the aid of Community Infrastructure Levy so that now, with the 2 shared SIDS, they can be deployed for much longer periods.

The Parish Council urges 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/>

The Council will also report but complaints from the people directly affected by the problem are more likely to be listened to in these times when finance available to repair roads is strictly limited.

### **Footpaths & Environment**

The monthly walks proved to be popular as was the annual torchlit Christmas Walk to Mr & Mrs Hill's home where Christmas Fare was laid on for the walkers. The Footpaths and Environment committee carries out essential work to maintain the village surrounds, including litter picking, cleaning signs, cutting grass, restoring benches and generally keeping the village looking spick and span.

At Christmas, the tree in the centre of the village was an impressive celebration of Christmas thanks to the work by Mrs Bignell and Mr Doyle, together with the villagers living around the Green who decorated their houses with Christmas lights and St Mary's church with the floodlit windows.

The Millennium Meadow is a unique and extremely valuable conservation area – a rare example of wet grassland which used to be widespread in the countryside in bygone days.

We are very grateful to Greenways volunteers who provide much needed labour particularly at grass cutting time. However more local volunteers are desperately needed. If you would like to help please phone the Meadow's Warden Paul Franklin (01473-735295).