

Chedburgh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Erskine Centre, Chevington Road, Chedburgh on Monday 9 March 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Michael Chester, Pat Fisher, Margaret Rickard, Clare Varney and Peter Westcott (Chairman)

In attendance: Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer), Borough Cllr Angela Rushen and 4 members of the public.

The following documents will be appended to the signed minutes:

- the Agenda;
- the following appendices:
 - A: Actions arising from prior meetings;
 - B: Report of the Responsible Finance Officer;
 - C: Notice of West Suffolk's *Community Governance Review*;
 - D: County Councillor's report
 - E: Borough Councillors report;
 - F: Village Handyman's report.

1. Former Fireworks Factory: Builder's representative report

The Chairman reported that Rob Beaumont, the builder's representative, had been unavoidably detained and was unable to get to the meeting.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Rickard and Chester declared an interest in the former fireworks factory. It was agreed that both councillors should be permitted to contribute to the debate and any decisions made.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings dated Monday 12 January 2015 were agreed a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. County, Borough and Community reports

- (i) Cllr Clements' report (Appendix D) was received and noted in his absence.
- (ii) Cllr Rushen's report was received and noted. See Appendix E for the full report. Cllrs commented on the lack of convenient parking in Bury St Edmunds and suggested that a *Park and Ride* scheme be investigated.
- (iii) The Clerk reported that the Safer Neighbourhood Team had advised that there were no crimes to report in Chedburgh or in the surrounding local area.

The meeting was adjourned for public question time.

Elizabeth Williams enquired whether the Parish Council was able to assist the 2015 Chedburgh Fete Organising Committee by insuring the event.

The Clerk advised that Parish Council insurance would not cover the fete's activities as the Fete Organising Committee was not a sub-committee of the Parish Council.



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6. Decisions taken since the last meeting

The Clerk advised that no decisions had been taken since the last meeting.

7. Clerk's report

- (i) Cllrs received and noted the Clerk's report of actions taken since the last meeting (Appendix A).
- (ii) Cllrs acknowledged receipt of information regarding the forthcoming parish council elections and noted the need to ensure that:
 - their completed nomination forms are returned, in person, to the Elections Officer no later than 4.00pm on 9 April 2015;
 - they obtain, in good time, the election registration numbers for themselves and those nominating and seconding them;
 - if possible, at least 7 eligible parish stakeholders stand for election so that all available parish council places are filled.
- (iii) Cllrs noted the content of the following SALC Local Association Information Service updates:
 - LAIS 1373: Automatic Precept Referendums
 - LAIS 1374: Councillor Travel Expenses
 - LAIS 1375: The Electronic Summons

8. Planning

(i) Report on recent applications

Other than the item at 8(ii), there were no planning issues to report or consider.

(ii) Report on progress with development of the former fireworks factory

Cllrs noted that the Planning Authority has not received the independent contamination report approval of which is required prior to development of the public open space.

Cllrs Westcott and Rickard reported on informal meetings with residents in Chestnut Drive to discuss the future of the air raid shelter within the public open space. It was noted that the builder had submitted plans requiring removal of the air raid shelter and that the planning authority may need to approve any variation to existing plans.

Cllr Westcott indicated that he would be seeking an early meeting with Rob Beaumont to discuss development of the public open space and invited other councillors to attend if possible. Cllr Westcott advised that, following the meeting, an extraordinary meeting of the parish council may be required.

Cllrs expressed concern about the poor state of the footpath laid by the developer and asked the Clerk to draw their concerns to the Highways Department and to Councillor Clements.

9. Community

(i) Village Handyman report

Ian Leggett's report was received and noted. See Appendix F for the full report. It was proposed by Cllr Westcott, seconded by Cllr Rickard and agreed that:

- (a) Ian Leggett be authorised to purchase two grit bins;
- (b) damaged ground within the play area be repaired and re-seeded.

(ii) Vehicle Activated signage

The Clerk advised that he had received a final set of documents from the County Council, completion and return of which would permit the vehicle activated signage to be put in place. The papers requested by West Suffolk Council were signed by Cllr

Crescent

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Westcott on behalf of the parish council. The Clerk was asked to return the papers and to seek installation of the signage.

(iii) 2015 Chedburgh Village Fete

Cllr Rickard advised that the Organising Committee would like to hold the fete on the playing field adjacent to the Erskine Centre on Saturday 27 June between 12 noon and 4pm. It was proposed by Cllr Westcott, seconded by Cllr Chester and agreed that the field be made available and that, as a matter of routine, the Parish Council's insurers be advised that the field will be used for this purpose.

As the Parish Council's insurance policy cannot cover the fete's activities, it was proposed by Cllr Chester, seconded by Cllr Westcott and agreed that, using section 137 powers, the Parish Council make a donation to the fete organising committee equal to the premium for necessary event insurance.

10. Finance

(i) Report of the Responsible Finance Officer

The report at Appendix B was received and noted. Arising from the report it was proposed by Cllr Westcott, seconded by Cllr Rickard and agreed that the following payments be made:

I Leggett (Feb/Mar salary) - £89.60
P MacLachlan (Feb/Mar salary) - £401.30
HMRC (Feb/Mar tax and NI) - £122.86

The Clerk sought, and was granted, permission to attend a finance training course on Saturday 14 March at a cost to the Parish Council of £20.

(ii) 2015/16 quotations for cutting the playing field adjacent to the Erskine Centre

The Clerk reported that 4 quotations for 16 growing season cuts had been sought and that the following had been received:

West Suffolk:	£30.00 per cut
Old Parsonage Garden Services:	£31.25 per cut
Eastern Facilities Management Services:	£34.55 per cut

It was proposed by Cllr Westcott, seconded by Cllr Rickard and agreed that the 2015/16 contract be awarded to West Suffolk.

(iii) Requests for grant assistance

The Chairman reported on requests for assistance from 10 organisations since awards were last considered in March 2014:

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Westcott, seconded by Cllr Rickard and agreed that a donation of £100 be made to the 1st Horringer Scouts in recognition of the service provided to young people in the village.

Cllr Varney asked that if a request for assistance is received from the local Brownies and Guides Group it be considered sympathetically when awards are next considered.

11. Governance

(i) 2015 Annual Parish Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Westcott, seconded by Cllr Rickard and agreed that the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting be held at 7.30pm on Monday 11 May.

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It was further agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council should follow immediately on from the Annual Parish Meeting.

(ii) West Suffolk's Community Governance Review

Cllrs received and noted the forthcoming *Review* resolving no further action.

12. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

(i) Reports on meetings attended

No further reports were made.

(ii) Attendance of councillors at forthcoming meetings

No meeting arrangements were advised.

Cllrs were advised that the St Edmundsbury Area SALC meeting, due to be held at 7.00pm on 17 March, had been moved to the Barrow Cum Denham Village Hall.

Cllrs Westcott and Chester advised they may be able to attend the Spring Town and Parish Conference on 26 March.

(iii) Items for future agendas

Cllr Chester proposed, Cllr Westcott seconded and it was agreed that the future of the Marquis Cornwallis public house be discussed.

(iv) Other items of information

It was noted, with concern, that the village newspaper delivery service had, or was likely to be, terminated.

The Clerk advised Cllrs that he had contacted One Suffolk regarding creation of a new Parish Council website.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm.



Chairman, 11 May 2015

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Appendix A: Actions arising from prior meetings

Presented to Parish Council meeting dated 9 March 2015

Cllrs – All Councillors	MC – Michael Chester	PF – Pat Fisher
MR – Margaret Rickard	CV – Clare Varney	PW – Peter Westcott
Clerk – Paul MacLachlan		

Actions carried forward from Parish Council meeting dated 12 January 2015

Ref	Action	Who	Done
5(ii)	Enquire whether the air-raid shelter is a protected structure. Principal Planning Officer, Dave Beighton, advises there is no planning protection or listing on the structure	Clerk	Yes
5(ii)	Enquire whether residents of Chestnut Crescent wish to maintain the air-raid shelter. Report from Cllr Rickard on response on residents under agenda item 6(ii)	PW	Agenda
5(ii)	Send reminder to Planning Authority re commitment to consult on independent contamination report. Report not yet received (27/2/15)	Clerk	Yes
6(ii)(a)	Accept West Suffolk's quote for parish grass cutting other than in the playing field. Agreed	Clerk	Yes
6(ii)(b)	Obtain further quotations for cutting grass on the playing field	Clerk	Agenda
6(iii)	Accept quotation for repair to the Chevington Road bus shelter.	Clerk	Yes
6(iv)	Chase the local authority to complete work necessary to progress installation of Vehicle activated signage	Clerk	Agenda
7(i)	Make authorized payments.	Clerk	Yes
7(iii)	Advise the Borough Council of the 2015/16 Parish Precept. Receipt acknowledged.	Clerk	Yes
7(iv)	Write to Bank of Ireland advising the change of Clerk	Clerk	Yes
8(i)	Pay retirement gratuity to Tony Couzens, the former Clerk. Receipt acknowledged.	Clerk	Yes
9	Book Erskine Centre for parish Council meetings on second Monday of January, March, May, July, September and November. Bookings confirmed.	Clerk	Yes
10((iii)	Investigate opportunities for online banking Clerk to bring report to new council in May	Clerk	In hand
10(v)	Advise Local Authority of Cllr Blake's resignation, advertise casual vacancy and amend website.	Clerk	Yes

Publication of delegated decisions

No officer decisions made under either specific or general authorizations

Date	Description	Total	Precept	Interest	VAT refund	Grants & Locality budget	Play area grant	Newsletter	NATS	Other
01/04/14	Interest on B St Eds Conversion Stock	1.86		1.86						
07/04/14	Bank Interest	0.57		0.57						
30/04/14	Precept	9620.00	9620.00							
06/05/14	Bank Interest	0.63		0.63						
05/06/14	Bank Interest	1.22		1.22						
07/07/14	Bank Interest	1.17		1.17						
05/08/14	Bank Interest	1.03		1.03						
19/08/14	NATS	400.00							400.00	
05/09/14	Bank Interest	1.08		1.08						
01/10/14	Interest on B St Eds Conversion Stock	1.86		1.86						
06/10/14	Bank Interest	1.08		1.08						
05/11/14	Bank Interest	1.01		1.01						
05/12/14	Bank Interest	0.98		0.98						
05/01/15	Bank Interest	0.97		0.97						
05/02/15	Bank Interest	0.83		0.83						
0.00	Totals	10034.29	9620.00	14.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00
Funds reconciliation										
	Bank balance at 31/03/14	6061.89								
	Receipts to 28/02/15	10034.29								
	Payments to 28/02/15	-7510.16								
	Cashbook balance at 28/02/15	8586.02	A							
	Bank balance at 28/02/15	8586.02								
	Outstanding cheques	0.00								
	Net bank balance at 28/02/15	8586.02	B							
										The totals at A and B should agree
	March cheques to be issued	-613.76								
	Net bank balance after payment	7972.26								
Receipts highlighted in blue reported to Parish Council meeting dated 09 March 2015										
Peter Westcott, Chairman										
09 March 2015										

Chedburgh Parish Council
Expenditure for the year to 31 March 2015

Date	Description	Chq No	Total	Clerk's Salary	Handyman	PAYE	Clerk & Handyman Expenses	Subs	Play Area	Insurance	Grants & Donations	Newsletter	Sec 137	Audit	VAT	Other
30/04/14	Salary A Couzens April 14	S.O.	196.38	196.38												
20/05/14	Aon UK Ltd (Insurance)	663	1144.20							1144.20				100.00		
20/05/14	C Fitzgerald (Internal Audit)	664	100.00													
20/05/14	Community Action Suffolk	665	30.00					30.00								12.00
20/05/14	SALC	666	295.00					283.00								
20/05/14	I Leggett Salary & Expenses Apr & May 14	667	119.59		89.60		24.99									5.00
20/05/14	HMRC Apr + May	668	120.60			120.60										100.00
20/05/14	CCDRCC (Hall Hire)	669	100.00													
30/05/14	Salary A Couzens May 14	S.O.	196.38	196.38												
30/06/14	Salary A Couzens Jun 14	S.O.	196.38	196.38									102.79			
15/07/14	P Fisher (re Village Flowers)	670	102.79													
15/07/14	I Leggett Salary & Expenses Jun & Jul 14	671	115.46		89.60		25.86									
15/07/14	HMRC Jun & Jul	672	120.60			120.60										
31/07/14	Salary A Couzens Jul 14	S.O.	196.38	196.38												
31/08/14	Salary A Couzens Aug 14	S.O.	196.38	196.38												
16/09/14	I Leggett Salary & Expenses Aug & Sep 14	673	89.60		89.60											
16/09/14	HMRC Aug & Sep 14	674	120.60			120.60										
30/09/14	Salary A Couzens Sep 14	S.O.	196.38	196.38												
31/10/14	Salary A Couzens Oct 14	S.O.	196.38	196.38									51.00			
18/11/14	P Fisher (re Village Flowers)	675	51.00													
18/11/14	Johnston Publishing (Advert for new Clerk)	676	132.91													
18/11/14	P Westcott re Wreath	677	20.00													
18/11/14	A Couzens Expenses to 31 Dec 14	678	134.38				134.38									
18/11/14	I Leggett Salary & Expenses Oct & Nov 14	679	89.60		89.60											
18/11/14	HMRC Oct & Nov 14	680	120.60			120.60										
30/11/14	Salary A Couzens Nov 14	S.O.	196.38	196.38												
31/12/14	Salary A Couzens Dec 14	S.O.	196.38	196.38												
12/01/14	Retirement Gratuity A Couzens	681	855.89	855.89												
12/01/14	I Leggett Salary & Expenses Dec 14/Jan 15	682	89.60		89.60											
12/01/15	Salary P MacLachlan	683	200.88	200.88												
12/01/14	HMRC Dec 14	684	121.50			121.50										
12/01/14	St Edmundsbury BC (Community grasscutting)	685	876.10						730.08							146.02
12/01/15	Eastern Facilities Management Solutions	686	531.84						443.20							88.64
02/02/15	Stuart Bradnam	687	60.00													60.00
		0.00	7,510.16	2,824.19	448.00	603.90	185.23	313.00	1,173.28	1,144.20	0.00	0.00	173.79	100.00	261.81	282.76
16/03/15	Salary P MacLachlan	688	401.30	401.30												
16/03/15	Salary I Leggett	689	89.60		89.60											
16/03/15	HMRC	690	122.86			122.86										
			613.76	401.30	89.60	122.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expenditure highlighted in blue approved at Parish Council meeting dated 9 March 2015																
Peter Westcott, Chairman 09 March 2015																

2014-15		Precept £8420 Grant 1200 Total £9620													
Expenditure	Spent			Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
	Budget	To Date	Balance												
Admin															
External Audit Fees	150.00	0.00	150.00												
Internal Audit Fees	100.00	100.00	0.00		100.00										
Clerk Salary (Net)	2,975.00	1968.30	1006.70	196.38	196.38	196.38	196.38	196.38	196.38	196.38	196.38	196.38	200.88		
Expenses (Use of Home as Office)	120.00	90.00	30.00									90.00			
Erskine Centre Hire Charges	120.00	100.00	20.00		100.00										
Insurance 32%	370.00	366.14	3.86		366.14										
Members Allowances / Travel	50.00	0.00	50.00												
Office Expenses	20.00	0.00	20.00												
Postage	20.00	9.28	10.72								9.28				
Publications	15.00	12.00	3.00		12.00										
SALC	283.00	283.00	0.00		283.00										
Community Action Suffolk	30.00	30.00	0.00		30.00										
Training	50.00	0.00	50.00												
PAYE		603.90	-603.90		120.60		120.60		120.60		120.60		121.50		
Retirement gratuity		855.89	-855.89										855.89		
Clerks Travel		35.10	-35.10								35.10				
Advert for New Clerk		110.76	-110.76								110.76				
Admin Total	4303.00	4564.37	-261.37	196.38	1208.12	196.38	316.98	196.38	316.98	196.38	562.12	196.38	1178.27	0.00	0.00
Section 137															
Donations	100.00	0.00	100.00												
Tree / Flower planting	180.00	153.79	26.21				102.79				51.00				
Wreaths	20.00	20.00	0.00								20.00				
Section 137 Total	300.00	173.79	126.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	102.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	71.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Services															
Newsletter	220.00	0.00	220.00												
Grass Cutting(Comm Centre, Bus Stop, the Green & Adj A143+ Tree Trimming)	772.00	790.08	-18.08										730.08	60.00	
Insurance 68%	785.00	778.06	6.94		778.06										
Play Area	900.00	24.99	875.01		24.99										
Playing Field Maintenance (Grass Cutting)	443.00	443.20	-0.20										443.20		
Village Handyman	672.00	448.00	224.00		89.60		89.60		89.60		89.60		89.60		
Recovery of Grant	1,585.00	0.00	1585.00												
Contingencies	103.00	0.00	103.00												
Hi Viz Jacket	0.00	9.00	-9.00				9.00								
Petrol for Mower	0.00	16.86	-16.86				16.86								
Other Services Total	5480.00	2510.19	2969.81	0.00	892.65	0.00	115.46	0.00	89.60	0.00	89.60	0.00	1262.88	60.00	0.00
Parish Totals	10083.00	7248.35	2834.65	196.38	2100.77	196.38	535.23	196.38	406.58	196.38	722.72	196.38	2441.15	60.00	0.00
Vat					5.00						22.15		146.02		
Vat													88.64		
Vat															
Vat															
Vat															
Total VAT		261.81			5.00						22.15		234.66		
Check Total		7510.16	to agree Income & Expenditure Sheets												
Potential income															
Interest															
Other (NATS)	400.00														
Depden PC re Newsletter	63.00														
Total	463.00														
Balance = Precept	9620.00														

Robert

West Suffolk

working together

To all SEBC Parish and Town Councils
and Parish Meetings

Our reference PH/38731
Your reference

Contact Peter Heard
Direct Dial 01638 719309
Email peter.heard@westsuffolk.gov.uk
Reply to: **West Suffolk House**

21 January 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Let us know how we can make local democracy better

We are looking for your help in supporting people to become more engaged with their local communities and make local democratic arrangements better at parish and town council level. This is known as a Community Governance Review (CGR) and you can help by suggesting what issues we should look at, what impact you think future development will have on areas, or where parish boundaries should be drawn for example. This letter sets out more detail and there are contact details at the end.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council has had requests from some individuals and communities for a CGR in several different areas and, as a result, has decided to take a borough-wide, rather than piecemeal, approach. A CGR can consider and recommend changes to the boundaries of towns and parishes as well as to their councils, names, electoral wards and number of councillors. It can also be used to create, amalgamate or remove parishes.

As a start, we have already decided to look at:

- (a) whether there will be any impact of major developments arising from Vision 2031 on the community governance arrangements for the towns of Haverhill and Bury St Edmunds and the immediately surrounding parishes; and
- (b) a proposal received to create a new parish for Moreton Hall affecting the



Karen Points MCIPD • Head of HR, Legal & Democratic Services

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www.westsuffolk.gov.uk

area of Bury St Edmunds Town Council.

As the review will cover the whole of the borough we would like to know what other parish and town council issues you think we should look at. Your views will help us to set out the review's structure and purpose (called terms of reference) so we can focus on what you have identified as being important to you and your local community.

Tell us, for instance, if you think there are boundary oddities or other anomalies, large or small, when it comes to voting for parish and town councillors. This could be now, or after any future development. Or maybe you have ideas about the administrative arrangements for a parish or town council, or parish meeting. For example, reviews can look at issues ranging from the creation of new parishes or parish wards, mergers of parish councils, creation or closure of parish councils or reducing or increasing the number of councillors.

At this stage we do not need much detailed information or evidence from you because we are simply looking at the CGR's terms of reference. All we need is an indication of the issues you want the review to consider and a very brief explanation of why. We will contact you if we think we need more information from you.

If you are content that the review only looks at issues outlined at (a) and (b) above then you do not need to reply to this consultation. Equally, if you are not affected by (a) and (b) at all, but are happy with your existing arrangements, then you also do not need to reply at this stage.

Please note that this consultation does not relate directly to borough council, county council or parliamentary governance arrangements, although there may be impacts on these at a later stage. Where changes to parish or town council arrangements arise from this review, then, if applicable, they will feed into later governance reviews for these other tiers of administration. But at this stage we would really like to focus on what works best at parish and town council, the first level of local government.

We are looking to finalise the terms of reference for this Community Governance Review in the summer. We will then carry out a widely-publicised and detailed consultation with people throughout the borough in the autumn, when everyone will have their chance to have their say. No decisions on changes to community governance arrangements will be made until after that borough-wide consultation process. What is critical at this stage of the process, however, is that the council is aware of all of the issues that you would like to be considered as it will not be possible to widen the terms of reference once the CGR has started.


This first round of consultation, specifically on terms of reference is intended to be 'light touch' and is therefore targeted at elected representatives and organisations which are directly involved in community governance. However, if you wish to publicise it more widely in your communities, then we are very happy for you to do so using this letter. The information in this letter is also available on our website: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cgr. We have set a deadline for responses of **30 March, 2015**.

If you wish to comment on the terms of reference, please write to:

St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Legal Services (Ref: PH)
West Suffolk House
Western Way
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 3YU

Or email: legal@westsuffolk.gov.uk

Yours faithfully



Peter Heard
Legal Services Manager



County Council update

SCC freezes council tax for fifth year in a row

SCC's share of council tax is to be frozen for a fifth year in a row. This means that Suffolk residents will not pay any more than they did in 2010/11. The council has successfully delivered savings in excess of £130m over the last four years. However, with the government's deficit reduction programme set to continue until at least 2018/19, there is a forecast of a further £120m budget shortfall that will need to be addressed over the next three years. The Council tax freeze was agreed as part of the budget proposals for 2015/16, which include savings of £38.2million, to be made across services delivered by the council during the financial year 2015/16. The bulk of these savings (£24.6m) will be delivered through wide-ranging transformation programmes which will result in the council becoming a leaner and more focused organisation. The remaining savings will be made by reducing previous contingency budgets, set aside for major projects and change management as well as making other budgetary savings from within service areas. Meanwhile, over the last five years, there has been a reduction of around 47% in workforce numbers across council services.

Young people in Suffolk running the risk of potential cyber attack

Young people who share highly personal and/or explicit content with each other across mobile devices are vulnerable to harmful on-line content and aggression. This is one of the significant findings taken from the annual Suffolk Cyber Survey 2014. 2,988 children and young people aged from 10 years old and upwards took part in the survey conducted by e-Safer Suffolk to monitor trends in their online activity. The report is published on the e-Safer Suffolk website at: www.esafersuffolk.org

Have your say: County-wide adult autism survey launched

The survey has been launched as part of SCC's commitment to empowering adults in Suffolk to live independent, healthy and fulfilled lives. The survey can be completed by adults with autism themselves, their carers, or, of course, together. Responses will help the county council learn more about what is important for people living in Suffolk with autism and help to ensure there are innovative and accessible local community-led support networks available. The survey can be found on-line at www.surveymonkey.com/s/adultautismsuffolk If a paper copy of the survey is required please contact: Steven Emmerson on 01473 265350, or email steven.emmerson@suffolk.gov.uk.

Suffolk's most active communities crowned

SCC has crowned this year's winners of Suffolk's most active community competition. Active towns and villages across Suffolk were urged to come forward and shout about how they're championing sports and physical activity in their local community. Whether it is football, dog-walking, yoga, hockey or Zumba, the county council want to celebrate the hard work and commitment of these communities. The opportunities provided in communities across Suffolk are vital in helping us to achieve Suffolk's collective ambition of becoming the Most Active County in England."

Changes to children's centres get green light

Children's centre services in nine areas across Suffolk will be made more accessible for those most in need. A review of children's centres in Suffolk, including a wide-ranging public consultation, was concluded earlier this year. It recommended that services in nine children's centres be moved from their existing locations to different settings, either using other local community facilities or neighbouring children's centres. This will save up to £265,000, thus putting the services on a more sustainable footing.

SCC backs proposal for joint depot, transfer station and household waste site

SCC has been working in partnership with St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council to develop a joint waste-transfer site, council depot and household waste recycling centre. The favoured option is to create a West Suffolk Operational Hub (WSOH) for all these important services on land at Hollow Road Farm in Bury St Edmunds. The Hollow Road Farm proposal presents the opportunity for all three local authorities to develop services in the same location, saving money for local tax payers. Consultation on the potential WSOH takes place between Friday 6th March and Monday 6th April 2015. Information is available through the Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Councils' website at www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/wsoh. Comments and questions can also be emailed to wsoh@westsuffolk.gov.uk.

Applications invited for the Leading Lives Benefit Fund

Applications are currently being encouraged for the Leading Lives Community Benefit Fund for 2015. Leading Lives is a Suffolk-based social enterprise, formerly part of SCC, which provides support for a wide range of people. This year, they are awarding grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to Suffolk-based charities and community groups who support people with learning disabilities, older people with dementia, people with autism, young people in transition and family carers. This year's fund has been doubled in value to £30,000 to enable larger grants to be awarded and more projects to be supported. Criteria for funding and an application can be found on our website www.leadinglives.org.uk. Please share this information with organisations and individuals who you believe may be interested in applying.

Suffolk autism service up for national award

An SCC service has been nominated for a national award in recognition of its innovative approach to supporting children and young people with autism at mainstream schools in the county. SCC's County Inclusive Resource is one of three schemes shortlisted as a finalist in the Award for Inspirational Education Provision – Other Education Provider category in the National Autistic Society's (NAS) Autism Professionals Awards 2015.

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March Report for Chedburgh

Travellers. You will probably be aware that the Planning Application by a Travelling family for a permanent site off Rougham Hill was refused by the Development Control Committee last month. They are going to lodge an appeal.

The Apex. The Apex has announced the setting up a Youth Creative Board for young people between 14 and 21 who are interested in music and the arts to get involved in the arts and gain real live events and programming experience. Meetings are planned in the next few weeks.

Meanwhile sales of tickets at The Apex have increased by more than 50 per cent and more shows than ever have been sold out.

West Suffolk Operational Hub. There has just been a press release regarding the WSOH, which is envisaged to bring together the Waste Recycling centre, waste transfer and depot operations to a site at Hollow Road Farm off Compiegne Way. Forest Heath would also relocate their operations to the site "Benefits of moving to a single site include:

- reduced taxpayers' cost by bringing waste operations together, close to the highest West Suffolk population concentration;
- reduced overall costs of running and maintaining buildings;
- sites released for redevelopment and new uses;
- creation of a modern facility, fit for operational requirements and with capacity to respond to population and business growth;
- a new household waste recycling centre where people do not have to climb stairs to dispose of their waste and recycling;
- a new vehicle maintenance workshop not only for council vehicles but for other operators as well;
- efficiencies in household waste collection by bringing waste collection vehicles to the same location;
- more capacity to collect business waste, again by bringing vehicles to the same location".

Public consultation on this exciting project begins this Friday, March 6th and lasts for a month. A planning application is expected to be submitted to the

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planning department in late spring. If all goes according to plan, the site could be operational later this year, or early 2016.

Car parks. Bury is set to lose 2 car parks through development schemes. Both are privately owned and leased to SEBC.

One is the 40 space car park next to the Records Office, and the second is behind the New Shire Hall part of which is being turned into a Premier Inn. It is hoped that some spaces may become available there again once the hotel is opened.

A complete review of parking in the Borough is being undertaken in the summer.

Development Control. We now have a new enforcement team, led by Andy Smith, in place in the Planning Department. They will take over from the agency staff who have been working for the Council in the interim period. A further officer will be appointed in the very near future.

Bin collections. There will be some changes to collection days for brown bins, beginning in March. One lorry will not be needed as a result and therefore savings of £135,000 will be made. Chedburgh collections will not be altered.

The Eastern Relief Road/Suffolk Business Park. SEBC is to commit a loan of £4.58m for the provision of electricity to serve the Business Park. About £15m of public money has already been approved (from SCC, the New Anglia LEP and government sources), and the electricity infrastructure will enable the Park and Eastern Relief Road to move forward. The loan will be rolled out in stages and SEBC is confident that it will be repaid by the developers and inward moving businesses.

The Council have also approved the sum of £150,000, from reserves, towards the cost of specialist advice for the project. This is deemed necessary because of the scale and complexity of the scheme.

Budget. The Council have produced a balanced budget, with no increase in Council Tax for the sixth year in the last seven.

Next year's Mayor will be Patrick Chung.

Angela Rushen

March 2015



HANDYMAN REPORT For Period January to March 2015.

A number of street lights either not working or day time burners were reported to Highways through the Customer Services system in early December 2014. These were re reported in late December, and a phone call made in January to ask why these had not been attended to. These are in The Street, Chevington Road, Paddock Way, Elizabeth Drive. Also two in Chevington. These received attention on February 5th. However the one in Paddock Way which was not working is now an all day burner. Corrected late February.

A burst water main was reported to Anglian Water on January 26th, and again on January 27th. They eventually came to assess on Wednesday 29th. This was repaired on February 4th and 5th.

A visit was made to the Fireworks housing area on Sunday January 25th to find the outer gates on the floor, a container storing building items with the door swinging open, and water pouring from burst pipes in a portacabin. The water was turned off and attempts to contact the site owners made.

On January 28th the Play Area equipment was given a clean.

The litter bin post at the bus stop at Majors Close was re affixed after it had been pushed/ knocked from it's original position..

The two power line poles along Chevington Road which were attended to in December (after two years of reminders) are now starting to lean over again. At the base there is a 5 inch movement. (as at January 27th).The ground is very soft and lacking support due to the water filled ditch just behind the poles.

The new path from The Green to Bockets Park housing was cleared of leaf debris on January 25th. It was noted that the path was starting to crack.

The gritting team have gritted their sections of road on several occasions. However the grit that is dropped at locations without a bin does get washed away and sinks into the ground. This makes it impossible to spread thinly (more like a paste). It is therefore requested that three more bins be supplied. One along Queens Lane near Lavender Cottage, one at Chestnut Crescent and one in Lancaster Close. This is requested to be done before the first winter fill in October.

A road nameplate in The Street was demolished in the snow on February 2nd. Also the telegraph pole was damaged and several phone lines snapped. This was reported to West Suffolk.

The Telephone pole has been replaced. I have made a temporary repair to the nameplate so that the sign can be seen.

A road nameplate was damaged in Elizabeth Drive in the snow on February 2nd. This was reported to West Suffolk.

A fill up of grit bins was requested on February 4th. It was necessary to remind them again on Feb 20th on finding this had not been actioned. They were eventually re filled on February 25th.

The Play Area could do with some grass seed in an attempt to get more grass cover.

The slides were cleaned and polished to make the slide area more slippery on March 5th.

The A143 was cleared of rubbish on March 6th. I am amazed at the amount of rubbish which mostly comes from passing traffic. Examples of this rubbish will be at the PC meeting.

ACTION POINTS REQUESTED; (1) NEW GRIT BINS. (2) GRASS SEED.

Ian Leggett March 6th 2015.

