



# Poslingford Parish Council

## Minutes of Poslingford Parish Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Present: Cllrs Martin England, Marc Allison, Jim Rucklidge, June Mansfield and Derek Nichols, Annie Jones and Kathy Priestley  
County Cllr. Mary Evans and Chris Turner-Clerk.

1 Apologies for absence- District Councillors, Jim Meikle, Karen Richardson and Marion Rushbrook.

2. Welcome by Chairman Cllr England.

County Councillor Mary Evans Report-

“Clare Community hub has been launched at the town’s library and on Mondays between 10am and 1pm the hub is open for people looking for a chat, support, information or advice on issues such as managing debt, energy bills or support from the Haverhill Bank. Specialist advisers from Haverhill REACH and CAB are taking it in turns to attend

Apologies the rural crime meeting was cancelled – I am working on a date for the New Year.

The deputy Chief Exec of Havebury has responded to an approach I made re a meeting about the possibility of Poslingford buying some land. I need to provide dates when then PC chair and I can attend.

Polling station – I am really pleased that we got West Suffolk to have a change of heart and use the church as a polling station tomorrow – I hope the building will be warm enough for the poll staff!

An app that teaches asthmatic children to use their inhalers properly is being promoted across the county after being developed by a Suffolk company. MySpira, by Orbital Media of Stowmarket, teaches youngsters techniques in a fun way and is now being promoted in hospitals, GP surgeries, pharmacies and primary schools across the county by Public Health Suffolk. The app uses characters and interactions, to engage children with asthma with games they can play with parents, siblings or friends.

Throughout the 20-minute experience the youngster is taught about asthma keywords, triggers, different types of inhalers, how to prepare the inhaler and spacer, and how to inhale the medicine correctly. Research has found that as many as 97% of asthmatic children misuse their inhalers, with potentially serious consequences.

Parking fines will be the same across the whole of Suffolk from early next year, when stronger enforcement is set to take place. The long-delayed transfer of civil parking enforcement from police to local authorities is expected to take place from the end of January in Suffolk. This means each council will be responsible for issuing parking fines, warnings and notices in their area, although a deal has been struck by Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils to have their parking enforced by Ipswich and West Suffolk officers. With police unable to dedicate resources currently, it is expected that once the powers transfer councils will be able to crackdown on poor parking more than police. A consistent approach is being planned across the whole county, meaning fines will be the same, regardless of which authority manages parking in that area. Advice on how to avoid rogue traders has been issued by Suffolk Trading Standards after its successful prosecution of a Suffolk business and its sole director who failed to fulfil orders and refused to refund customers. Anchor Mobility Limited was a business set up by David Water to supply bespoke armchairs and beds targeting elderly and disabled consumers. One customer paid over £8,000 for two beds, which were never delivered, and no refund was ever received. He and the businesses were convicted at Ipswich Crown Court on 31 counts and sentencing will take place next week.

Trading Standards advises: If people are planning a significant purchase or hiring a trader, they should follow these simple steps:· Don't engage with people offering services at your door· Don't go with the first quote or offer· Don't pay up front for goods or services· Don't be pressured into signing anything, ask to sleep on it· Do ask friends and family for recommendations· Do get multiple quotes for goods and services for comparison· Do pay by credit card for extra protection· Do have friends or family present if inviting someone into your home· It is a criminal offence if a trader does not leave your home when asked

If people are concerned about services, goods or products they have agreed to or have purchased on the doorstep, advice is on hand from the national Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506.

On a personal note, I have left highways. There was an unexpected reshuffle at SCC in mid-October 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. I am also focussing on the children's mental health, improvements to the support we provide to the young people in and leaving care and improvements to the support for children with SEND along with the provision for more specialist school places for them." The new head of highways is Andrew Read. We still need to go via Mary.

District Councillors Reports (by e mail) – Cllr Jim Meikle has asked us to push the “hub” at Clare (see above). Cllr Karen Richardson is still involved in the Rural Working Party and also on the Parking Review Group. Both should be completed by the end of January.

3. Minutes of our last meeting- These were confirmed as “in order” and signed by the Chair. Still problems with drains from Hillside down to the phone box/Information Centre. Clerk to report to Suffolk CC. The Chair has not been able to find papers about the allotment ground. He hopes to find time to visit the archives department in Bury St Edmunds.

4 Financial Report- The accounts to 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were presented and agreed by all. In addition, the list of payments now due (as below) were agreed and cheques signed. Bank statement was shown showing the balance agreeing with the financial report. This financial year our net balance is slightly more than the previous year and we remain within our Budget. We have received a request for our precept requirement for the year 2020/2021. There being no expected

extra calls on funds it was agreed by all that the contribution per household would remain the same which means we can obtain a slightly higher precept as there are additional properties this year. Agreed we would request the sum of £4105 being £44.67 pa for a Band D property a reduction of 0.01p/0.02%. Document signed by Chair, with clerk to sign and then forward to W Suffolk DC.

5 Correspondence/Charitable requests- No correspondence from residents. We have received a letter from Dedham Vale AONB asking to be remembered if we wish to make a donation. It was decided that this was possible but would be referred to our next meeting when we will probably have more requests and will make a decision then.

6. Countryside and Rights of Way- A definitive map of byways/footpaths has to be held by 2026. Cllr Allison has been in touch with W Suffolk about this and has received a map which is a copy of an old Ordinance Survey map with footpaths marked. There were a number of questions and issues with the footpaths and Mark will try to obtain a better quality map and bring it with him to the next meeting for discussion.

7. Comments by Councillors- It appears that part of a ditch in the high street is collapsing, Cllr England showed some pictures of the problem. He will arrange a meeting with Mary to look at this issue and the “highway” in general. The top of the notice board by the phone kiosk is rotting, Derek Nicholls will take a look at it. Councillors would like a list of future meeting dates which clerk will look into. Fireworks night although wet, was a success.

Meeting finished at 7.30

Payments now due, authorised	
Chq No. 447 W Suffolk Council re election	£21.34
Chq No.450 C R Turner Pay to 31/12/19	£282.20
Chq No.451 HMRC re PAYE to 31/12/19	£65.40
Chq.No.449 Top Garden Services	£327.00
Chq No,448 ditto	£486.00
Chq.No.452 CAS re Website hosting	£60.00
 Total	 £1241.94

C Turner-Clerk