

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish (APM) held 21 April 2023 in the PDCC hall.

Present: Councillors Weston (Chair), Collins, Cooper, Henderson, Prendergast, and Pudney.

Also Present: County Councillor Fleming and the Clerk.

Electors: 16 Members of the public attended the meeting

04.21.1 APM Welcome

Cllr Weston introduced himself, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting.

04.21.2 APM Apologies

Apologies were received and approved from Cllrs Dingle, Fausset and Sneddon and various apologies received from parishioners.

04.21.3 APM To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 1 June 2022

Copies of the Minutes had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed and accepted as a true record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chair.

04.21.4 APM Welcome and address by Freddy Vaudrey, responsible for land on FP5 / FP6, Millway Lane

The Chair welcomed him to the meeting and thanked him for coming. He explained what his family business was about and the plans for parsley in the field that FP5 and FP 6 cross off Millway Lane. He said the immediate work was to make the field viable by clearing out the ditches, cutting back the hedges and ploughing the headland as the land had not been worked for many years. . He acknowledged that at the northern end of that path the ploughman had got too close to the hedge which will be rectified. A map will be put up to indicate FP5 and FP6 Footpaths. He then took several questions from the audience. The session lasted approx. 15 – 20 minutes. It was suggested that any further questions are sent via the Clerk as the direct contact with Mr Vaudrey.

04.21.5 APM Palgrave Parish Council: Cllr Neil Weston, Chair – see Appendix 1

04.21.6 APM County Council: County Councillor Jessica Fleming - see full report Appendix 2

04.21.7 APM District Council: District Cllr David Burn – see full report Appendix 3

04.21.8 APM Reports from Parish Council representatives and village organisations

The following reports were summarised by representatives at the meeting, where present. All reports issued prior to the meeting commencing were previously circulated. All reports are appended to the minutes on the parish council website. *Due to lack of space they are not posted on the notice board.* These include Neighbourhood Watch, Speed Indicator Devices, Ukaholics Anonymous, Diss Art Group, Palgrave Photography Group, Extend Exercise, the Friendship Club, the Palgrave Arts Festival and the Palgrave Players.

04.21.9 APM To receive comments / concerns from people present: - The state of the bus shelter was raised by a parishioner, stating it was full of rubbish, old posters, cobwebs, and broken glass and was not fit for purposes. It has been used for art installations many times over the last few years and deserves looking after. The Chair confirmed the PC will continue to look at it over the summer months. Perhaps it could be made more presentable when we have the unveiling of our new Palgrave Man, bringing the two matters together for a dedicated launch of the new 'Man'.

Action: Cllr Henderson to look at the bus shelter with the parishioner concerned and report back to the PC

04.21.10 APM There were no other matters notified to the Chair.

Closing remarks; The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance. The date for 2024 will be agreed in due course.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Report by the Chair of Palgrave Parish Council

Palgrave Parish Council has delivered on a number of key initiatives this past year. We continue to have active parish councillors although still not a full council so any residents putting themselves forward as councillors would be most welcome.

We have

1. Completed the long awaited access only road alterations and we now see far fewer people using this as a cut through
2. Introduced 40mph buffer zones at each end of the village
3. Purchased another SID for Crossing Road and fully staffed the SID rota with volunteers
4. Held a successful litter pick and continue to focus on litter and mess in the village with purchase of new dog bins
5. Replaced all of the decayed bollards on the green to aid in its protection and commenced the process of enhancing the bollard map to ensure that the green continues to be protected
6. Purchased the green
7. Organised for the refurbishment of the Palgrave Man village sign
8. Followed up on a whole range of subjects related to highways
9. Organised the first 'Come and meet Palgrave' engagement day where 14 local organisations were represented
10. Pursued a pragmatic approach to ensuring that we encourage wildlife on the green
11. Arranged for safety audit of the trees
12. Protected key and sensitive areas of the village environs by objecting to it's degradation by solar farms or other major developments

We still have challenges ahead of us with these developments and other thorns in our side such as continued roadworks on Victoria Road and consequential congestion which means Palgrave becomes the Diss bypass. We also face the new challenge of being owners of the green although we believe this will pay dividends in the long term. Financial challenges remain as the council is still spending about 10% more than it's precept or grant from MSDC. We have increased the precept this year to take account of this but we still do have reserves until we are back on an even keel.

We still though have a decent amount of CIL money that can be invested in infrastructure in Palgrave and would welcome ideas where this money can be best used to benefit all the residents.

I don't really want to single out too many particular groups for praise here as everyone who gets involved does a great job and should be applauded. I will however mention Laura Foster who did a great job for the litter pick this last year and suffered from a lack of parish councillors and villagers turning up to help (including myself). Our hope is that we can rearrange this in the forthcoming year to become more of a local responsibility of residents. I'd also like to continue to thank John Whistlecraft for cutting the cemetery grass between the headstones and all the SID volunteers and Phil Dyer who manages the administration of the cemetery.

One final note. I have worked with David Burn, our local MSDC councillor for many years now. He has been a constant source of practical and sensible advice for me and will be sorely missed as he retires in just a few days and won't be standing again at the local elections in May for our district councillor. Thank you David.

My best wishes to all in Palgrave for a healthy and happy 2023.

Appendix 1

Annual Parish Report 2021/2022 - Suffolk County Council

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

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Over the past year the County Council has worked with its partners to fulfil its core responsibilities and deliver on our priorities which are to support vulnerable residents, strengthen Suffolk's economy, protect and improve the environment, and provide value for the taxpayer. The past year has seen pressures on the council budget from inflation, the Ukraine war, and pandemic recovery. In response council tax has been raised by 3.99% of which 2% is ring fenced for social care. In addition, £4.4m of unallocated reserves has been used to meet the 2023/24 basic budget of just over £545M. Overall the financial position is sound though challenging.

Some key council programmes over the past year have been organising Homes for Ukraine, transformation of Adult and Community Services (ACS), increasing support to children with Special Educational Needs (SEND), awarding a new Highways contract, investing in decarbonisation, and managing a large increase in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

- **Communities & Customer Services** – The council is responsible for an array of services including Registrars, Coroners, Libraries, Museums and Archives, Asylum Seekers referred by the Home Office, Community Safety, Fire & Rescue Services, Trading Standards and others. More information on these services and partner organisations can be found on the web platform www.suffolk.gov.uk
- **Education, Schools & Young People** – to increase local teacher training opportunities, the council initiated a joint programme with Norfolk and University of Suffolk to gain government accreditation for a new School Centred Initial Teacher Training programme. Financing of £32m has been secured to build or expand 21 schools in the County. The Council has also worked with schools to secure grants for decarbonisation such as that in progress at Botesdale Primary.
- **Supporting SEND** – £45million has been allocated by Suffolk County Council to deliver new in-County SEND places; Phase 1 is in progress and creates 825 new places across Suffolk and Phase 2, agreed in June 2022, will create up to 73 new places. A third phase agreed in March will provide 3 new specialist units. In combination, these new facilities will greatly reduce long trips to school and out of County placements. Also, the Council is bidding for funds to establish two new free schools in Sudbury and East Suffolk, both will support children with severe learning difficulties and complex needs from across Suffolk.
- **Homes for Ukraine** – Over 1,200 people have arrived in Suffolk since this programme started, at present 741 remain with 335 host families. Government guidance now supports people to stay with their hosts for up to 2 years. New hosts are always needed.
- **Adult & Social Care** – The Council is working with care providers to increase recruitment and retention, and has run a successful apprenticeship scheme over the past year with 27 currently in the programme. A recruitment drive through the Home First Reablement Service initiated in August has increased the social care workforce substantially. In December the Council along with the NHS West Suffolk Alliance piloted a digital service (Cassius) to help patients and carers monitor their conditions. This has been well received and will scale up from an initial 100 people to over 350 this summer.
- **Environment & Climate Change** – £1.5m was committed in the prior budget to implement the Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan, the first carbon budget. The Council first partnered with *Plug In Suffolk* in 2019. Over 100 charging points have been installed to date with an emphasis on rural locations and areas without off-street charging capabilities. The council submitted a successful bid of £1,362,000 in August to the Department for Transport as part of a Local EV Infrastructure pilot scheme to expand EV charging capacity. A new guideline for developers has been issued to achieve sustainable low-carbon neighbourhoods and the infrastructure necessary - see the [Suffolk Design: Streets Guide](#).
- **Tree Planting** – Working with the Woodland Trust, the Council has planted almost 50K trees this winter, additional to over 200K planted over the past two years. A contractor, Giles Landscapes is assisting the Council with monitoring its planting programme and improving survival of certain spp such as oak and hornbeam. The Council's County Farms Estate has hosted a number of the new tree planting schemes, but more land is needed.
- **Breck's Fen Edge & Rivers Project** – This is a Heritage Lottery funded project initiated in 2017 by Norfolk & Suffolk County Council and other partners <https://brecks.org/BFER/>. A review was conducted in winter 2022 by Glevum Consulting, and indications are very positive. A large number of people have been involved including schools, land owners, and volunteers to improve riparian conditions, water quality, and public awareness.

- **Highways Contract** - Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, has been awarded Suffolk's new highways services contract, which will begin on 1 October 2023. Milestone will be the Council's new contract partner for up to 20 years under a contract to provide projects including but not limited to maintaining roads, pavements and rights of way, drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new road schemes, snow-clearing and gritting.
- **Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects** - In addition to Sizewell C, the Council's planning team has needed to comment on multiple large new projects such as Sunnica's approx. 2,000-acre proposed solar farm on the Cambridge border, two proposed sub-sea interconnectors in East Suffolk, additional 30km grid reinforcement on the Bramford to Twinstead 400 kV line between Ipswich and Sudbury, and National Grid's proposed 50-m high East Anglia Green pylon line between Norwich and Tilbury. We are actively engaging with the proponents of these schemes and working cooperatively with our colleagues in neighbouring counties. The Council has secured £54K from the government to run a Centre of Excellence to support area local authorities in responding to NSIPs, and to help represent the public interest.

Appendix 2

Mid Suffolk District Councillor for Palgrave Ward, David Burn:

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL: WHAT HAVE WE DONE FOR YOU?

Millions of pounds of investment, action to combat climate change, and support for thousands of residents and businesses are amongst our achievements captured in a report published towards the end of last year. Titled What have we done for you?, the report outlines the impact of work carried out by Mid Suffolk District Council since the district council elections in 2019.

It notes the progress, achievements and key events as councillors near the end of their term of office – with local elections in May 2023. Cllr Suzie Morley, leader of Mid Suffolk District Council, said: "I am proud of how our council has delivered for residents, communities and businesses during an extraordinary four years. This report really shows how our work makes a long-term, positive difference to the lives of many thousands of people and further improves our already wonderful district."

The report covers the full breadth of the Council's work including economic development, planning, supporting communities and tackling climate change. It outlines the support given to thousands of residents and businesses during the pandemic, and the initial work during the cost-of-living crisis.

It also maps where millions of pounds in Community Infrastructure Levy payments have been made across the District. These payments have funded school extensions, village hall improvements, equipment for playgrounds and many other town and village projects.

Some of the report highlights include:

- Driving economic growth across the District – including the Gateway 14 project near Stowmarket which will see retail giant The Range move in and create 1,600 jobs
- Tackling climate change - the first rural authorities in the UK to switch bin lorries from diesel to hydrotreated vegetable oil – an 89% CO2 reduction per kilometre – and, along with Babergh District, the councils also carried out a pioneering tree canopy study. More than 1,000 solar panels have been installed at leisure centres.
- Investment in new facilities - such as the Duck & Teapot café at Needham Lake
- High Street support – the Council's Innovate Local project and Virtual High Streets providing valuable help to firms
- Investment in leisure centres – more than £6m spent in Hadleigh, Sudbury and Stowmarket • More affordable homes – many hundreds have been delivered in both Mid Suffolk and Babergh, including more council homes
- Support for families – the Council's Holiday Activity Fund programme was enjoyed by hundreds of families

Access the report online at <https://bmsdchosting.net/End-of-Term-Report/Mid-Suffolk-District-Council-2019-2022/>

The report is also available to view on computers in local libraries and at our customer access point in Stowmarket.

Appendix 3

Other reports from Clubs and Groups within Palgrave are as follows:

Neighbourhood Watch annual report

Since I took over the job of NW Coordinator from John Sparks late last year, I have circulated the monthly Newsletter to over 40 recipients in the village. It should be more but many failed to give John Sparks permission to transfer their email addresses to me (to conform with Data Protection). Last month, the Parish Council arranged an open event for new residents to meet clubs and services in the village; I was able to increase my membership by 10%.

I have access to the Intelligence Unit at Halesworth and any information received by me is forwarded to designated police officers there. I would welcome any of the previous Coordinator's contacts to email me at my NW dedicated email address: johnpwells@outlook.com

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) Volunteers Report by Adrian Mitchell

There are three Speed Indicator devices on our roads in Palgrave and, up until last year these were positioned in Denmark Hill, Upper Rose Lane and Lion Road.

Last year it was decided that an additional post should be fitted in Crossing Road as it was felt that there was a need to monitor the speed of vehicles that come in and out of Palgrave along that Road. S.I.D's are expensive items to purchase so it was decided that the S.I.D that was installed in Upper Rose Lane should be shared between the two sites. This is the reason why you see the speed indicator missing from the post in Upper Rose Lane, and the post in Crossing Rd.

In 2022 we had numerous problems with the S.I.D that was in Lion Road and it was out of action for several weeks. The unit had to be returned to the factory three times in 2022 and at the last visit it had most of its internal workings replaced. This is the reason why you will have noticed that this unit was missing for part of last year.

Only two of our S.I.D.'s are able to record the number of vehicles that pass them, and the speed at which they are travelling. The road works in Victoria Road, Diss, at the end of last year caused an increase in traffic on Denmark Hill and it was decided to monitor the number of vehicles that were using that Road. Unfortunately the unit that was installed on Denmark Hill with the smiley or sad face does not have recording facilities, and so it was decided to move that unit to Lion Road, and move the Lion Road unit to Denmark Hill.

We have to say a big thankyou to the dedicated team of volunteers who give up the time to maintain these installations, and download the data from them. Data from these units is passed to the appropriate authorities who then decide if any further action is necessary to reduce speed of vehicles passing through out Parish.

We always welcome any new volunteers to carry out this important work. Please let the Parish Clerk know if you are interested. The batteries in each unit to be recharged every seven to ten days, and they need to be turned round so that the traffic can be monitored in both directions every four weeks. The Upper Rose Lane/Crossing Road volunteers also move the units between the two sites. Most volunteers are only responsible for maintaining the sites that they are responsible for every other month, or one month in three. Full training will be given to any potential volunteers.

Ukaholics Anonymous is a social group of people who get together on Thursday evenings between 7.30 and 9.00 p.m. to play our ukuleles and sing popular songs from the 1920's through to the modern day. We have thoroughly enjoyed our move to Palgrave Community centre, where we are royally looked after and the facilities are good.

Enthusiasm is far more important than ability and we encourage anyone to come and join us. We have a couple of entry-level instruments for people to try and see if they think they will enjoy playing and help is given to beginners. The ukulele is an inexpensive easy instrument to learn and playing does not require the ability to read music.

Singing as a group provides "safety in numbers", so no-one needs feel exposed. The words and ukulele chords are projected on the drop-down cinema screen and we stop in the middle of the evening for a cup tea, a biscuit and a chat. Sometimes we decide on a themed evening, such as St. Patrick's Night, Christmas Songs and Country Music Night and sometimes, those who wish to, play out in public.

Anyone can join us for a free "taster" session and can contact me (Pete Arnold) on 07934 432185 or using petearnold1957@yahoo.co.uk

Diss Art Group – Phil Dyer

Established in the early 1960's the Group has gone from strength to strength and now has over 30 regular members, with a large waiting list.

Having been established in Palgrave for over 18 months we continue to enjoy the facilities offered.

Since last year we have held a summer exhibition in Diss and a small Christmas exhibition at Designer Makers 21, we are planning an art show during Open Gardens, followed by our annual exhibition at St Marys in Diss.

Palgrave Photography Group – Phil Dyer

The group was established in 2016 for the benefit of any amateur photographers in the village and surrounding areas.

We re now getting back to our normal programme after the COVID break and held a very successful exhibition in September, where over 60 photos of Cupiss Print Works were displayed to mark the closure of this establishment in July of last year. A selection of photos from the Cupiss exhibition are on display in Diss Museum. We continue to have a varied and well supported programme, meeting monthly we have around 12 permanent members.

EXTEND Exercise report – Polly Lavender

Wednesdays at 11am for an hour (cost £6 per class still)

This is an hour of gentle exercise for older and less able people .Unlike Pilates or yoga we don't get down on the floor . We exercise all muscles & work on strengthening & mobilising joints An important element of what we do is to encourage and promote better balance thereby helping to prevent falls. We use age-appropriate music and have a lot of fun. So it's social as well as valuable to keep us active, mentally and physically as we get older. Participation is always voluntary depending on how each person feels. Numbers of participants are growing & a local GP encourages patients to come along.

A short message from Friendship Club – Pat Simms

We continue to have a friendly meeting twice every month – we chat over a cup of tea and something yummy and we play bingo or cards or whatever quiz etc that we can think of. We are a bit distressed that our numbers have not increased for a long time even though we try to tell villagers that we are a friendly group who would welcome some of the senior members of our society in or near Palgrave. We do hold bring and buys and raffles to raise funds to help with our occasional treats of tea out or lunch now and again and we have also enjoyed crafting afternoons. If YOU know of someone who might enjoy meeting us, then please get in touch – see the Palgrave Star for details.



Palgrave Arts Festival: Planning is well underway for an exciting new venture to celebrate the diverse and vibrant arts that can be found in and around Palgrave. The inaugural Palgrave Arts Festival will take place between 7th – 15th October and its intention is to put on an ambitious programme of high quality events for all ages, from our youngest to our oldest residents, working with organisations and individuals in the area.

The Arts Festival will include events put on by Palgrave Photo Group, Diss Art Group, Ukaholics Anonymous (the Palgrave Ukulele group), the Palgrave Players and the Benefice Choir. During the Festival live music and poetry will play a prominent part and we look forward to contributions from Palgrave Primary and Hartismere Schools as well as from budding musicians and poets from Palgrave.

We are grateful for the support and encouragement we are receiving from Palgrave Primary, St Peter's Church and from the Community Centre. We are particularly appreciative of the support from Palgrave Parish Council.

The Festival Committee would be delighted to hear from anyone who wishes to participate or help organise the Festival. Contact details can be found in The Star or on our Facebook page

The Palgrave Players -Cathal Prendergast

The group began last year, born out of the desire to put on some sort of performance for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It is a musical theatre group and we have put on 3 shows since the inaugural performance, with the last show selling out each night. It continues to grow from strength to strength.