

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
ALDRINGHAM-CUM-THORPE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021  
VIA ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT: 5 COUNCILLORS, 2 PARISHIONERS and 7 GUEST SPEAKERS**

**1. APOLOGIES**

**Roger Brown Emergency Officer**

**2. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The acting Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting via Zoom.

**3. REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

- A. St Andrews Church – Rev'd Mark Lowther
- B. Suffolk County Council – Councillor Russ Rainger
- C. Suffolk Coastal District Council – Councillors T. J. Haworth & Jocelyn Bond
- D. TCFG Coastal Protection – Mike Chandler
- E. Heritage Group – Maureen Jones
- F. Safer Cycling – Mike Laschet
- G. ImpACTS – Christine Laschet
- H. Trustees of Sports Field & Pavilion – Eric Atkinson
- I. Good Neighbours – Pippa McLardy
- J. Neighbourhood Watch – Evelyn Rumsey

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Good Evening to fellow councillors, our hard-working Clerk Shirley and all parishioners who have been able to join us.

It won't have escaped anyone's notice that this has been a very challenging year! However, on the Parish Council we have been facing not only Covid 19, but some enormous local challenges.

Dealing with these, we have been keeping up with each other usually twice monthly online as well as by telephone and email in the interim. A great deal of time has been spent quietly reading many hundreds, probably thousands, of documents, appendices, footnotes, transcripts, emails and counter-emails emanating from the energy companies who seem determined to descend on our coast, and informing them of our views as a Council. The influx of paperwork has been so enormous I know I am not alone when I say I frequently become confused regarding which company is doing what and when.

On top of that cliff erosion in Thorpeness must be tackled before we start losing substantial and a number of properties to the sea. These issues are on top of our regular duties and have taken a toll on all five Councillors who attend numerous on-line meetings.

On the home front, two Councillors Eric and Maureen are in regular talks with the Thorpeness Coastal Futures Group regarding the coastal erosion and the probable need to raise funds from local residents to tackle the issue.

The pressure has been such (and apologies if I sound a bit like Edward 8<sup>th</sup> here!) that no one person has felt able to bear the brunt of chairmanship, so we are trying to share this out between us.

On the energy front last week we sent an email to the Planning Inspectorate asking that the start of Sizewell C Development Consent Order be postponed to take into consideration the fact that the Scottish Power DOC is now due to run into July. On 15<sup>th</sup> April we have an online meeting with Sizewell C to discuss issues raised in our written Relevant Representation and our views on their recent changes to their application. In March we had a webinar with Nautilus and Euro link regarding their proposals to bring in green power from Europe.

Alan Williams is leading our responses to planning applications. Between the last Annual Parish Meeting and this one, we have received 37 applications, supported 29, opposed 4 and 4 are still ongoing.

At the moment we are considering the recently received application for a considerable extension to the Dolphin, which is a concern to many in the parish.

Eric is involved in resurrecting the Neighbourhood Plan which will give the Parish Council a greater say in the future developments. He has already had helpful preliminary meetings with East Suffolk Council Planning Officers and these will continue.

Alan and Eric continue to move our Speed Indication Device SID to different locations around the Parish, but we feel that as drivers have become used to the device, they are less likely to slow down in response, so SID is having a rest at the moment. He has enabled us to persuade the police that speeding in the Parish particularly through Aldringham on the B1122 is sufficiently bad to warrant regular attendance by the mobile speed camera team (you have been warned). Alan is also investigating sharing a new device that records the number-plates of speeding vehicles so warning letters can be sent to offenders.

The new allotments in Aldringham are popular and running well apparently producing a good array of produce for the keen gardeners who have taken these on.

With the help of all local groups sending their news I have been able to produce three newsletters over the past year, and I was very thrilled this month to receive a complimentary email from a well-known author, journalist and foreign correspondent Humphrey Hawkins who has shared our newsletters on his Facebook page.

I conclude by giving the thanks of all the Councillors to our three ward District Councillors TJ Haworth-Gulf, Jocelyn Bond and Tony Cooper for their calm support and assistance to the Parish Council and all they do for everyone in East Suffolk and to our Suffolk County Councillor Russ Ranger who is standing down in May from his role. Russ Thank you for the past four years of service, help and patient attendance at the Council meetings.

## **5. MEETING OPENED FOR QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Signed  
Chairman

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022