

#### **MINUTES**

# BRANTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday 14 July 2021, 7.30pm held at Brantham Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs M Aherne, M Bridgeman, L Cherry, C Couchman, J Heywood, S Markham, G Rasch, P Saward

CHAIRPERSON: Cllr A McCraw

IN ATTENDANCE: S Keys (Clerk), 4 members of the public and Cllr Simon Harley

#### PC 07.21.01 OPENING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.30 pm and thanked all for attending. A statement was read out by the Chair indicating that, in accordance with legislation, the public and councillors were permitted to film, record, photograph or use social media in order to report on the proceedings of the meeting. A full transcript is available from the Clerk.

The Chair reminded the public that a Council meeting is not a public meeting, it is a meeting conducted in public. Members of the public, the press, and District, Borough or County Councilors are invited to attend our meetings and contribute during the public forum. Comments from the public during the remainder of the meeting should be by invitation from the Chair only.

#### PC 07.21.02 APOLOGIES

Cllrs E Osben and P Revell. Cllr Bridgeman proposed that these apologies were accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Heywood and aif.

#### PC 07.21.03 DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND LOCAL NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- a) There were no local non-pecuniary interests declared for the Agenda under discussion. There were no gifts of hospitality exceeding £25 declared.
- b) There were no requests for dispensations for the Agenda under discussion

#### PC 07.21.04 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Council considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 02 June 2021. Cllr Bridgeman proposed that the minutes were approved, this was seconded by Cllr Heywood and aif.

#### PC 07.21.05 ACTION POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTE NO.	ACTION	Ongoing/ Dismissed
PC 04.21.06	Contact Paul Brackley to request key to Scout Hut gate	Ongoing
	This is ongoing but no response has been received to date	
PC 05.21.12	Report missing footpath sign at New Mill Lane to SCC	Ongoing
	To be completed	
PC 05.21.12	Discuss bollards at Red Bridge site with Environment Agency	Ongoing
	The Chair confirmed that there had been no response from the Environment Agency	
	to date.	
Public session	Send copy of pedestrian crossing feasibility report to Cllr Harley	Dismissed



	Completed	
Public session	Ask Dave Childs to clear Cinder Path on a regular basis	Dismissed
	Completed	
PC 06.21.11	Report verge infringement along Bergholt Road to SCC and ask Cllr Harley for support with this issues	Dismissed
	Completed	
PC 06.21.13	Query what SCC will be doing to improve footpath to the railway crossing with	Ongoing
	Simon Harley	
	To be completed	

#### PC 07.21.06 PUBLIC SESSION

A written report had been submitted from Cllr. Harley (available as Appendix B). Cllr Harley gave an overview on the following issues:

- provision for SEN children
- concerns raised about hedgerow growth and maintenance in Suffolk
- the Boundary Commission review
- the contact for Highways Improvement provision
- the Bus Back better scheme
- a number of local issues including flooding in Sycamore Way, hedging along Brooklands Road, the cycle lane to Manningtree

Cllr McCraw gave a report on the following issues:

- · New pool opening in Hadleigh
- Joint Local Plan
- Projects to boost biodiversity and tackle climate change
- The future of grounds maintenance around the Babergh District (this will be managed by BDC in the future)
- Review of the social housing allocation system

There were no questions or comments received from members of the public.

#### PC 07.21.07 FINANCE REPORT

- a) To note and approve the balance of accounts as at 31 June 2021 The Clerk reported the following balances:
  - Current account: £5000.00
    Deposit Account: £132,018.07
    Salaries Account: £56.07
- b) The Council noted Appendix A circulated by the Clerk which detailed the accounts awaiting payment, the accounts paid since the last meeting and the receipts allocated since the last meeting. Cllr Aherne proposed that the Balance of Accounts and Appendix A were approved by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Cherry and aif.
- c) To receive and adopt the Annual Internal Audit Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 as produced by the Council's appointed Internal Auditor the Council reviewed the Internal Audit Report and noted that this has been discussed in depth at the recent Finance Committee meeting. Cllr Aherne proposed that the IA Report was approved by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Markham and aif.
- d) To receive and approve the 2020-21 Internal Audit Report Action Plan as produced by the Clerk the Council reviewed the Action Plan that had been produced by the Clerk and noted that this has been discussed in depth at



the recent Finance Committee meeting. Cllr Cherry proposed that the Action plan was approved by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Aherne and agreed in full

- e) To consider and approve the completion of the Annual Governance Statement (section 1) for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 as per the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) following discussion Cllr McCraw Proposed that Section 1 of the AGAR was approved, this was seconded by Cllr Saward and aif.
- f) To consider and approve the Accounting Statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 as transposed onto the AGAR – following discussion Cllr Aherne proposed that the accounting statements were approved by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Markham and aif

#### PC 07.21.08 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

# 1. Finance Committee

- a) To update on any actions since the last meeting Cllr Aherne confirmed that a meeting had been held on 23 June 2021. The Committee had discussed the Internal Audit Report received from SALC and proposals for the move to online banking.
- b) To consider/agree proposals for contributions from the Finance Committee None.
- c) To consider/agree any other proposals presented by the Finance Committee Cllr Aherne informed the Council that in his view there was a need for additional SIDs along the A137 and in particular at the Brantham Bull end of the village where traffic moves particularly fast Following discussion Cllr McCraw confirmed that he would be able to allocate £250 towards the cost of a SID and Cllr Harley confirmed that he would be able to match this contribution from his locality budget. Cllr Aherne proposed that an additional SID was purchased, this was seconded by Cllr McCraw. Cllr Bridgeman then proposed that to maximise impact 2 additional SIDs were purchased for the village. This was seconded by Cllr Cherry.
  - 3 Cllrs voted in favour of the purchase of 1 SID, 6 Cllrs voted in favour of the purchase of 2 SIDS. The motion to purchase 2 SIDs was carried.

**ACTION:** Clerk to order two additional SIDs from Westcotec and then to submit invoices to Cllr Harley to support his donation.

#### Recreation Sub-Committee

- a) To update on any general actions since the last meeting Cllr Heywood noted that there had not yet been a meeting of the Recreation Sub-Committee but she hoped that this would take place later in the summer. Cllr Heywood informed the Council that she had received a request from a member of the public for a notice near the play area that states "Dogs should be kept on a lead". Following discussion the Council agreed that this would not be possible since this was difficult to enforce and since this was a popular dog exercise area.
- b) To consider/approve any actions or expenditure as required Cllr Heywood informed the Council that complaints had been received from users of the LPF about the condition of the safety matting under the slide at the LPF. This is uneven and could cause a trip hazard. This issue had also been highlighted in the annual Play Inspection. In addition the surface underneath the seesaw is also deteriorating. Quotes have been requested from three play equipment providers. One company stated that they would not be able to travel for such a small piece of work, a second company have not replied. Wicksteed have provided a quote of £4752.00 (subject to a site visit) which involves digging out the existing surfacing and supplying and installing approximately 36 sq m of 40mm thick EcoTumble surfacing. Cllr Heywood proposed that this work should be commissioned (to a maximum cost of £5000), this was seconded by Cllr Couchman and aif.

**ACTION** – Cllr Heywood to ask Wicksteed to begin this project

3. Planning Committee



- a) To note recommendations made by the Committee Cllr Saward reviewed the meeting held in March 2021. For details of recommendations from the Committee please see the minutes of that meeting: <a href="https://www.brantham.onesuffolk.net">www.brantham.onesuffolk.net</a>.
- b) To note the planning decisions received See the minutes of the meeting.

# 4. <u>Village Hall Management Committee</u>

- a) To update on actions since the last meeting Cllr Heywood informed the Council that the VHMC met for the first time in 18 months on 06 July 2021. Cllr Heywood was re-appointed as the Chair of the Committee, Ian Southgate was appointed as the Vice-Chair, and Beverley Rudge joined the Committee as the Garage Sale Rep. Other appointments to the Committee remained the same. Cllr Heywood informed the Council that the current Bookings Clerk has resigned from the post and the Committee agreed that a Village Hall manager with responsibility for bookings, invoicing, general maintenance of the hall etc should be employed in line with other village halls in the area. The Village Hall currently has a relatively healthy financial position due to the receipt of grants over the Covid period. Future fundraising events include the village Garage Sale on 12 September and a quiz night on 13 November. The next meeting will be held on 15 September 2021.
- b) To consider/agree any actions/expenditure necessary None
- c) To receive an update from the VH working Group there has not been a meeting of the VH working group since the last Parish Council meeting. A report has been received from an Electrician giving an insight into the electrics at the Village Hall. This report highlighted that some electrics in the hall are currently unsafe and need to be repaired. This needs to be done as soon as possible and Cllr Heywood will be working with the bookings clerk to identify a way forward. Following discussion it was agreed that further decisions about the future of the Village Hall could not be progressed until a direction of travel had been determined by the VHMC.
- d) To consider/agree any proposals made by the VH Working Group nothing to report
- e) To consider/agree next steps as necessary see above.

# 5. Footpaths & Services Sub Committee

a) To consider/agree any proposals presented by the Footpaths Sub Committee – Cllr Osben provided the following report to the Council by email:

"The sub committee hasn't met since the last Council Meeting, although myself and Councillor Cherry have carried out a survey of the village dog bins.

One bin, on the green opposite no. 5 Palfrey Heights, is in very poor condition and needs to be replaced. A second, at the rear of the school grounds in Pattern Bush Close, is missing its handle. I will try to find a replacement and fit it ASAP.

Several of the bins were full to overflowing and all were well used. Bin provision in the village seems to be adequate, although some could be bigger.

The volunteer group (BOS) are in the process of organising themselves and, hopefully, will soon be accredited by SCC. Hoping to hit the ground running they have compiled a list of equipment they will need to complete the sort of tasks they have planned. They have identified:- A petrol Strimmer £700, a mower £500, a brushcutter £200 and some PPE (gloves, goggles, etc) which will likely be less than £100. Given that they have no funds, and no way of raising any, they would like to apply to the PC for funding to purchase the equipment. Whether we offer them help to buy the equipment themselves or buy it for the PC and loan it to them I'm not sure."

The Council reviewed the proposal received from Cllr Osben and following discussion Cllr McCraw proposed that the Parish Council purchases the requested equipment (up to a maximum amount of £1500. These will then be on permanent loan to the Brantham Open Spaces Group. This was seconded by Cllr Bridgeman and aif.

**ACTION:** Clerk to liaise with Dennis Hyatt and purchase equipment.

Dennis Hyatt indicated that St Michael's Church had indicated that this equipment could be stored at the Church.



Following discussion it was agreed that a new dog litter bin should be purchased to replace the one at Palfrey Heights.

**ACTION** – Clerk to order new dog litter bin

# 6. Legal Sub Committee

- a) To receive an update from Cllr Bridgeman on the review of the current lease held with BML Cllr Bridgeman confirmed that the Legal Sub-Committee had met on 23 June 2021 and reviewed the current lease with BML, including identifying the gaps between what the lease requires and what actually happens.
- b) To consider/agree any proposals received from the Legal Sub Committee Cllr Bridgeman proposed the following outline for the Legal SC to undertake the review of the lease with BML
  - 1. Legal SC to negotiate only with the BML directors Phil Lawler and Peter Crowhurst
  - 2. The negotiating team would comprise the legal sub-committee plus Simon Markham
  - 3. The ToR for the negotiating team would be established in advance
  - 4. All communications flowed between the Clerk and the BML directors
  - 5. All legal agreements would be approved by Birketts before signature This was seconded by ClIr Rasch and aif.

Darren Smith (Chief Executive of BLC) stated that BML will support this way forward. He informed the Council that it is likely that in the near future the Directorships of BML will change/increase. In addition DS highlighted that BML should actually be referred to as Brantham Management Community Interest Company (BMCIC). Cllr Bridgeman informed the Council that BMCIC had submitted a request to the Council to allow the Bowl's Club to hire some space within the boundaries of the leisure centre grounds – the sub-committee agreed this was a non-impacting proposal and that the Legal Sub-Committee had no opinion on this matter Cllr Bridgeman informed the Council that he had been provided with a set of all Legal Documents relating to Brantham Parish Council from the Clerk and the Sub-Committee would be reviewing these in due course.

- 7. <u>SALC Representative</u> nothing to report
- 8. <u>BLC Representative</u> Cllr Markham informed the Council that a constructive meeting had taken place between BPC and BMCIC which had demonstrated a will for the Leisure Centre to continue to build as a centre for the village.
- 9. <u>SNT Representative</u> nothing to report

## PC 07.21.09 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE/ACTION

The Clerk reviewed the correspondence that had been received in March 2021 (copies had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting). Councillors noted the following:

- A letter from BDC re: removal of Paper Recycling bank included for information
- An email from local resident re: FOI response included for information
- An email from a local resident re: fly tipping at Red Bridge the Clerk confirmed that this had been reported and had now been removed
- An email from SCC re: installation of fingerpost plaques on footpath signs the Clerk confirmed that Cllr Osben had agreed that he would be happy to install these
- An email from local resident re: Bergholt Road footpath the Clerk confirmed that she had reported this and shared it with Cllr Harley and this will be addressed by SCC in the near future.
- An email from local resident re: Sandy Lane Footpath the clerk confirmed that she had forwarded this to SCC and asked them to cut back Sandy Lane
- An email from BDC re: trees on public open space in Brantham following discussion it was agreed that no further action can be taken on this issue until this area had been adopted by BDC
- An email notification of Bentley Neighbourhood Plan consultation this had been circulated to Cllrs who had agreed that there was no comment to be made from BPC



- An email from Suffolk County Council re: BRANTHAM FP6 LEVEL CROSSING requesting attendance from BPC at a
  meeting with Network Rail the Clerk informed the Council that Cllrs Osben and McCraw would attend this
  meeting on behalf of the Parish Council
- An email from local Beaver group leader re: tree planting for Queen's Golden Jubilee following discussion it
  was agreed that the Clerk should email Richard Keeble to request permission to plant trees on the Gravel Pit
  Lane Play area.

ACTION - Clerk to email RK re: trees at GPL

- An email chain from BLC re: feather boarding and closing front gate following discussion it was agreed that
  issues with the gate are a matter for the Leisure Centre. The Clerk confirmed that she had forwarded
  information about the bottle banks to the Leisure centre.
- An email from local resident re: state of Brantham the Clerk confirmed that Cllr McCraw had responded to this email with an update and explanation.

#### PC 07.21.10 MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

All miscellaneous correspondence by email had been forwarded to Councillors during the month.

#### PC 07.21.11 CINDER PATH CYCLE BARRIERS

- a) To receive an update on this issue from the Chair the Chair informed the Council that he had received approval from Taylor Wimpey for Brantham Parish Council to make changes to the cycle barrier at the end of Cinder Path. A response is currently awaited from SCC about the possible highways implications.
- b) To consider/agree next steps as necessary Following discussion Cllr McCraw proposed that the Clerk request quotes from builders for this work. This was seconded by Cllr Couchman and aif.
   ACTION - Clerk to request quotes for this work

#### PC 07.21.12 TERMS OF REFERENCE

- a) To receive the BPC ToR for Committees, Sub Committees, Working Groups and representatives as circulated by the Clerk the Council reviewed the ToR document that had been circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. Cllr Aherne requested that a version number was added to the document.
- b) To approve the ToR if appropriate following discussion Cllr Cherry proposed that the ToR document should be approved by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Aherne and aif.

#### PC 07.21.13 INDUSTRIAL SITE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

- a) To receive an update on recent/forthcoming activity on Industrial and Greenfield site Cllr McCraw informed the Council that the footpath at the top of Merriam Close is now closed for work to be undertaken in this area. When this work is completed this will become a permissive footpath. A member of the public suggested that if this path was diverted through the woods this might resolve some of the dog and litter issues in this area.
- b) To agree any other next steps as necessary none.

#### PC 07.21.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 01 September 2021, 7.30pm at Brantham Village Hall

#### PC 07.21.15 IN CAMERA ITEM

Cllr Bridgeman proposed that as per section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 the meeting should be closed to the public due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. This was seconded by Cllr Markham and aif.



# The meeting closed to the public.

SIGNED	DA	TED



# **ACTIONS**

MINUTE NO.	ACTION	WHO
PC 04.21.06	Contact Paul Brackley to request key to Scout Hut gate	Cllr McCraw
PC 05.21.12	Report missing footpath sign at New Mill Lane to SCC	Clerk
PC 05.21.12	Discuss bollards at Red Bridge site with Environment Agency	Cllr McCraw
PC 06.21.13	Query what SCC will be doing to improve footpath to the railway crossing with	Clerk
	Simon Harley	
PC 07.21.08	Purchase two SIDs from Westcotec. Forward invoices to Simon Harley	Clerk
PC 07.21.08	Instruct Wicksteed to replace safety matting under slide and seesaw at LPF	Cllr Heywood
PC 07.21.08	Order grounds maintenance equipment for BOS	Clerk
PC 07.21.08	Order new dog litter bin to replace bin at Palfrey Heights	Clerk
PC 07.21.11	Request quotes from builders to move the cycle barriers at the end of Cinder Path	Clerk



# **APPENDIX A**

# PC 07.21.08 FINANCE REPORT

ACCOUNTS TO BE AGREED FOR	Chq/Debit	NET	VAT	TOTAL	Powers Used
PAYMENT	Card/SO				
SALC	003376	£286.00	£57.20	£343.20	LGA 1972
(Internal Audit 2020-21)					
D. Childs	003377	£415.00		£415.00	Public Health Act 1875,
(Grounds Maintenance – June 2021)					s.164
HMRC	003378	£820.36		£820.36	LGA 1972
(PAYE and NI Q1)					

ACCOUNTS PAID SINCE THE LAST MEETING	Chq/Debit Card/SO	NET	VAT	TOTAL	Powers Used
Parish Clerk – Salary	BACS	£1203.50		£1203.50	LGA 1972, s.112
Parish Clerk – Office	BACS	£20.00		£20.00	LGA 1972, s. 112
Phil Wainwright – Litter Picker	BACS	£210.56		£210.56	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10
Tina Bird – Litter Picker	BACS	£253.23		£253.23	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10
B.M.L Maintenance Payment	SO	£332.00		£332.00	Local Government (miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
Brantham Village Hall Maintenance Payment	SO	£250.00		£250.00	General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, ss.1-8
O2 (Clerk's mobile phone)	DD	£18.30	£3.66	£21.96	LGA 1972
ZOOM Video Communications Inc (Online Meetings package)	DD	£11.99	£2.40	£14.39	The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020
Microsoft 365 Apps for Business	DD	£7.90	£1.58	£9.48	LGA 1972
Amazon (Litter picking equipment and page dividers)	DC	£32.81	£1.14	£33.38	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10 and LGA 1972
Glasdon (Litter bin for LPF)	DC	£201.00	£40.20	£241.20	Litter Act 1983, ss.5,6



RECEIPTS RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING	TOTAL
Bank Interest	£1.12
Highcliff Veterinary Practice	£1250.00
(Quarterly car park rent)	



# **APPENDIX B**



# Report for July 2021 to Parish Councils Peninsula Division from Simon Harley (SCC Councillor)

## **Review of SEND provision**

Suffolk County Council has commissioned an immediate independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision. There has been a lot of concern expressed by parents and carers about this area of service, with high levels of dissatisfaction being publicised, particularly through the group Campaign for Change (SEND Suffolk). A multi-agency team from Lincolnshire will carry out an independent review into the way parents and carers are communicated with and kept informed of their child's SEND provision in Suffolk.

The review will focus on the processes, communication protocols and family-facing elements of SEND services within Suffolk County Council. It will not look at specific cases or the provision given to specific children. The review started in June and will be completed within six weeks. The report, with any recommendations, will be published on Suffolk County Council's website, shared with those who contributed to it and also scrutinised, in public, by the council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

# Highways: Overgrown paths and footways, potholes

After extra rainfall, the last month or so has seen exuberant growth of foliage alongside roads and paths. Staff and contractors are out and about cutting footpaths and verges but are playing catch-up. If there are particular problems these can be reported through the online highways reporting tool: <a href="https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/">https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/</a> or contact me directly as has been done in many cases already.

A number of significant road repairs have been done recently but potholes continue to be reported. This is an area where SCC has significant budget constraints and often does not have the funds to do the repairs that residents would like to see. The Council is seeking a better highways funding settlement from central government, as well as reviewing its contract with Kier which expires September 2023.

# **Boundary Commission Review: Suffolk parliamentary constituencies**

This review seeks to regularise the size of constituencies across the country, the proposals are for a significant reshaping of the current Suffolk constituencies. The boundary commission are consulting on their initial proposals for an eight-week period, from 8 June 2021 to 2 August 2021. The encourage everyone to use this opportunity to help shape the new constituencies – the more responses received, the more informed their decisions will be when considering whether to revise our proposals. The consultation portal at <a href="https://www.bcereviews.org.uk">www.bcereviews.org.uk</a> has more information about their proposals and how to give your views on them.

#### **Bus Back Better**

This initiative by central government is essentially a reaction to Covid 19, but on closer inspection it may lead to reregulation of bus services - which could be a positive move for rural Suffolk.

The de-regulated services we have at present have led to the decimation of rural services, as this policy makes it unlawful to cross subsidise routes, i.e., if an operator makes profit on a busy route, they cannot use that money to subsidise a loss-making route elsewhere. This policy was originally aimed at cities and towns where multiple operators



were competing, this was never a problem in rural areas. Re-regulation will mean that an operator can cross-subsidise once again, this should allow for greater choice and service to our rural community.

The offer from government asks for a plan from participating authorities, to bid into a central pot, to help fund not only this renewal of services, but also government are offering 4000 zero emission electric buses that can also be bid for.

We have asked the conservative administration how many of these zero emission buses will we secure for Suffolk, I am disappointed they would not commit to any number, as the small print in the government offer asks for up to 30% of the cost of each Bus bid for. With this being the case, it is highly likely that the most of these buses will end up in a large town or city. On a population split, Suffolk ought to able to secure 40 of these Buses, if they were focussed in say Ipswich or Lowestoft, we could radically reduce emissions as well as encourage much needed "modal shift" in transport.

I have also just had a press release which you may find of interest:

Leaders earmark major investment as part of Suffolk taking its first steps on road to Covid recovery

Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL) has today approved a significant investment of £6.238m towards a range of strategic, community focussed projects and programmes that support efforts in Suffolk's long term recovery beyond the Covid-19 pandemic. This money will be used to increase the offer for young people and families, to improve access to housing, to help local businesses get back on track, to address the climate emergency commitment and to drive future public engagement plans.

Combined with investments previously made last September, this means SPSL has invested a total of £9.788m to support Suffolk's longer term recovery from Covid-19 in the key areas of economic growth, supporting communities, community safety, tackling climate change, housing and in listening to local people.

The role of SPSL is to continue to seek to maximise opportunities to benefit Suffolk's communities, identifying and providing additional resourcing and financial contributions on top of what has already been put in place, to build upon the existing commitment and funding designated by local public services across the county.

At the start of the meeting, Cllr Suzie Morley took over responsibility as Chair of the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group. As part of accepting her new role, she said: "I am extremely pleased and proud to take the role of Chair from Cllr Hicks who has performed the role throughout the last two years with a great degree of focus and care, particularly as we continued to find ways to collectively adapt and face up to the challenges of Covid-19.

"Going forward, I hope we can all continue to work collaboratively with the same positive ambition and commitment to supporting Suffolk's communities and improve access to local services for everybody across the county."

Introducing the discussion surrounding Suffolk's strategic approach to Covid recovery, Cllr Suzie Morley said: "Today this group is considering how best to maximise the great work that is already underway across the county. We have the opportunity here to add funding and further resources where necessary to support these projects and boost the benefits as part of Suffolk's recovery from Covid.



"Together we are demonstrating our commitment to what Suffolk's recovery hopefully looks like and feels like for residents and businesses. And as part of this, we remain absolutely determined to take the opportunity given to us to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes for everyone in Suffolk.

"Our approach is based on understanding the evidence, engaging with our communities and leading collaboratively to achieve positive outcomes."

As part of the discussion surrounding Suffolk's Strategic Recovery Plan, the group agreed to allocate the investment across the following strategic themes:

Climate Change - £1.5m to implement the Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan agreed and launched by Leaders today Inclusive Growth - £2.05m towards supporting Suffolk's businesses recovery and the potential Haughley Junction rail upgrade

Supporting Communities - £2.6m to invest in future housing projects, improve literacy levels, identify families most in need of support and strengthen the local care offer for young people

Engagement – £0.139m – to support Youth Healthwatch projects and develop a countywide approach to engaging communities

#### **ENDS**

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Simon Harley
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