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

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Michael Chester, Pat Fisher, Teresa Landymore,

Clare Varney and Peter Westcott (Chairman)

In attendance: Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer) and 3 members of the public.

The following appendices will form part of the signed minutes:

A: Actions arising from prior meetings;

B: Village handyman's report;

C: Traffic speed report

D: Responsible Finance Officer's report;

E: 2016/17 budget projection;

F: County Councillors report;

G: Borough Councillor's report.

The Chairman, Peter Westcott, had contacted the Clerk to advise that he was unavoidably detained and would be late arriving at the meeting. In the absence of the Vice-Chair, the Clerk called for nominations to Chair the meeting until Cllr Westcott arrived. It was agreed that Cllr Chester should chair the meeting.

#### 38. Apologies

The apologies of Cllr Margaret Rickard were received and accepted.

The apologies of County Councillor Terry Clements and Borough Councillor Angela Rushen were received.

#### 39. Declarations of Interest

None.

#### 40. Co-option of new councillor

Sam Parrett requested that his request to become a parish councillor be carried forward to the next meeting.

#### 41. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated Monday 14 September were agreed a true record and signed by the Chair.

#### 42. County, Borough and Community reports

- (i) County Cllr Terry Clements submitted a written report which is produced in full at appendix F.
- (ii) Borough Cllr, Angela Rushen submitted a written report which is produced in full at appendix G.
- (iii) No report was received from the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

#### The meeting was adjourned for public question time.

No items were raised.

#### The meeting was reconvened.

#### 43. Decisions taken since the last meeting

Planning application DC/15/1878/VAR

The Planning Authority was advised that the Parish Council has no objection to the proposed variation of Condition 2.

#### 44. Clerk's report

- (i) Cllrs noted the Clerk's report of actions taken since the last meeting (Appendix A). The Clerk also reported:
  - that the Land Registry were unable to identify ownership of Vendas Lane;
  - that he would be seeking to recover costs incurred by the parish council as a result of the new Transparency Fund regulations. Cllrs noted that that it was possible to purchase a laptop to the value of £350 and be reimbursed for this.

#### 45. Planning and Environment

(i) Cllrs considered the following planning applications:

Application ref	Address / work to be undertaken	Recommend
TPO 502(2010)1	3 Tudor Close, Chedburgh (i) Crown lift to 6 metres; (ii) Reduce lateral growth by 1 metre approx. (iii) Remove 4 small limbs on main stem	Support
15/2043/HH	Mill House, The Green, Chedburgh New chimney stack, open porch, single storey rear extension and single garage with wall to enclose rear garden	Support

(ii) Report on progress with development of the former fireworks factory
Cllrs were advised of a temporary stop order notice on site because concrete slabs
were covering up some of the contamination issues. Cllrs commented that street
lighting was not yet ready and noted that Clerk's enquiry regarding the missing
acoustic bund.

## (iii) Marquis Cornwallis public house

Cllrs noted the work being done at Horringer to preserve *The Beehive* public house and welcomed the assurances given by Gautam Chhabra, Director, that Hawthorn Leisure continues to seek solutions that will preserve the Marquis Cornwallis as an active public house serving the community.

## (iv) Planning Enforcement Survey

Cllrs agreed their response to the Planning Enforcement Survey noting all elements as very important.

#### Cllr Westcott arrived and chaired the meeting.

#### 46. Community

(i) Village Handyman report

lan Leggett's report was received, noted and necessary expenditure approved. See Appendix B for the full report.

- (ii) Vehicle Activated signage The content of Ian Leggett's VAS report (Appendix C) was noted.
- (iii) 30mph notices for domestic wheelie bins Cllrs agreed that the Clerk should draft a letter to residents in Queen's Lane to establish the level of interest in attaching 30mph signage to their wheelie bins.
- (iv) Annual playing field inspection report Cllrs noted the content of the report and agreed that Handyman, Ian Leggett, had undertaken all necessary remedial work.

#### 47. Finance

- (i) The report of the Responsible Finance Officer (Appendix D) was received and noted.
- (ii) 2014/15 Annual Return Cllrs noted that the external auditor had approved the annual return and raised no issues.
- (iii) 2016/17 budget considerations
  Cllrs noted the reduction in the 2016/17 Rate Support Grant and 2016/17 Council
  Tax Support Grant and considered the 2016/17 and 2017/18 budget projections
  supplied by the Clerk (Appendix E). It was agreed that the 2016/17 budget should
  make provision for a section 137 grant for Erskine Centre repairs. Cllr Landyman
  asked that during 2016/17 consideration be given to erecting a notice board
  displaying details of local walks.
- (iv) 2016/17 budget The 2016/17 budget figures at Appendix E were agreed subject to providing for a 2016/17 grant for Erskine Centre repairs. No further meeting to consider the budget was deemed necessary.

#### 48. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- (i) No meeting reports were made.
- (ii) No meeting arrangements were advised.
- (iii) No future agenda items were proposed.
- (v) Other items of information Cllr Westcott commented that although the tyres had been removed from the former fireworks factory there was still a great deal of rubbish to be removed.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

Chairman 11 January 2016

## Appendix A: Actions arising from prior meetings

### Presented to Parish Council meeting dated 9 November 2015

Cllrs – All Councillors	MC – Michael Chester	PF – Pat Fisher
SP – Sam Parrett	MR – Margaret Rickard	CV – Clare Varney
PW – Peter Westcott	TL – Teresa Landymore	IL – lan Leggett
Clerk - Paul MacLachlan		

#### Actions carried forward from Parish Council meeting dated 14 September 2015

Ref	Action	Who	Done					
Meeting	Meeting dated 14 September 2015							
34(ii)	Send copy of minutes to Rob Beaumont as summary of discussion. Rob agrees the minutes are accurate	Clerk	Yes					
34(v)	Advise Council that Emergency Plan has been abandoned.	Clerk	Yes					
35(v)	Highlight the rural transport survey in the parish newsletter	Clerk	Yes					
35(vi)	Write to MP, Matthew Hancock, regarding proposed closure of Bury St Edmunds magistrates court	Clerk	Yes					
Meeting	g dated 13 July 2015							
24(v)	Investigate ownership of Vendas Lane. Land Registry are unable to help	Clerk	Yes					
Meeting	g date 9 March 2015							
9(i)	Purchase grit bins	IL	In hand					

#### Publication of delegated decisions

Planning application DC/15/1878/VAR

Following direction from councillors, to advise the Planning Authority that the Parish Council has no objection to the proposed variation of Condition 2 in Fireworks Factory planning application.

## Decisions made by the Planning Authority

No planning decisions have been made by the Planning Authority since the last meeting.

# Appendix B: Handyman Report for period September to November 2015 Presented to the Parish Council meeting dated 9 November 2015

The VAS speed sensor was made available from September 25<sup>th</sup>. It was put in position on the A143 near Chedburgh Church on September 26<sup>th</sup>. On October 4<sup>th</sup> it was taken down and information downloaded and battery charged. (report sent) On October 5<sup>th</sup> it was returned to Bury Road for another week.

Chevington Road had a repair after reporting a series of deep potholes. However only 5 of the 7 pre marked damaged areas were repaired, so another report was submitted. I then met with the Highways Manager and he arranged an emergency repair. Another repair was carried out further along the road at my request. (although actually in Chevington)

The Playing Field had cut number 9 on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Drains along Chevington Road were cleared of debris and rodded through on October 8<sup>th</sup> prior to ditch work as agreed.

October 10<sup>th</sup> the VAS was re sighted in Chevington Road.

The final cut and trim back of vegetation along Footpath 8 and the Bridleway was done on October 9<sup>th</sup>. These are maintained by Wayne Horridge and Ray Revens at largely their own expense. Their efforts are often praised by walkers and a compliment was received from the Rights Of Way Officer at SCC, which was passed on.

A street light reported as not working in Queens Lane on 4 occasions is still not working as of November 5th although on the SCC website it states fault corrected each time. I phoned Highways on October 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss and they have promised action.

The ditch along Chevington Road/Playing Field was cleared of debris and foliage, and dug out a further 6 inches on Friday October 16<sup>th</sup>. All drain offs from Chevington Road were uncovered and cleared of soil and roots. Tree branches at head height were cut, hedges trimmed back and removed ready for burning.

This work was carried out by Wayne Horridge, Colin Blake, Mike Schofield and myself. The dirt mound was also flattened. The litter bin was re seated alongside the Play Area (as required in the Play Area Annual Report).

The Play Area Inspector arrived while we were doing the above job. No actions required on the equipment. However he did say that a sign was required to give location of the Play Area in case of an emergency. This would state the postcode of the Play Area and possibly the emergency telephone number.

The Play Area was cleared of leaves on October 26th.

The dog bin in Erskine Centre car park was taken for repair by John New on October 26<sup>th</sup> and replaced on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

The white lining at junction of Chestnut Crescent and Queens Lane will be re painted in this financial year.

The tarmac footpath in Elizabeth Drive has a raised cover 3" above the surface. Being a trip hazard this was reported to Rights Of Way Department.

Two raised manhole covers in Majors Close were reported as a trip hazard. BT have carried out remedial work.

The ditch along Queens Lane needs attention as foliage and brambles are blocking it, opposite Majors. I have contacted Highways who state it is the land owners responsibility. This is Mr.Milne. Can the Parish Council request this is done.

The Play Area was cleared of leaves again on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The VAS was passed to Whepstead on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Queens Lane and speed of traffic

For the September Parish Council meeting I did ask that Queens Lane was discussed following a request from a resident in that road. Due to my absence this was held over for the November meeting. These are my comments on that matter.

Along the section of road in question there are four concealed entrances; (a) Porters. (b) The Nook (c) The Lodge. (d) Majors).

There is a bend alongside Majors which results in vehicles using the centre line of road when travelling towards Kings Park.

This section is often reduced in width due to overhanging roadside branches and verges, and at this time of the year fallen leaves.

There are children on occasions at several of the houses along that stretch of road.

All this adds to the risk of an accident.

The proposal is to support the idea and remind drivers that 30mph is the actual maximum and not the speed that they are required to drive at. This would be done by displaying 30mph stickers on wheelie bins along that road. The bins would have to be kept on the house boundary and not on the footpath.

For a road that is of less width than regular roads perceived speed is greater than actual.

The resident who made the request at Porters has experienced many drivers approaching and leaving the bend at Majors at speeds which make exiting his property difficult at times, and has noted several vehicles driving at the maximum (perceived) speed on many occasions while he was working outside.

The proposal is that the Parish Council purchases a quantity of these stickers and offers them to residents. If that is not possible, that the residents purchase their own stickers and display them, provided this would be acceptable to the Parish Council and meets with no objection from Highways.

Having witnessed firsthand on numerous occasions while working, and walking on that section of road I am happy to support this proposal.

Ian Leggett. November 6<sup>th</sup> 2015.

## Presental to Panish council meety data 3/11/15.

#### Chedburgh Vehicle Activated Speed System (VAS) Analysis.

# The period October 10<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> with VAS at Majors Close/ Chevington Road junction.

The following is a part of the analysis which highlights time of day speeds. I have chosen 8am/9am and 3pm/4pm as a period when there is much activity at that junction with school buses, and vehicles entering and leaving the four junctions at that point. The high speeds recorded show a total disregard for safety at those times by a careless few who will be aware that their speed has been recorded, and by highlighting perhaps we can expect some prosecutions to follow.

DAY	DATE	TIME (a)	TIME (b)	SPEED (a)	SPEED (b)
Monday	12/10	8am/9am	3pm/4pm	55mph/40mph	45mph/55mph
Tuesday	13/10	8am/9am	3pm/4pm	50mph/45mph	40mph/50mph
Wednesday	14/10	8am/9am	3pm/4pm	50mph/45mph	45mph/50mph
Thursday	15/10	8am/9am	3pm/4pm	50mph/45mph	45mph/40mph
Friday	16/10	8am/9am	3pm/4pm	50mph/45mph	45mph/40mph
Monday	19/10	8am/9am	3pm/4pm	60mph/40mph	40mph/45mph
Tuesday	20/10	8am/9am	3pm/4pm	55mph/45mph	40mph/50mph
Wednesday	21/10	8am/9am	3pm/4pm	55mph/50mph	40mph/45mph
Thursday	22/10	8am/9am	3pm/4pm	55mph/55mph	55mph/50mph
Friday	23/10	8am/9am	3pm/4pm	60mph/45mph	45mph/45mph

As a guide the Saturday/Sunday figures are lower, suggesting cars going to work.

Saturday	17/10	8am/9am	3pm/4pm	45mph/50mph	40mph/45mph
Sunday	18/10	8am/9am	3pm/4pm	50mph/40mph	45mph/35mph
Saturday	24/10	8am/9am	3pm/4pm	45mph/45mph	45mph/40mph

Ian Leggett. October 25<sup>th</sup> 2015.

November 2015 RFO report (part 1)
Presented to the Parish Council meeting dated 9 November 2015

Chq	Payments	Total	VAT	Net	
51	Paul MacLachlan	300.96	0.00	300.96	Oct/Nov salary
52	lan Leggett	89.60	0.00	89.60	Oct/Nov salary
53	Paul MacLachlan	272.18	0.00	272.18	Jan to Oct expenses
54	lan Leggett	86.26	1.04	85.22	Environmental maintenance
55	Peter Westcott	20.00	0.00	20.00	Remembrance wreath (section 137)
56	SALC	54.00	9.00	45.00	Training - 50% recharged to FSMSG
57	BDO LLP	120.00	20.00	100.00	External auditor
58	Fornham St Martin/St Genevieve	68.83	0.00	68.83	Recharged print and training costs
	Parish Council				
		1,011.83	30.04	981.79	
	Receipts				
	Bank of Ireland Interest	-0.78	0.00	-0.78	
	Unity Bank Interest	-1.37	0.00	-1.37	
	Bank of Ireland Interest	-0.44	0.00	-0.44	
		-2.59	0.00	-2.59	

#### **Notes**

1 Chqs highlighted in blue are not yet issued

			2015/16 Actual	2015/16 Budget	2014/15 Actual
Income	Precept		8,706.00	8,706.00	8,420.00
IIIcome	Parish Support Grant		974.00	974.00	1,200.00
	Other income		2,182.39	400.00	400.00
	VAT Refund		261.81	0.00	0.00
	Interest		10.19	0.00	14.95
		Total	12,134.39	10,080.00	10,034.95
Expenditure	Salary costs		2,231.84	3,712.00	4,489.85
	Chairman's Allowance		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Environment maintenance		1,608.91	2,152.00	1,224.13
	Insurance		712.50	1,179.00	1,144.20
	Publications and training		122.00	65.00	12.00
	Subscriptions		327.00	313.00	313.00
	Audit costs		200.00	250.00	100.00
	Section 137 payments		652.39	300.00	233.79
	Administrative expenses		303.51	210.00	245.14
	Cost of meetings		180.00	120.00	100.00
	Fixed assets		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Other costs		21.00	1,779.00	0.00
	Suspense account		22.50	0.00	0.00
	VAT on payments	T-4-1	312.54	0.00	261.81
		Total	6,694.19	10,080.00	8,123.92
	Surplus for the year		5,440.20	0.00	1,911.03
Bank	Bank balance at 31 March 2015		7,972.92		
Reconciliation	Less outstanding cheques		0.00	7,972.92	
Reconciliation	Surplus for 2015/16		0.00	5,440.20	
	Outpids for 2010/10			13,413.12	
				10,110112	
	Bk of Ireland balance at 31 Oct 2	2015	4,423.58		
	Unity Trust balance at 31 Oct 20		10,001.37		
	Less outstanding cheques		0.00		
	Less cheques to be issued		-1,011.83		
	Plus credits in transit		0.00		
	Net available funds after paym	ents au	thorised	13,413.12	

Fund Allocation	ĺ		Year to date	2014/15
Ring fenced funds	RAF Memorial Donations to local organisations Clerk's retirement fund Play area improvements	Total	0.00 250.00 0.00 1,010.00 <b>1,260.00</b>	110.00 250.00 0.00 900.00 <b>1,260.00</b>
Unallocated fun	ds		12,153.12	6,712.92
Total Funds			13,413.12	7,972.92

Appendix E.

2014/15 Actua			2015/16 Actual	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	2015/16 projection	2016/17 Budget	2017/18 Budget
		Receipts								
8,420.00	8,706.00	Precept	8,706.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,706.00	8,706.00	8,706.00
1,200.00	974.00	Parish Support Grant	974.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	974.00	445.00	0.00
400.00	0.00	Interest	10.19	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	14.19	15.00	15.00
14.95	400.00	Other	2,182.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,182.39	400.00	400.00
0.00	0.00	VAT Refund	261.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	372.54	634.35	0.00	0.00
10,034.95	10,080.00		12,134.39	1.00	1.00	1.00	373.54	12,510.93	9,566.00	9,121.00
		Payments								
4,489.85	3,712.00	Salary costs	2,231.84	391.00	614.00	391.00	391.00	4,018.84	4,480.00	4,580.00
0.00	0.00	Chairmans Allowance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1,224.13	3 2,152.00	Environment maintenance	1,608.91	200.00	375.00	0.00	75.00	2,258.91	1,000.00	1,000.00
1,144.20	1,179.00	Insurance	712.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	712.50	750.00	800.00
12.00	65.00	Publications and training	122.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	122.00	150.00	150.00
313.00	313.00	Subscriptions	327.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	327.00	350.00	375.00
100.00	250.00	Audit costs	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
233.79	300.00	Section 137 costs	652.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	652.39	275.00	200.00
245.14	1 210.00	Administrative expenses	303.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	343.51	360.00	375.00
100.00	120.00	Cost of meetings	180.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	180.00	120.00	150.00
0.00	0.00	Fixed Assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	1,779.00	Other costs	21.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	71.00	50.00	50.00
0.00	0.00	Suspense account	22.50	-22.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
261.81	0.00	VAT paid	312.54	0.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	372.54	0.00	0.00
8123.92	10080.00		6694.19	568.50	1049.00	391.00	556.00	9258.69	7735.00	7880.00
1911.03	0.00	Surplus / Deficit	5440.20	-567.50	-1048.00	-390.00	-182.46	3252.24	1831.00	1241.00
7,972.92	7,972.92	Total Reserves						11,225.16	13,056.16	14,297.16

# **County Councillor's November Update**

Provisional GCSE results released today show Suffolk's 16 year olds have performed better than the national figure for the first time since 2007.

The statistics from the Department for Education show 53.4% of Suffolk pupils achieved 5 or more A\*-C grades including English and Maths. The national figure for all schools was 52.8%.

Raising educational attainment is our top priority and these latest figures show that students, parents and schools are working well together to secure that improvement we all want to see. Ofsted has recognised that our Raising the Bar strategy is moving us in the right direction, and these results reaffirm this strategy is enacting the change we desired.

The number of Suffolk schools, colleges and academies assessed as being in a good position to help their students achieve good or better learning has increased significantly.

Across the county, 108 schools have received a positive "Green" rating, 31 more than in 2014 (equivalent to 11% improvement in top-rated schools).

The growing number of schools with Green risk ratings is further proof of the really good progress being made in improving education in Suffolk. Standards are consistently improving, and are now better than nationally in some respects. Through our Raising the Bar programme we have set ambitious targets to ensure every child in Suffolk can achieve their full potential, and will continue to work hard until this is achieved.

More five-year-olds in Suffolk are 'school ready' according to new figures published today by the Department for Education.

With an 8% increase in the proportion of Suffolk children achieving a 'good level of development' at the end of reception, this puts the county above the national average at age five. Nationally 66.3% of pupils achieved this level, with Suffolk pupils 1.3% above this at 67.6%. The 'good level of development' measure is the assessment of children at the end of reception class, or Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Teachers assess whether children are achieving the expected levels in literacy and maths, as well as in physical development, communication and language, and personal, social and emotional development.

Enabling every child to have the best start in life is a fundamental ambition for the county council. This increase in the number of pupils being school-ready is a real boost, especially for the children who have achieved these great results as they continue their education.

Suffolk CC is seeking views on its proposed admissions policy for the 2017/18 school year; ensuring school places are offered to children in a fair way.

The consultation runs until Monday 14 December 2015. As part of this, the council is considering whether or not to include the children of staff employed by a school within the oversubscription criteria to give them some priority for school places. These criteria are used to rank applications when a school receives more

applications than it has places available. There are different ways we could introduce this and your views are important to us. To view the consultation documents and to have your say on the proposals, please visit <a href="www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations">www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations</a>, alternatively you can write to Georgina Beard, Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX or email: <a href="mailto:admissionsconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk">admissionsconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk</a>

School admissions are a very sensitive subject, and so we are keen to listen to what residents and parents are telling us before making any decision. We encourage parents and carers to go on-line and take a look at the proposed admissions procedures and tell us what they think.

Suffolk businesses turned out in their hundreds to support the second annual Suffolk Skills Show; a skills and careers event reaching over 4,500 young people.

The event set out to engage with Suffolk's young people and provide an insight into the career opportunities available to them locally. The show, which took place at Trinity Park in Ipswich, targeted those aged between 11 and 24. The diverse range of businesses exhibiting at the event worked hard to ensure those attending left with their eyes opened to the many career streams across Suffolk.

Developing the aspirations of Suffolk's young people is a key priority of our Raising the Bar programme. By giving young people the chance to meet employers, try interactive activities and find out about their options, we hope that they will have left the show with their future ambitions raised and with a clearer picture of how to achieve them

Suffolk CC is inviting bids from the county's publicly-funded schools for money to enable projects that will boost the attainment of disadvantaged students.

In the latest round of the 'Raising the Bar Challenge Fund' a maximum of £250,000 has been allocated for innovative that will help reduce the gap between the examination success of students who are disadvantaged, and so help improve social mobility. Successful bidders will receive up to half the cost of projects and the remainder of the costs must be covered by the schools. Up to 80% of each grant will be funded up front, with the final 20% paid if the project achieves its targets. Projects need to enable parents to be involved, and to be able to continue once Challenge Funding ends. Each school involved in a successful bid can receive up to £5,000 from the County Council. For more information and an application form visit <a href="https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/challengefund">www.suffolk.gov.uk/challengefund</a>. The deadline for schools to make applications is 5pm on Wednesday 25 November.

## Borough Councillor's report

Presented to Parish Council meeting dated 9 November 2015

Bury Bus Station. Last year as part of a spending review the council considered options for the bus station building which costs £250,000 a year to run. It marketed the building to community groups and commercial providers to see if there was interest in renting the building.

Nothing came of this, so SEBC Cabinet members have decided to recommend investing £39,500 in the bus station building to achieve savings and create the potential for further income.

The investment will be used to configure the building into three parts - a waiting area with café kiosk available to let, access to public toilets and a large lettable area for rent

At the same time Suffolk County Council has said it will install real time electronic bus information boards by December. The changes to the layout of the bus station building will then take place between January and April 2016. The new electronic boards mean that the bus station will no longer be staffed by SEBC. The council will look to redeploy the staff that work in the bus station into alternative suitable roles and will seek to avoid redundancies as far as possible.

Park Farm Ingham. The first stage towards the development of a significant new leisure facility at Park farm, Ingham is now underway. SEBC has just launched a consultation, running till November 16th asking for people's views on plans to develop a former sand and gravel quarry at Ingham for leisure, recreation and tourism purposes. This could include the provision of holiday lodges, fishing lakes, and public access. The site was identified and allocated for such development in the adopted Rural Vision 2031 Local Plan. A masterplan will come forward before a planning application is submitted.

Street lighting. SEBC cabinet has voted to upgrade the street lights they own and then to transfer about half to SCC, thus reducing maintenance costs by £157,000 a year.

Housing Company. Forest Heath, St Edmundsbury and Suffolk County Council are looking at taking the first steps to set up an independent housing development company which will generate income by developing a range of homes both for sale and for rent in West Suffolk. The councils will use the income to help deliver services.

The purpose of the company would be to act commercially, build homes for sale and private rent, provide up to 30 per cent of the homes as affordable housing (rented, shared ownership and/or low cost starter homes) in line with planning policy.

The company would be wholly owned by Forest Heath District Council (25% share), St Edmundsbury Borough Council (25% share), Suffolk County Council (50% share).

National research has shown that every new home built creates 2.4 long term, sustainable jobs and every £1 spent on housing adds £2.41 to the local economy.

If approved at Joint Full Council meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>, building could start in 2016.

Angela Rushen

November 2015