Waldringfield
Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 10 April 2018

Present: 12 Residents, Parish Councillors Kay (Chairman), Videlo, Matheson, Elliot and Archer, SCC Cllr O'Brien and SCDC Cllr Harvey

1   Apologies for absence received - None

2   It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 April 2017. Proposed by Alyson Videlo and all agreed.

3   There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 April 2017.

4   **The Chairman of the Parish Council, Ian Kay**, provided a power point presentation. His report included an introduction to the Parish Councillors and their responsibilities, a welcome to Christine Lyon as a new member and a note that there was a vacancy on the Council, for which invited applicants. The Chairman thanked Neil Winship once more for his many years of service to WPC, noting his dedication to his role as Emergency Planning Officer. Dates of future Parish Council Meetings, all open to the public, were given, as well as a description of the Parish Council's activities. He then thanked Alyson Videlo and David Lines for their maintenance of the Parish website and the volunteers who delivered the Parish newsletter every quarter.

Cllr Kay then spoke about planning, with an update on the three large sites outside the village. He offered a detailed future time-line on Adastral Park, the outline application for which had been supported unanimously by SCDC's Planning Committee after a significant improvement on the original plans. The EA1 windfarm cable installation, combined with the inclement weather, had caused considerable chaos in the village for a number of days – a timeline for this project was shown as well. The Chairman proceeded to speak about the planning application from the Golf Club which was yet to be determined. Finally, he explained about the demands of the General Data Protection Regulation on the Parish Council and the plans to make natural 'play equipment' from the storm-felled Monterey Pine in the playing field.

5.   **The Responsible Finance Officer of the Parish Council,** David Lines**,** reported that the balance of accounts as at 31 March 2017 stood at a total of £15,064 including earmarked reserves amounting to £5,300. Some budget lines were overspent and some underspent, but the Parish Council has remained within budget overall.

The precept was increased by 2.5% to £51.24 per Band Household for FY 2018/19.Uncommitted reserves are maintained within the recommended bands of 50% - 75% of core turnover. The budget and expenditure are displayed on the Parish Council pages of the Parish web site and updated monthly via the minutes.

6   **Suffolk County Council Cllr Patricia O'Brien** spoke about the challenges and changes to Suffolk County Council, highlighting 'Blue Light' savings through joint working and initiatives like the use of drone technology to support emergency services. Council tax was increased by 4.99%, in part to accommodate the pressures on Adult Social Services, although overall savings of £22.9 million had been identified. There was an improvement in educational standards and a £2.5 million government grant had been given for pothole repairs. Finally, Cllr O'Brien warned of school transport financial pressures, spoke about the need for public 'visibility' by the police and a potential local government reorganisation, this time involving the County Council.

7   **Suffolk Coastal District Councillor Susan Harvey** thanked everyone who made efforts to keep in touch with her, to keep her up-to-date with local matters. She presented to her report as a diary of events throughout the year, highlighting amongst other things, the potential merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. She then gave details of her Community Enabling Grant budget expenditure and her plans for the coming year.

The Chairman then closed the formal part of the meeting at 8.30pm
– no Community Group presentations were forthcoming