



MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 commencing at 7pm held in, Brantham Village Hall.

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED INCLUDED AT APPENDIX B**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Mal Bridgeman (Chair), A Edevane, E Osben, M Clark, C Donaldson, J Heywood, L Cherry

Also in attendance: S Keys (Clerk), F Coley (Assistant Clerk), Simon Harley (County Councillor) and 5 members of the public.

**PC 11.24.01 - OPENING**

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7pm and thanked all for attending.

A statement was then 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 on the Council's [website](#).

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.

The Chair advised that he and Eric had attended Suffolk Police headquarters in Martlesham in relation to the Murder of Anita Rose. He expressed how impressed he was with how many people were working on the case and how determined they were to find the person responsible. The Chair also relayed how Suffolk Police were impressed with how the residents responded and how many people they spoke to. The Chair also echoed this message to the residents of Brantham.

**PC 11.24.02 - APOLOGIES**

- a) Council to receive apologies for absence – Cllrs Kanaris, Lancaster & McCraw
- b) Council to consent to accept apologies received -**These apologies accepted, aif.**

**PC 11.24.03 - DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND LOCAL NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

- a) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other registerable interests as detailed in Appendix B of the LGA Model Code of Conduct – there were none declared.
- b) To receive notifications of gifts of hospitality exceeding £50 – there were none submitted.
- c) To note the determination of requests for dispensations for items on the agenda under discussion – there were none to be reported

**PC 11.24.04 - MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- a) To consider and approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 – **Cllrs Bridgeman & Cherry abstained – aif - The Chair signed the minutes as approved.**
- b) To note the draft minutes of the Finance Committee available online – Noted.

**PC 11.24.05 - REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

- a) A written report had been submitted from Cllr. Harley – Cllr Harley provided an update the following:
  - Cllr Harley explained the plans in relation to protection from flooding in the County and that additional money had been allocated.
  - The Council have announced a new £3m fund for Interest free loans for residents to undertake energy efficiency upgrades, such as insulation, solar panels, heat pumps and glazing. The loans are up to £15,000 and they hope with the improvements this will reduce energy costs.



- Cllr Harley urged residents to take part in the Transport plan survey which closes on the 25/11/25. Which will allow residents to put their views across.
  - Yellow lines were discussed in New Village – Cllr Harley stated that he had a reply and advised that he would support this and believed that Cllr McCraw would as well. He explained that it would now be over to the PC to decide if this is something they would be willing to do. AE stated that having yellow lines could potentially mean that it would push the problem elsewhere. EO expressed concern that it is a lot of money for yellow lines. MC advised that residents are now having to put bollards in front of their properties. MB also enquired if having the yellow lines would be enforceable and Cllr Harley advised that BDC would be able to enforce this. MB felt that it was a lot of money for the PC to spend and does not feel that this is an option. MB thanked Cllr Harley for asking the question.
- b) District Councillor Alastair McCraw – The Council noted the report circulated by Cllr McCraw – No questions

#### **PC 11.24.06 - PUBLIC FORUM**

- a) To receive any questions or comments from members of the public
- A resident enquired about the village plan and stated that it said papers to follow, but he could not see them. The Clerk explained that the papers have been sent to the Councillors but not public as yet. The Clerk advised that the document will be available for public to see in due course.
  - A resident suggested that someone who does not live at the bottom of the village should come on a football day and observe the parking chaos. He explained that he has had to slam his breaks on a number of times due to the speed of some of the vehicles. He also advised that it would be impossible for a bus to get through. The Chair noted this request.
  - An update from Tony Flurry, organiser of Brantham Garage Sale:
    - The garage sale is now a formal charity with 5 committee members.
    - This year the sale raised £1100 last year and this supported 2 charities. The Committee would like to raise £1800 next year.
    - The Committee plans to extend the craft element and queried the use of green spaces for stall holders. Clerk to send details of Public Realm to TF. The Chair suggested that the Garage Sale should be added to next month's agenda. Tony then left the meeting.

#### **PC 11.24.07 - CLERK'S REPORT (Paper 1)**

- a) To review actions from the previous meeting – All actioned and no comments
- PC 10.24.06 - Add an item about double yellow lines between New Village and Cattawade St Completed – added to agenda for discussion
  - PC 10.24.08 - Defer decision for FC to approve/review policies - Completed – added to agenda for discussion
  - PC 10.24.07 - Email Mike Brookes and point out the dual intake - Completed
- b) To receive the reports of items actioned under delegated powers
- Booked new (and new-ish) Councillors on to Councillor Basics training
- c) To receive items of correspondence for noting only
- Item 1 - Mike Brooks has advised that there is not the footfall to justify a School Patrol Crossing.
  - Item 2 - Received a reply from Welcome to National Landscape who have advised that they are conducting a Pilot at Waldringfield Parish Council and a sign will be installed there in the next 6 months. Once this is done they will check back with BPC to see if we are still interested.
  - Item 3 – Enquiry about Pattles Fen and the owner of the land – Clerk is going to liaise with the Woodland Trust to establish the owner.

#### **PC 11.24.08- STATUTORY INFORMATION**

- a) To receive nominations for the vacant posts of Councillor (3) – none received.
- b) To consider/approve the proposal from the Finance Committee ref. BPC policies, protocols and statutory documents (PAPER 2) – The proposal was explained by EO and MB advised that this would just be formalising the process that is already in place. MB stated that he felt that this was a good way forward. – **EO proposed, LC 2<sup>nd</sup> aif**



#### **PC 11.24.09 - FINANCE REPORT**

- a) To receive a report from the Finance Committee – Cllr Osben updated the Council on the recent Finance Committee and noted the following:
- Payment for bulb planting to the local Cub Scout group was approved
  - Bowls club requested a donation, however it was unclear for what and the amount needed. The Clerk has contacted them in order to establish this and will hopefully be able to report back at the next meeting.
  - Committee had reviewed the first draft of the budget and were currently awaiting tax base figures
- b) To note that the Finance Committee have approved salary increases for the Clerk and Assistant Clerk in line with the National Pay Award for 2024-25 (PAPER 3) – **Noted and agreed**
- c) To note and approve the balance of accounts as at 31 October 2024: -
- Current account: £5000 - Agreed
  - Deposit Account: £198,739.37 - Agreed
  - Salaries Account: £360.48 – Agreed
- d) To approve the accounts awaiting payment including those coming forth (PAPER 4) - no questions- **EO proposed Jackie 2<sup>nd</sup> aif**
- e) To note the accounts paid since the last meeting (PAPER 5) – SK explained the finances and explained that it was necessary to purchase a filing cabinet as the current one is in a state of disrepair. This is necessary to store some of the documents that we are legally bound to keep. MB suggested that could we look at BDC records office and see if they could store some.
- f) To note receipts allocated since the last meeting (PAPER 6) – Any questions- none.
- g) To note Bank Reconciliation to 31 October 2024 (PAPER 7) – SK explained that she would send paper when she has it.
- h) To note the CIL report for October 2024 including nominal sums for potential CIL expenditure for the coming year (PAPER 8) - these are the figures up until the 30 September 2024. An updated version will be available at the next meeting.
- i) To note the donations approved to date in 2024-25 (PAPER 9) – Any questions - none

#### **PC 11.24.10 - PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) To consider and approve response to the following planning matters relating to Brantham:
- DC/350520/SKZFBISH00J01  
20 Gravel Pit Lane Brantham Manningtree Suffolk CO11 1NX  
Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/23/05789 dated 08/02/2024 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As amended) Erection of outbuilding and single storey rear extension with glazed roof lantern (following demolition of garage) - To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) as per revised plans submitted – BPC MADE NO COMMENT
- b) To note the following planning decisions relating to Brantham:
- DC/24/03690  
Land Off Church Road, Brantham, CO11 1QA  
Application for Permission in Principle. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Permission in Principle)(Amendment) Order 2017  
Erection of 2no self-build dwellings PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN REFUSED Discharge of Conditions  
Application for DC/24/03016 18 Valley Close, Brantham, Manningtree, Suffolk CO11 1QG Condition 3 (Biodiversity Enhancement Measures)  
REFUSED  
DC/24/03900  
16 Bailey Gardens, Brantham, Manningtree, Suffolk CO11 1GH  
Construction of brick work under bay window  
PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED  
DC/24/03584  
Spooners Cottage, Slough Road, Brantham, Manningtree Suffolk CO11 1NU  
Erection of two storey side extension



---

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

**PC 11.24.12 - AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT**

- a) To receive an update on discussions with BDC and Community Action Suffolk (CAS) ref. affordable housing provision in Brantham (PAPER 10) – SK provided some background about the project and explained that BPC and CAS are currently assessing which plots of land if any in Brantham would be suitable for affordable housing. SK explained that Councillors are very welcome to take part in this project. – SK invited any questions but there were none.  
EO explained that he had attended a meeting in Lavenham which was being supported by BDC and Mid Suffolk District Council. There was lots of information in relation to the shortage of housing in the Country, whilst providing lots of information about affordable housing. EO also stated that he was able to view some houses that had been built for affordable housing and they were of a very high standard. EO explained that this is a Community project and not just the PC project. He advised that getting some information out to the public as soon as possible would be a good idea. MB also stressed that it needs to be clear to the Community that this is only for people who have connections to the village. Invitation for comments - None
- b) To note the Guide to Rural Housing – Noted
- c) To consider/agree next steps as appropriate- EO is to work with SK about the PR and how this is advertised. SK voiced her reservations about getting the Communities hopes up.

**PC 11.24.13 - DOUBLE YELLOW LINES AT PRIVATE ROAD/NEW VILLAGE**

- a) To review information ref. possibility of double yellow lines and likely costs - Discussed
- b) To consider/agree next steps as appropriate – Nothing further completed

**PC 11.24.14 - BRANTHAM 2034**

- a) To review first draft of Brantham 2034 Plan – (Paper 11) – CD provided overview of the first draft of the strategy document. CD explained that it would be helpful to get a meeting together in order to move things forward. It was agreed not to share with public until after the meeting.
- b) To consider/agree next steps as necessary – CD suggested a meeting – 18/11/24 6-8pm at JH.

**PC 11.24.15 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS – (PAPER 12)**

- a) To receive a report from the Parish Chairman and agree any actions as necessary – Christmas tree was discussed and it has been agreed to have a real Christmas tree. FC is going to explore options for a sustainable tree and feed back to the group. **MB proposed a budget of £500, this was seconded by Cllr Clark, aif.**
- b) To review the planning statement by the Shotley Peninsula Parishes Alliance (PAPER 13) – MB instructed Councillors to read the document and feedback any comments in 1 week
- c) To receive any other points to note from committees, sub-committees & working groups – AE explained that Lewis, from Two-Toed Skateboards has agreed to support project, as he has helped others doing the same project in the past. Cllr Edevane updated that she had discussed other projects with local villages/towns to share advice. Next steps are to approach Planning at Babergh District Council ref. planning permission and to begin fundraising. Following discussion it was agreed to add this to the agenda of the Finance Committee. Cllr Cherry informed the Council that she would be attending training on Councils being sole trustees for village halls. Cllr Cherry noted that the current Village Hall committee does not meet the requirements of the VH Charter, the Parish Council supports the Village Hall with funding and the Clerk's time and that the Hall as the sole trustee of the Village Hall risk to individual trustees would be reduced. **Cllr Cherry proposed that the Parish Council should note its willingness to be the sole trustee of the Village Hall with a supporting Committee that could include outside groups, this was seconded by Cllr Heywood, aif.**  
Cllr Cherry provided an update on the VH toilet refurbishment project.  
Cllr Donaldson informed the Council that she attended the Brantham Leisure Centre AGM and had received an update from the Club and various groups, including a financial review.  
Cllr Donaldson stated that feedback following the recent firework display has been much better this year. The area has been cleared of debris. Cllr Donaldson confirmed that once the bonfire path has been re-seeded their



deposit cheque can be returned to them. The Chair states that he would like to extend his thanks to Darren as this was the first year there were no complaints.

- d) To consider/approve any proposals or next steps as appropriate - To be discussed at the village hall meeting

**PC 11.24.16 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- a) Finance Committee meeting – Wednesday 27 November 2024, 7pm, at Brantham Village Hall  
b) Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 04 December 2024, 7pm, at Brantham Village Hall

**The meeting closed to the public at 8.31pm.**

SIGNED.....DATED.....



---

**ACTIONS**

<b>MINUTE NO.</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>WHO</b>
<b>PC 10.24.06 - PUBLIC FORUM</b>	Send Tony details of Public Realm.	Clerk
<b>PC 10.24.06 - PUBLIC FORUM</b>	Suggestions on how the village could support a Charity event.	Clerk
<b>PC 10.24.07 - Item 3</b>	Clerk to liaise with Woodlands Trust to establish who owns the land.	Clerk



## APPENDIX A

### *Accounts submitted for payment – 06 November 2024*

Payee	Detail	Method	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
Dave Childs	Grounds Maintenance (inv. 2058)	BACS	105.00		105.00
IT Services at CAS Ltd	Additional mailbox (Assistant Clerk)	BACS	16.00		16.00
SALC	6 months Payroll Provision	BACS	123.00	24.60	147.60
SALC	Cllr Training sessions – MClark & LCherry	BACS	99.00	19.80	118.80
Pips Trees and Landscaping Ltd	Tree works at Merriam Close Play area	BACS	450.00	90.00	540.00

### *Accounts paid since 03 October 2024*

Dave Childs	Grounds Maintenance (inv. 2035)	BACS	240.00		240.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit 2024-25	BACS	420.00	84.00	504.00
Richard Blay	Cattawade Picnic site project	BACS	702.00		702.00
Parish Council staff	October 2024 Salaries, Clerk Office Allowance	BACS	2780.38		2780.38
Microsoft	Monthly Subscription Charges – October 2024	DD	8.60	1.72	10.32
Brantham Village Hall	Support for running costs –October 2024	BACS	416.67		416.67
NEST	Clerk's pension	DC	102.29		102.29
Village Hall Brantham	Hall Hire – Inv. 1087	BACS	24.00		24.00
Virtual Landline	Parish Council Phone number	DD	7.29	1.46	8.75
Smarty	3 x SIM cards for CCTV camera	DD	27.00		27.00
GiffGaff	SIM card for Assistant Clerk	DD	6.00		6.00
Tesco	Printer Paper	DC			14.25
Community Action Suffolk	Onesuffolk Website hosting	DC	50.00	10.00	60.00
Amazon Business	Envelopes	DC	12.42	2.48	14.90
Office Boffins	Filing Cabinet for file storage at Village Hall	DC	167.95	33.59	201.54
HMRC	Tax & NI	BACS	1542.38		1542.38

### *Receipts allocated since 03 October 2024*

Who	Detail	Method	Amount
Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest – Oct 2024	DEP	TBC
P. Brackley	Private Road Contribution 2024-25	DEP	40.00
Mircrosoft	Refund due to change of account	DEP	7.22
Brantham Scout and Guide Group	Annual rent 2024-25	DEP	1.00
Babergh District Council	CIL Payment	DEP	24,987.32



**APPENDIX B – List of common abbreviations used.**

<b>Aif</b>	<b>All in favour</b>
<b>AGAR</b>	<b>Annual Governance and Accountability Return</b>
<b>APM</b>	<b>Annual Parish Meeting</b>
<b>APCM</b>	<b>Annual Parish Council Meeting</b>
<b>ASB</b>	<b>Anti-social Behaviour</b>
<b>BACS</b>	<b>Bankers Automated Clearing Services</b>
<b>BDC</b>	<b>Babergh District Council</b>
<b>BLC</b>	<b>Brantham Leisure Centre</b>
<b>BMCIC</b>	<b>Brantham Management Community Interest Company</b>
<b>BOS</b>	<b>Brantham Open Spaces Group</b>
<b>BMSDC</b>	<b>Babergh &amp; Mid Suffolk District Council</b>
<b>BPC</b>	<b>Brantham Parish Council</b>
<b>CEP</b>	<b>Community Emergency Plan</b>
<b>CAS</b>	<b>Community Action Suffolk</b>
<b>Chq</b>	<b>Cheque</b>
<b>Cllr</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
<b>Cttee</b>	<b>Committee</b>
<b>DCLG</b>	<b>Department of Communities and Local Government</b>
<b>FC</b>	<b>Finance Committee</b>
<b>FOI</b>	<b>Freedom of Information</b>
<b>FR</b>	<b>Financial Regulations</b>
<b>GPoC</b>	<b>General Power of Competence</b>
<b>HMRC</b>	<b>Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs</b>
<b>LPA</b>	<b>Local Planning Authority</b>
<b>LPF</b>	<b>Lower Playing Field</b>
<b>LSC</b>	<b>Legal Sub Committee</b>
<b>NHS</b>	<b>National Health Service</b>
<b>NDP</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Development Plan</b>
<b>NP</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>
<b>PC</b>	<b>Parish Council</b>
<b>PCSO</b>	<b>Police Community Support Officer</b>
<b>RFO</b>	<b>Responsible Finance Officer</b>
<b>RFSC</b>	<b>Recreation, Footpaths and Services Committee</b>
<b>SALC</b>	<b>Suffolk Association of Local Councils</b>
<b>SCC</b>	<b>Suffolk County Council</b>
<b>SID</b>	<b>Speed Indicator Device</b>
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Service Level Agreement</b>
<b>SNT</b>	<b>Safer Neighbourhood Team</b>
<b>SO</b>	<b>Standing Order</b>
<b>TPO</b>	<b>Tree Preservation Order</b>
<b>VAS</b>	<b>Vehicle Activated Sign</b>
<b>VCSE</b>	<b>Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Organisations</b>
<b>HMC</b>	<b>Village Hall Management Committee</b>



## **APPENDIX C**

### **Report for November 2024 to the Parish Councils of Peninsula Division from Simon Harley (SCC Councillor)**

#### **Protection from Flooding, managed retreat from rising sea levels at Benacre**

You may have seen in the press that Suffolk County Council have announced an extra £1.5m of funding to deliver the first phase of works identified in the flood investigations following Storm Babet. The council is also writing to the government requesting £20m for flood protection to help prevent future flooding in the county, as it is likely extreme weather will become more likely due to the effects of climate change.

At Cabinet on 8 October, a £2m financial contribution was agreed from the council towards flood protection at Benacre, south of Lowestoft. It was predicted that without the new measures, the A12 would be flooding at that location at nearly every high tide within a couple of years. The Environment Agency are also committing over £30m to the scheme, and Sizewell C agreed to make up the rest: the total cost of the works is £59m. My group raised concerns about other areas of flooding along the coast and whether the council had a strategy for dealing with the problems caused by coastal erosion and climate change.

From the Cabinet report:

The proposed project design will result in the creation of 82 hectares of high quality intertidal habitat and the protection of 450 hectares of grazing marsh. Both habitats play a vital role in maintaining ecosystem health and providing long term protection from ongoing coastal erosion. The newly created coastal wetland will be a strategic addition to the existing protected habitats along the Suffolk coast and provide a significant sink that will absorb carbon dioxide.

Finally, at Scrutiny Committee on 24 October, a report was presented on highways flooding and the responsibilities held by the council, water companies and the Environment Agency. Suffolk County Council is the lead flood authority for Suffolk and although it has responsibility for surface water flooding, it does not have the capacity to manage it all and has to prioritise its response. Priority is given to works to address internal flooding to five or more properties, or flooding to major infrastructure for 10 hours or more.

If you have a stream or watercourse on your land, you have responsibilities to mitigate against flooding. You can find information about this in the council's guide to riparian ownership: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/maintenance-of-ditches-and-other-watercourses/riparian-ownership-in-suffolk>

#### **Extension of the North Falls Windfarm**

Cabinet on 8 October also included the council's response to the proposed wind farm extension at North Falls. This will be off the coast of Essex with no onshore infrastructure in Suffolk, although it still has the potential to affect transport routes, Suffolk ports and the local workforce. It will be visible from Suffolk but the impact of this has been judged as less than significant. The connection for this scheme to the National Grid is planned to be at Lawford, which will only be possible if the planned Norwich to Tilbury grid reinforcement goes ahead. My group pointed out that consent should not be granted for schemes that depended on other projects which were not yet approved, but it was noted that this was not unusual for the National Grid, which often granted grid connections for projects where there was no guarantee they would proceed.

#### **Cuts to Winter Fuel Payment**



At Council on 17 October, a motion was passed that the council would write to the government and ask them to reverse the decision they have made to cut the eligibility for the winter fuel payment for pensioners. The council also announced a new £3m fund for interest-free loans to residents wishing to undertake energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation, solar panels, batteries, glazing, or heat pumps. The loans (up to £15,000) to be repaid over a maximum of seven years at 0% interest. The scheme will be open to homeowners across Suffolk from November: register your interest now at <https://www.lendology.org.uk/warm-home-suffolk-loan>. My group are obviously in favour of retrofitting homes to make them more energy efficient, although as the council will be returning an unspent £5m to the government in March from their previous retrofitting scheme, we would urge people to apply if eligible - to make sure we are reducing energy bills as possible.

#### **Pavement safety and preventing trips and falls**

At Council on 17 October my group brought forward a motion that the county review its priorities for repairing pavement defects. Currently, if there is a difference in the surface level of the footway of 20mm or more, this will be repaired, but we argued that in areas of high footfall or where a trip or fall had been recorded, this threshold was too high. Most members of the public who trip or fall are over 65, and in areas outside GP surgeries or opticians it would make sense for the repair policy to be more flexible. The administration at the council would not vote to pass our motion, but reported that a review of their highways processes was being undertaken. Councillors from my group will be taking part in the review to try and ensure that poor quality footways are made safer.

#### **Suffolk Local Transport Plan**

A newly-developed plan which details the long-term vision for transport in Suffolk has been launched for public consultation. Local communities helped shape a new draft of the Suffolk Local Transport Plan by sharing their views back in February of this year and the council is now asking for feedback on the final proposed document. The plan details activity between 2025-2040 and sets out a long-term vision for transport in Suffolk, including decarbonisation of transport, strengthening the local economy, promoting health, wellbeing and social inclusion, and creating better-connected places that encourage a range of transport choices.

The consultation is available via [www.suffolk.gov.uk/LTP](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/LTP) and will close on Monday 25 November 2024. The Local Transport Plan and its associated plans will then be presented to Suffolk County Council Cabinet in 2025.

#### **Cost of Living help and advice:**

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

#### **Benefits advice and support:**

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

**Flood preparation advice:** <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/preparing-for-flooding>

**Flood recovery advice and support:** <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>

**Simon Harley    Suffolk County Councillor for Peninsula Division**



## **APPENDIX D – District Council report, November 2024**

### **Help shape the future of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts**

Our consultation continues on what matters most to our communities in order to help shape future plans. [Find out more.](#)

### **Flood support**

Emergency council teams worked to support areas impacted by floods last week in the wake of Storm Babet, offering practical support, as well as information and advice on what to do if your home or business was affected. [Find out more.](#)

We also paid tribute to our local heroes and the huge show of community spirit following the worst flooding for years in our districts. [Find out more.](#)

### **Your new council website**

Last month saw the launch of our new council website, and we are keen for your feedback on our new look. [Find out more.](#)

### **£1.3m boost for Babergh and Mid Suffolk communities**

Town and parish councils in Babergh and Mid Suffolk received more than £1.3 million in developer contributions last month. [Find out more.](#)

### **Suffolk councils delivering project to improve private rented housing sector**

‘Safe Suffolk Renters’ is an initiative to support private sector tenants, landlords and other stakeholders. [Find out more.](#)

### **Councils’ set out commitment to increase EV chargers**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk agreed to implement a new joint Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Implementation Plan. [Find out more.](#)

### **Free net zero advice for Suffolk businesses and organisations**

The councils partnered with an environment charity to deliver expert energy advice to businesses. [Find out more.](#)

### **Have your say on polling arrangements**

Councils are asking residents for feedback on polling districts and places across the county. [Find out more.](#)

### **Incredible moving cinema bringing unique movie experience to Sudbury**

Our partnership with Sudbury Town Council and Abbeygate Cinema has brought a unique cinema experience to the district. [Find out more.](#)

### **Councillors serve up improvements to community squash courts**

Two ward councillors stepped in to breathe new life into Sudbury’s only squash courts. [Find out more.](#)