Minutes of the Cavenham Mid Year Parish Meeting

15th November 2021 at Cavenham Club

Present :- Ralph Brownie , Liz Goodman, Frank Cox, Andrew Jarrett, Vanessa Selwyn, Brian Harvey (Manor Ward DC), Alison and Lee Richardson, Lindsay Hargreaves, Kevin Blackman, Colin Noble (Suffolk CC), Ruth Chipperfield, Carolyn Lewis, Claire Basing and Amanda Spence.

1. **Welcome** from Ralph Brownie (Chair) Apologies from Pim Dickson, David Goodman and Caroline Hargreaves
2. **Minutes of the meeting for June 2021** were agreed without correction. They will be formally approved at the next Annual Meeting
3. **Matters arising from the minutes.** Frank gave an update on the Village finances which included the Village website costs, the usual annual payment to Cavenham Village Green, the Information Commissioners Office fees and the refurbishment of the 2 Village Noticeboards which came to a total of £720.13. The precept for 2022/3 will remain as is currently.
4. **To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Mr Colin Noble .** Colin gave an outline of the current situation at the County Council with the current financial reserves having been used due to the Covid 19 response as well as the increasing costs of adult social care. There was a general discussion about the funding of the County Council as well as the merger of Forest Heath District Council and West Suffolk Council.

Instead of staying on agenda there was then a lengthy discussion about traffic, highways and matters pertaining. (**Agenda item 7**)

Colin was asked why Cavenham had not received a recent online survey request for traffic management regarding the Lorry Routes and he replied that it was not being automatically sent out and that each Village should have looked for it individually. Once the Village survey is completed it should be sent to Colin for his endorsement and for him to make comments to the Officers. If we wish to see these comments, we can apply under the Freedom of Information Act as they will not be automatically public.

Once the report has been sent from the Village, it goes to Cabinet for them to make policy as well as to the Road Haulage Association (RHA) to discuss the Lorry Routes. The local roads around Cavenham were described by parishioners as “not designed” for these large Lorry movements and that the small Village roads were being used as a “rat-run”. It seems the report generates a map for the RHA to give to local hauliers but the issue is enforcing it. The Suffolk Safer Road group only looks at speed enforcement. The local RHA hauliers are expected to stick to the defined routes. If the Village notices any HGVs not doing the right thing and can get evidence, please send to the Parish Secretary for forwarding to Colin and the company will be asked to stop.

Colin then heard about the challenges currently due to the increasing volume and weight of the traffic and how these are destroying the verges, causing vibration and noise as well as the issue of a dropped drain which is an issue, all of which reduce the quality of life in the Village. Colin replied that such issues are dealt with by Highways under their planned maintenance programme. If something is not bad enough to “reach the criteria to be fixed” then it would not be done. Colin requests we report such issues direct to Highways online which will generate an incident number. Once this is done to let him know and he can directly ask Highways to review- the report should preferably have photos.

The lorry movements from the local Quarry were discussed as they appear to be increasing in numbers and Colin outlined the Quarry have an agreed position on traffic management which allows them to drive on the local roads. It was brought up again how the local roads were not adequate to this volume and weight and a “relief road” was suggested but the practicalities of this means it is not possible. The extraction of gravel and aggregates is a National policy so there’s a presumption that licences to do this will be given, as well as any reasonable expansion requests.

It was suggested that Cavenham PC, Tuddenham PC, Mr Colin Noble and Mr Brian Harvey all meet up with Highways to discuss any specific issues. All parties in attendance agreed and this will be arranged through the Parish Clerks. Andrew and Ralph will take this forward and Andrew will organise the local Traffic Survey with the help of Vanessa. A co-ordinated approach will be agreed with Tuddenham as the issues are very similar. Andrew and Vanessa will send out fliers, as well as put the link on the noticeboards and the Village website. Traffic strips can count volumes and speed to provide evidence but at a cost which can be shared with the PC, the County Council and the District Council- possibly £300 (to be confirmed) for each strip.

Colin was also asked about the current A14 night closures which can be expected to continue till March 2022. He explained that Highways England organise the diversion routes but it was felt locally that HGVs do not use these and end up in the small Villages. Icknield Way has been destroyed in the past by these heavy vehicles and

Colin was then asked about his locality budget of £8,000 and he stated it will be allocate din due course and then it will be on public record how it’s been spent. At the end of March his budget will change again.

1. **To receive a report from District Councillor Brian Harvey**

Brian sends his reports regularly which will be sent to all after the meeting. He again asks any comments to planning applications be sent to him as well as online so he can bring them up at the next planning meeting.

1. **Noticeboards.** These have been fixed and are now watertight and working well. Thanks to Malcolm Mills.
2. **See item 4 above**
3. **Any Other Business-** none
4. **To agree the date of the next meeting** which is planned for 25th April 2022

The meeting closed at 21.45pm

Chairman……………………………………………………………..

Date……………………………………………………………………..