

Ashfield cum Thorpe

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 8 May 2019 at 7.30pm at the Community Hall, Ashfield

Attendees: Cllr Myles Hansen (Chair), Cllr David Corcoran, Cllr Simon Garrett, Cllr Ruth Hart and Cllr Paul Whayman (Ashfield cum Thorpe Parish Council), Cllr Kathie Guthrie (Mid Suffolk District Council), Cllr Matthew Hicks (Suffolk County Council), Sarah Walker (Ashfield Community Council), Simon Ashton (Parish Clerk) and three Members of the Public

1. Welcome by the Chair of Ashfield cum Thorpe Parish Council

Cllr Hansen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Agreement of Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting on 9 May 2018

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on 9 May 2018 were received, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Annual Parish Meeting on 9 May 2018

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

4. Report by the Chair of Ashfield cum Thorpe Parish Council

Cllr Hansen delivered his report at the meeting including the Council's plans for a defibrillator, with the availability of funding options, and a speed indicator device at no cost to the Parish Council. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.

5. Report by Mid Suffolk District Councillor

Cllr Guthrie introduced herself as the newly elected District Councillor, delivered her report at the meeting and responded to several questions. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.

6. Report by Suffolk County Councillor

Cllr Hicks delivered his report at the meeting and responded to several questions. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.

7. Report by a Representative of Ashfield Footpaths Group

A representative of Ashfield Footpaths Group was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Hansen presented the report which had been shared in advance of the meeting. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.

8. Report by the Chair of Ashfield Community Council

The Chair of Ashfield Community Council was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Hart delivered his report at the meeting. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.

9. Report by the Group Organiser of Ashfield Ladies Group

The Group Organiser of Ashfield Ladies Group was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Hansen presented the report which had been shared in advance of the meeting. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.

10. Report by a Trustee of Ashfield Welfare Trust

Ms Walker delivered her report at the meeting. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.

11. Report by Ashfield's Village Recorder

Ashfield's Village Recorder was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Hansen presented the report which had been shared in advance of the meeting. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.

12. Report by the Head Teacher of Earl Soham Community Primary School

A representative of Earl Soham Community Primary School was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Hansen presented the report which had been shared in advance of the meeting. A copy of the report has been made available at the end of these minutes for information.

13. Public Forum

There were no issues raised by members of the public. The meeting finished at 8.25pm.

Simon Ashton, Parish Clerk
Ashfield cum Thorpe Parish Council
actpc.clerk@gmail.com
7 June 2019

ASHFIELD CUM THORPE : ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 8th MAY 2019

SUMMARY REPORT BY CHAIRMAN

1. In response to requests from a few members of the electorate, a number of potential acquisitions have been debated and progressed : the provision of a defibrillator, vehicle activated signals and a dog refuse collection bin. A well-attended residents' meeting was held on 6th September 2018. A full report was compiled on comments and views of members of the electorate, however the summary position based on comments received was:-

Item	For	Against
Dog refuse bin	5	2
Defibrillator	10	1
Speed display	3	4

2. A defibrillator/first responder training session was held on 6th November; this too was well-attended. Virtually full grant funding has been acquired for purchase and installation of a defibrillator on the outside of the village hall.
3. Warning signs regarding dog fouling have been put in place. Options for the provision of a vehicle speed indicator have been further explored.
4. Practical action has been taken by one of our Councillors to improve the position with regard to drainage, damaged roadside signage and footpath issues.
5. The PC is funded by a precept paid by householders on their Council Tax bill. For 2017/18 this was £1,700; for 2018/19 it will be £2,700. This money is predominantly spent on Clerk's salary and expenses, insurance and preparation for any upcoming election costs.
6. The new structure of the Ashfield Welfare Trust was considered and new Trustees approved.
7. A number of planning applications were considered, and as these were non-contentious no comment was made to the planning authority.
8. The Parish Council is most appreciative of the professional guidance and active support of Simon Ashton as Clerk and RFO.
9. The formation at their AGM on 29th April of a new 10-member Community Council committee under the chairmanship of Ms Sam Thomas has been noted.

Myles Hansen
Chairman 2018/19

District Councillors Report and End of Year Report to 3 May 2019 for Debenham Ward

Aspall, Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Bedingfield, Debenham, Kenton, and Winston

First of all, it is an honour and privilege to be your local Representative at the Mid Suffolk District Council. Fortunately, Cllr Matthew Hicks remains your County Councillor so we will be a double act! I will do my best to represent the community but above all listen to your all issues and help where I can. My email address and mobile phone number are at the end of the report.

An end of year report should be succinct so I do not wish to repeat all of what has been achieved by Mid Suffolk District Council some of which you will have read in the end of year booklet but highlight a few notable issues.

MSDC budget adopted 2019/20 – increase of Council Tax of £3.26 for a Band D Property (2%)

In March 2018 MSDC and Babergh DC received £475,200 from the Warm Homes fund and have insulated and installed Air source heat pumps in Council properties.

For our Council tenants the improved letting turnaround times have been reduced from 51 days to 24 days thus allowing tenants to move into much needed homes more quickly

MSDC have committed £2.5 million to the Regal Theatre in Stowmarket for a revamp and this work is proposed to start in the current year.

The Mix in Stowmarket develops skills for 16 – 24 year olds and funding is made available for support workers and career programmes.

The former Nat West Bank and Aldi building was purchased by MSDC demonstrating its commitment to invest in the community.

Moving to Endeavour House has enabled 'smarter working' and encouraged a range of new staff. Permission to build a range of housing and business opportunities have been granted for the Mid Suffolk District Council Offices.

It costs £300,000 to clear litter off our main roads annually and MSDC received a grant to install and trial brightly coloured litter bins with solar panels to illuminate them at night and the littering was reduced by 37%. What we do about our country lanes I don't know – Education and Parish Council litter pick initiatives (my locality budget assisted locally with that)

My £6250 locality budget was allocated as follows:-

£250 The Mix,

£250 Debenham Girls group

£320 Debenham Fun and Festivities Society

£500 Debenham War Memorial Bench

£317 Winston PCC – School Room

£2500 Debenham Sports and Leisure

£580 Active Lives

£600 Debenham Library Foundation

£500 Allotments

£433 Litter Campaign

Community Infrastructure Levy saw £469,764 collected from developers for house building between 1 October and 31 March 2019. Parish Councils receive this money automatically and can receive up to 15% or 25% if they have an adopted Neighbourhood plan. All villages can apply quarterly for funding from this pot for a properly drawn up project within the spending criteria.

MSDC funded two PCSO's and once again they are back in our communities.

CIFCO, Mid Suffolks Capital Investment Fund Company has generated a net income of £1.4m which is anticipated to grow to £5.5m over the next four years.

As I am Chair of The Planning Committee B much of my time has been spent with the Planning issues and I am sure many of you are aware of the five year land supply issue. Without it developers can, and do apply, to build houses on the outskirts of our villages on our agricultural fields and all applications have to be examined. That said the country needs more housing. So there is a balance

The three main things one needs to ensure the housing is built in the appropriate place is, a Local Plan, a Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) and a five year land supply as well as careful attention to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the expertise of the planners. The NPPF changed significantly a few years ago and was updated as recently as July last year. It is anticipated the final stage of the Local Plan will be out for consultation with members of the Public Shortly.

The Debenham Parish Council and their Neighbourhood Plan team have spent over 6 years and many hours to get a NHP through and this will now feature as part of the Planning Process in the years to come. So many congratulations on the hard work achieved on this. Some of the outlying villages of course have their own boundaries and issues with Planning and I am aware of potential issues looming

At MSDC the Ward member can speak at committee but not vote but not all Planning applications go to committee so if you have any issues please feel free to contact me. Email is usually best.

I hope this gives a flavour of what happens at Mid Suffolk District Council during the year and of course with the recent local elections there is much to do and new Councillors to train so they can achieve their role to the full.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can and of course deal with any of your District Council issues

Councillor Mrs Kathie Guthrie

Kathie.Guthrie@midsuffolk.gov.uk

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CLlr Matthew Hicks 2019 Annual Report for the Thredling Division

Suffolk County Council 2019/20 budget approved

On 14 February 2019, Suffolk County Council concluded its budget setting process for this coming financial year (2019/2020). From 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, Suffolk County Council will spend almost £10 million a week across all its services following approval of this budget of £519.3 million. Over the period 2011-12 to 2018-19 the Council has made over £260 million of savings in response to reductions in funding from Central Government and increasing demand for services. For 2019/20 the Council has proposed a range of savings totalling around £13 million. These savings are required to help balance the budget - something that the Council must do by law. Recognising the unrelenting rise in demand and the complexity of support required by vulnerable children and adults in Suffolk, the Council are significantly increasing spending in these two top priority areas. The net budget for Adult and Community Services (ACS) will rise to £243m and the net budget for Health, Wellbeing and Children's Services (HWCS) will rise to £147m. This is an increase of just over £14 million for ACS and HWCS. ACS and HWCS will account for 75% of the total spend in 2019/2020 – three in every four pounds the Council spends. General council tax will rise by 2.99% this year. The Council are also applying the final 1% of the six per cent Social Care precept allowed over the years 2017/18 to 2019/20. The overall increase in council tax is one per cent less than for 2018/19. The four-year investment in surface-dressing our roads continues into its third year and the Council will treat 1,000 miles of Suffolk's roads by the end of 2020 as promised. The Council has also maintained Suffolk Fire and Rescue's budget and protected Suffolk's Library services. The Council is looking to maximise the financial contribution from its medium-term programmes, which focus on transforming how the Council delivers its services and works with other authorities and public sector partners. The Council's transformation programmes have saved over £12 million in 2018/19 and £12-£13 million of savings are planned for 2019/20.

Plan for £6million upgrades to Suffolk recycling centres

On 24 July 2018, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet approved a plan to invest £6million into upgrading Suffolk's recycling centres. The plan has earmarked £3m for the Foxhall Recycling Centre – Suffolk's busiest with 20% of all recycling waste in the county – and £1m for Haverhill for "urgent improvements". The plans will see improvements to traffic access at Foxhall and measures to prevent people from having to climb steps to dispose of their waste in the containers. Existing planning permission for work expires in March 2021. Currently at Haverhill the site has to be closed when containers are emptied because of space. The funding aims to double the size of the site and prevent such closures. Elsewhere, £1m has been earmarked for a site to replace the Portman's Walk Recycling Centre in Ipswich town centre, and a further million for the same in Stowmarket. The existing Ipswich and Stowmarket sites are considered to be severely constrained for space, with no expansion opportunities available and the surrounding roads not offering a safe area to queue onto the facility. Construction for improvements is expected to get underway in 2019/20.

The Hold construction is underway

By November 2018, the construction of The Hold building was well underway. The Hold will deliver a new home for the majority of Suffolk's unique archival collections, as well as state-of-the-art public facilities including seminar rooms and a 200-seat auditorium. The new building, which will be situated near the junction of Fore Street and Grimwade Street in Ipswich, will be part of the University of Suffolk campus and will be run by the county and the university together. Work began on the construction of The Hold building in August 2018, with the demolition of a derelict building at the northern end of the site. The construction will focus on the strong rooms first, where the archives will be kept. The building will formally open to the public in Spring 2020. Once finished, more than 100 direct and indirect full-time jobs will be created as well as training and apprenticeships.

Suffolk's roads warming to £300,000 thermal patching technology

January 2019 saw Suffolk Highways celebrating road repair success following a £300,000 investment in Nu-phalt Thermal Patching technology. The investment, which has been funded from the extra £9.67 million received from central government in the autumn, has aided the county's Highways teams to carry out more effective, longer-lasting repairs to Suffolk's road surface. Over the month of January, Suffolk Highways deployed three thermal road repair machines which repaired approximately 1,700 potholes county-wide. The process includes an eight-minute heating cycle of the road surrounding the defect allowing for the existing road surface to be heated to 200 Celsius. The surface is then raked, topped up with bitumen binder and pre-heated material, then compacted. This all takes place within the service's much-favoured 15-minute temporary closure. The process does not require excavation of the highway, meaning no dust or noise, and better still, no waste material. The result also means there are no surface joints, which can be prone to faster deterioration. Following its success, Suffolk Highways is now looking to accommodate this technology by adapting some of its own fleet to self-deliver this repair technique from March 2019.

Department for Education recognises outstanding performance by Suffolk students

On 24 January 2019, the Department for Education published revised GCSE and A Level results.

GCSE - Suffolk has risen in national league tables for students in the county achieving the standard GCSE pass in English and Maths. Department for Education figures confirm that 1% more students in Suffolk are achieving the expected standards in English and Maths at GCSE compared with last year. Since 2015 there has been a change to the way that English and Maths GCSEs are graded. Results are now graded from 9 to 1, (previously A to G) with 9 being the highest and 1 being the lowest.

The expected standard for pupils to achieve is now a grade 4 (a standard pass) and above (previously a C grade and above), with grade 5 considered a 'strong pass'. These changes will be phased in to cover all subjects by 2020. 64% of students in Suffolk are now achieving the expected standard in English and Maths, putting Suffolk in the top half of authorities achieving this standard.

GCSE progress remains above average and Suffolk students have seen a steep increase this year with a Progress 8 score of +0.08, compared with -0.02 nationally. This figure puts Suffolk in the number 1 position in our statistical neighbour group. Progress 8 measures how well pupils of all abilities have progressed by comparing them with students who achieved similar levels in Key Stage 2 across the country. Suffolk is in the top half of authorities for this figure, ranked 42nd out of 151.

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils in the county achieving the standard pass in English and Maths is in line with national figures. The Progress 8 figure for disadvantaged pupils is also above the national level and is in the top half of authorities, ranked 42nd out of 151 (up from 67th in 2016).

A Level - The validated A Level figures confirm that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the number of A*- E grades remaining above the national average figures. The figures show that 98.1% of A Levels taken in the county have been awarded an A*-E grade, compared to 97.6% nationally. A Level attainment is measured by the Department for Education using a points system. Points are given based on the type of A Level and the grade achieved. For example, an A Level at grade A is worth 50 points, whereas an AS Level would be worth half of this. Suffolk's A Level average points per entry this year has risen by 0.3 to 30.3 compared with this time last year.

Green light to develop more specialist education placements in Suffolk

On 29 January 2019, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet agreed recommendations to move forward with creating more specialist education places in Suffolk. Suffolk will need between 300 to 400 places for children with additional needs between now and 2020, and this figure is likely to continue to increase. The demand for specialist education places in Suffolk is rising rapidly due to the county's population growth, advances in medicine, and the increasing complexity of specialist needs.

The recommendations include three new special schools and 36 specialist units attached to existing mainstream schools, which combined will create over 800 new specialist education places in the county. The Cabinet also agreed that a clarified education pathway for specialist provision is created

to assist families in understanding what the local offer is. Following the approval of the recommendations, the proposal to borrow up to £45.1 million to fund the new places will now go to the county council's Capital Strategy Group to be reviewed. If agreed, the decision will go back to Cabinet in the Spring for final sign-off so the recommendations can be rolled out.

County Council announces timescale to progress the Ipswich Northern Route project

On 27 February, the Leader of Suffolk County Council, Matthew Hicks, announced the timescale to progress the Ipswich Northern Route project. Cllr Hicks outlined the next steps in producing the Strategic Outline Business Case, which will examine and ultimately clarify the feasibility of an Ipswich northern route. Discussions about an Ipswich northern route have been well documented over the years. This announcement confirms the County Council's commitment to explore these formally with a public consultation which will inform the Strategic Outline Business Case to be put to government and published later in the year. The timescale for moving the project forward is: The stage one study and report into possible highways options was completed in 2017. The options assessment and development commissioned in May 2018 is currently being evaluated and prepared for shortlisting, prior to consultation. Public consultation on the route details, alignment options and junction options with the A14 and A12 will begin in the Summer 2019. Completion of the Strategic Outline Business Case to be shared with government, local MPs and the public by Autumn 2019. The options assessment, that forms a key part of the Strategic Outline Business Case, is required to look at all other viable transport and traffic mitigation options. This will confirm whether the road alignments published in 2017 are indeed the best solution for the county. After carefully considering the assessment and developing these options further, the next stage is public consultation to begin in summer 2019. The initial study, options assessment and the results of the public consultation inform the Strategic Outline Business Case, which will provide clarity on the feasibility of the project and will determine whether the project can proceed to the next stage. That will be shared publicly for consideration in the Autumn of 2019. Suffolk County Council has been working with District and Borough Councils to develop the project and will continue to do so in the future.

Carers celebrate top accolade with 'Outstanding' rating from the Care Quality Commission

On 19 October 2018, it was announced that the standard of care provided by Mid Suffolk Home First has been rated as Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission. Mid Suffolk Home First, which is provided by Suffolk County Council, provides a short-term reablement service and a longer-term care service. Inspectors, who visited in July 2018, said the quality of care was 'exceptional'. Under CQC's programme of inspections, the service was rated according to whether it is safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led. Mid Suffolk Home First is rated Outstanding for being responsive and well-led, and Good for being safe, caring and effective. The reablement and care services offered by Mid Suffolk Home First support people following a period of ill health or a significant loss in their ability to manage their day to day care needs. The service aims to help the person reach their optimum level of independence.

Suffolk's tourist trade booming

Suffolk's tourism trade has seen its biggest boom for a decade, with the visitor economy reaching the £2 billion mark for the first time. Interim figures released on 8 August 2018 by Visit Suffolk showed that tourism grew by at least five per cent in 2017, more than double the year before. Overnight visits and lengths of stay for tourists were also up by more than 4 per cent. Figures show visitors now spend more money on each trip to the county than ever before, with the value of the day market up more than seven per cent. The number of jobs in the county's tourism sector rose by 6 per cent to 42,428. This means 13.6 per cent of all employment in Suffolk is in the tourism sector.

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division

Tel : 01728 628176 Mob : 07824474741 E-mail : matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject: ASHFIELD FOOTPATH GROUP REPORT FOR APM 2019

From: Robert Grimsey <robert@rwgrimsey.co.uk>

Date: 08/05/2019, 00:17

To: actpc clerk <actpc.clerk@gmail.com>

CC: MALCOLM PEASE <malcolmpease@btinternet.com>

Ashfield benefits from a network of footpaths and bridleways the vast majority of which are well used both by residents and visitors to the area.

At the time of writing this to the best of my knowledge all routes are accessible albeit some routes are somewhat constrained by the oil seed rape crop at present.

An audit of the whole network is undertaken annually where deficiencies are noted and appropriate remedial action taken. The most recent audit identified a number of way mark posts that require replacement and this will happen as soon as the materials have been obtained from SCC.

Frustration remains with the lengthy closure of two river crossings from Ashfield to Framsdon and Cretingham. Whilst appreciating budgetary constraints we continue to press SCC to get these missing links replaced.

We actively encourage residents to explore the routes available and request that if you are taking dogs out walking with you that these are kept on a lead at all times please. Should you encounter any obstruction or other issue whilst out walking the network please let Malcolm Pease or myself know so we can get things put right.

Robert Grimsey.
for Ashfield Footpath Group.

cc; MP for info.

Ashfield cum Thorpe Community Council Chairmans Report 2018/19

2018/19 has been a steady year in Community Council activities.

In terms of events we had two Hall and garden tidy up days on 29th May and 5th July where we asked for volunteers from the village to come along and lend a hand.

We organised two always popular Social evenings, a Summer one on the 1st June and a Christmas one on the 7th December.

We also held a Quiz night on the 5th November which proved to be enjoyed by those who attended.

On the 16th November a Wine tasting evening was enjoyed by around 40 guests from the village, an excellent effort put in by Richard and Petra Ellis and committee members on the evening.

We continued to provide a coffee and cake stop for the two cyclist clubs and my thanks go out to the Ladies of the village who regularly provide the lovely cakes and help on these mornings.

The Ladies group continue to use the Hall on a monthly basis, and the Church hold their harvest supper there still.

We have been fortunate this year that no major expense has been necessary for the upkeep of the hall just the general running costs that we have been able to cover but we are aware that some of the hall is in a poor state and will need costly repairs in the not too distant future.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their help throughout the year. Also to Chris Wilton for his generous effort in cutting the grass and to various villagers who have helped in maintaining the garden and hall, including Robert Grimsey who regularly sprays the car park in an effort to keep the weeds at bay, and to Ali for her always eye catching posters advertising events.

This will be my last report as Chairman as after 10 yrs on the committee, about 7 as Chairman I have decided it is time to step down and pursue my other interests. I have enjoyed my time on the committee and hopefully will continue to enjoy attending future events as a guest.

Ashfield Ladies Group

Report to Ashfield cum Thorpe Parish Council APM - May 2019

Membership of Ashfield Ladies group stands at 28. Our annual subscription remains at £25 but may have to increase next year to pay for new accommodation if Ashfield Village Hall becomes no longer available.

We are an informal group meeting once a month on the third Tuesday of each month. Members and visitors are welcome from Ashfield and the surrounding villages.

The committee aims to have as varied a programme as possible throughout the year with speakers, demonstrations and visits.

Sadly Lyn Storer, one of our long term members, recently passed away.

Susan Hansen
Group Organiser

Ashfield
Welfare
Trust

Chiltern End
The Street
Ashfield
STOWMARKET
Suffolk, IP14 6LY

Registered Charity No. 209692.

ASHFIELD WELFARE TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2019

The Ashfield Welfare Trust is a registered charity that exists to relieve persons resident in the parish who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. With effect from Oct 2018, the Trust has 3 new Trustees: Sarah Walker, Simon Pryke and Andy Pitts who have continued recent practice of distributing the interest on its investments to each household that supports a pensioner. This year 10 households received a cheque for £35. An adequate contingency fund has been retained, which can be used at the trustees' discretion.

The trustees would appreciate any information on changing circumstances. The trustees are not always aware that someone has reached pension age or that a pensioner has moved into the village.

The accounts for the last financial year are not yet available, but those for the year ending on the 31 March 2018 have been provided to the Parish Council.

Sarah Walker, Simon Pryke and Andy Pitts.

Ashfield cum Thorpe Village Recorder's Report for the Parish Council Annual Meeting 8 May 2019

Suffolk Local History Council.

I prepared a Recorder's Report for 2018, a copy of which is attached. The Report was filed with the Suffolk Records Office and then distributed to the households of Ashfield. Most reports were sent out by email. A few were hand delivered, for those not on the email system (some households don't have email, others have not opted in to email distribution; I did ask the households not on the email system to consider joining, in order to save paper and resources, but so far, there has been no response).

I had encouraging feedback about the report from some residents

On 27th April, I attended the Annual Recorders Meeting which took place at Elmswell. I gained some useful ideas about reporting and possible future projects.

Ashfield's Book of Remembrance

I contacted Chris Pratt, the author of Ashfield's "Book of Remembrance" which commemorates five men from Ashfield who died in the two world wars. Chris sent me the original electronic material which I combined into a single document and which was subsequently posted on the village website by Simon Garrett, in time for Remembrance Sunday.

Collection of old/historical Documents

I took possession of a box of old papers relating to Ashfield's Charity - Gobbits/The Parish Houses. The charity is almost 250 years old.

I have also received documents from a former resident of my house, relating to Ashfield during the Second World War.

Personal Research

I have been researching the history of Ashfield generally and in particular, about my own house. I am gradually building up historical information about the village. I have created a presentation about the story of a 19th Century occupant of my house, Betsey Batley, which was shown to the Rotary Club of High Suffolk.

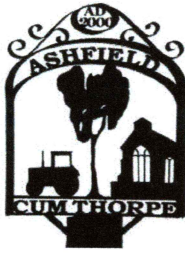
The future

I am always on the lookout for local news, information and documents and would be very grateful for contributions, great or small. We need to record the present, which is tomorrow's history.

I will continue to prepare annual reports for the Local History Council.

Anita Sharpe,

Ashfield Village Recorder.



Ashfield Cum Thorpe 2018

Recorder's Report

Social

Community Council

The Community Council is responsible for the care of and operation the village hall in Ashfield and organised several enjoyable and successful events and activities in 2018, including the following: -

Tidy Up of the Village Hall and garden - 29th May and 5th July

Volunteers were sought to help with general tidying and maintenance of the village hall.

Summer Social - 1st June

A well-attended event. The bar was open and a range of wines, bottled beers, soft drinks and Victoria Bitter on draught were for sale. Those attending brought along food to share. A selection of pictures from the Life in Ashfield exhibition of 1996 was shown. There was a draw for a bottle of gin which yielded £19 net, and the net takings on the bar was £130.12.

Cyclist Visits

The regular use of the Village Hall as a refreshment stop for two cycling clubs continued. Cakes and drinks were provided for the cyclists, who in turn provide a valuable source of income for the village.

Quiz Night – 5th October

This evening entertainment was held at the Village Hall. The entrance fee was £12 for a team of 4 per table. The bar was open. Quiz master Malcolm Pease's verdict was final, (whether he was correct or not).

Wine-tasting Evening – 16th November

Back by popular demand - Ashfield's resident "sommelier" Richard Ellis held another of his enjoyable and informative evenings. Six "unexpected" wines from around the world were tasted blind by the 40 people present. Richard's wife, Petra provided a choice of delicious home-made soups, enjoyed with fresh french bread. Altogether a great social evening, and the otherwise daunting task of washing up 80 glasses and 40 soup mugs was made easier by many helping hands!



WINE TASTING EVENING
Friday 16th November 7:30pm
Ashfield Community Hall
A Tasting Event with 6 wines
Entry by Ticket only £10.00
Reserve tickets by 9th November
from:
Malcolm Pease (685452) or
Simon Garrett (685489)
Wines available to order



Christmas Social – 7th December

A seasonal get together for Ashfield residents and friends took place in the Village Hall. There was no charge for the evening (apart from drinks bought at the bar). Food was brought along and shared.

Appeal for Help

Although several successful events were organised by The Community Council during 2018, Chairman Malcolm Pease reminded Ashfield residents that the Council did not have sufficient man (and woman) power and requests were made for more support:

“Perhaps you could consider joining us? It's not about long & boring meetings (we don't do them), but more about making a contribution to your community and having fun at the same time”.

Ashfield Ladies Group

The group continues to meet on the third Tuesday of the month, usually in the Village Hall.

In 2018, the meetings included the following: -

- 16th January “Fibonacci’s Magic Numbers” by Mr. Park Sims
- 20th February “Medical Detection Dogs” by Norma Howel
- 20th March The charity FIND (Families in Need) by Maureen Rayne.
- 17th April “Mrs Mozart” by Frances Hart
- 15th May “The Military Occupation of East Anglia in World War Two” by Clive Stevens
- 19th June AGM
- 17th July A visit to Envigo, a company who provide scientific research services. For security reasons the names of attendees and car registration numbers had to be notified in advance
- 21st August Visit to Aldeburgh Summer Theatre, Jubilee Hall to see the play “Funny Money” by Ray Cooney
- 18th September A Life in Miniature” by Susan Hansen
- 16th October “Getting into Art” by Andrew Vessey
- 20th November “A Village Wedding in Turkey” by Jenny Gibbs
- 11th December Christmas Meal at the Dennington Queen. The cost was £20 for a three-course meal and members brought along a gift to the approximate value of £5



ALG Committee 2018. Doreen Baxter, Sandra Measham, Susan Hansen, Cherrie Wilson, Penny Clark.

Ashfield Ladies Group Committee at the AGM – 19th June

The AGM was followed by a meal provided by the committee members, which included quiche, cold meat, salad, bread, deserts and a specially iced cake to celebrate 35 years of the group.

The group continues to expand and in 2018, had more members than ever before. Susan Hansen, who started the group continues as its leader. The same Committee members continue from year to year and as no volunteers came forward to replace them, they agreed to continue.

The Brenton Bash (Gentleman’s Evening) – 25th May

On **Friday 25th May**, the Gentlemen of Ashfield and friends went out on the annual Brenton Bash/Gentleman’s Evening. This was another mystery trip; the gentlemen were transported to Stowmarket where they enjoyed “beer tasting” at the Gladstone Arms, and then a meal and more “beer tasting” over the road at the Magpie Inn. The evening was arranged by Chris Sharpe.

Mystery Meal- 27th October

This year the “Mystery Meal” took place on **27th October** with Mike Harrison in charge of its organisation. A successful and entertaining evening, a chance to make new friends and to meet up with old friends.

Other Events

The OVO Energy Women’s Tour Cycling Race – 13th June

Some of the world’s best cyclists raced past Ashfield on the A1120. The opening leg of the Women’s Tour Cycling Race started in Framlingham on **13th June**. The cyclists set off from Framlingham and rode through Debenham, Ashfield and Earl Soham. The A1120 and Ashfield Street was closed for about 10 minutes whilst the race went past. A number of spectators watched from White Post Corner in Ashfield.



Chicken Farm – Night-time disturbance

In **February**, residents of Grove Lane and Sunnyside Corner had their sleep disturbed by vehicle movements through the village down Grove Lane to the chicken farm, from 3 am onwards. Vehicles were parked up with lights and engines running. Objections were made to the drivers, the farm manager and to County Councillor Matthew Hicks.

Mr. Hicks reported the disturbance as a potential planning infringement to Mid Suffolk District Council's Enforcement Officer with a view to the issue of a planning Enforcement Notice so that in the event of a future breach of the curfew, action could be taken. Mr Hicks confirmed that as the chicken farm is in a residential area, farm traffic is not permitted during the night. The existing night time curfew imposed by the Council is part of the farm's operating licence.

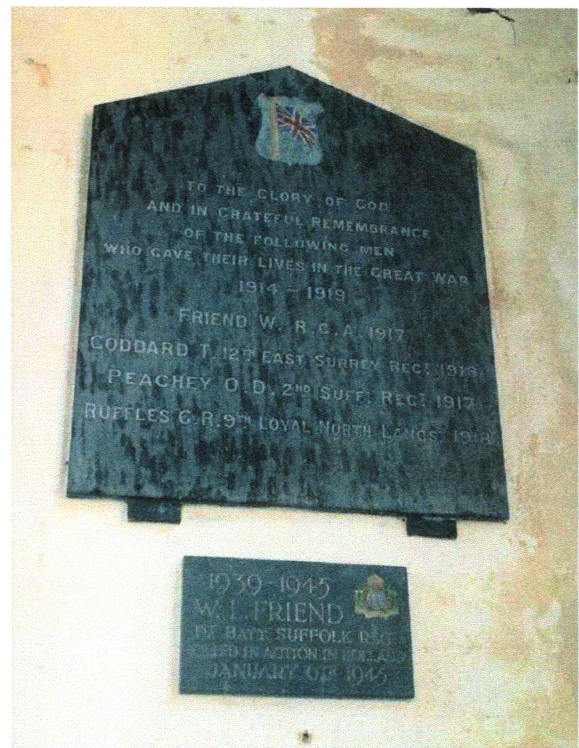
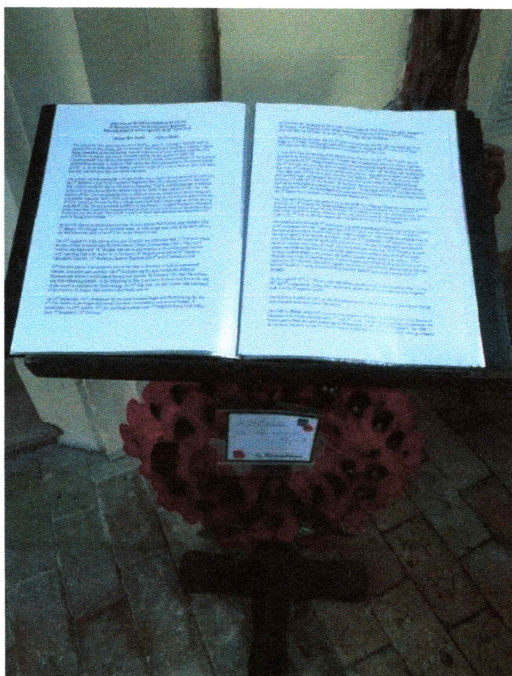
Remembrance Day - Sunday **11th November** 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War

Four men from Ashfield were killed in the First World War: -

- William Friend
- Thomas Goddard
- Oliver Peachey
- Russell George Ruffles.

They are remembered in the War Memorial in Ashfield's Church and in the Book of Remembrance written by Chris Pratt of Earl Soham. On **11th November** at the end of the Church Service, there was a short Act of Remembrance around the war memorial.

The service was attended by Mr. Russell George Ruffles of Bedfield, the grandson of Pvt RG Ruffles.

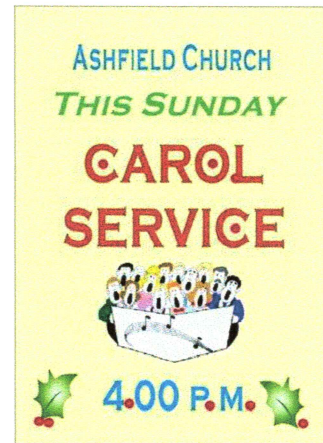


Ashfield St Mary's Church

The Rector for Ashfield (and the other churches in the Mid Loes Benefice), is the Revd. Dr. Stephen Brian. Robert Grimsey is the Church Warden, Secretary and Treasurer.

Services

Services took place at St Mary's throughout the year, usually twice a month, alternating between evening prayer and Holy Communion. These included a service on Remembrance Day, a Carol Service on **23rd December** when the Ashfield Ladies Group were asked to provide a choir, and Communion on Christmas morning.



Suffolk Historical Churches Cycle Ride and Stride

This took place on Saturday **8th September**. Cyclists and sponsors were sought as well as volunteers to man the church to welcome visiting cyclists.

The Harvest Supper – 29th September

The Harvest Supper took place in the Village Hall on 29th September and this year was well attended. A meal was served, and the audience was entertained by Peter Holloway, a "local comedian". The supper raised "much needed funds" for Ashfield Church.



Village Business

Daniel Poulter MP

In **March**, a Conservative Party internal disciplinary committee cleared Ashfield's MP, Daniel Poulter, of allegations of inappropriate behaviour towards female colleagues.

The Parish Council AGM – 9th May

The meeting was held at the Village Hall on 9th May. Items on the agenda included a Public Forum and reports from the Parish Council; the Parish Council's Vehicle Activated Signs Representative; Mid Suffolk District Council; the Police; the Footpaths Group; Community Council; Ladies Group; Ashfield Welfare Trust; Village Recorder and Earl Soham Primary School.

Parish Council Public Meeting- 6th September

All members of the electorate were invited to attend a public meeting called to discuss requests to acquire items for the benefit of the village and its residents, namely: -

- Defibrillator to be mounted on a wall of the village hall (estimated cost £1,500)
- A vehicle speed display (estimated cost £3,500)
- A bin for dog faeces (estimated cost £150)

"The PC was happy to make these purchases if requested by the electorate; subject to, funding. If necessary, the PC could seek grants where such are available, but some, if not all, of the cost would have to be found via a short-term increased precept. These purchases would affect everyone in the village, not only in the usefulness of the facility provided, but also in the cost of their council tax bill."

The question of whether a bin for dog waste should be sited down Grove Lane was considered at the meeting. Subsequently, the Parish Council established that dog fouling could result in a criminal offence and warning notices were displayed in the village to inform would be offenders of a potential £1,000 Penalty.

The question of whether a defibrillator should be acquired was considered and it was agreed that more information would be provided at a later meeting.

Defibrillator Demonstration – 6th November

Following the Public Meeting, representatives of The Debenham Community First Responders Group including Ashfield's First Responders Belinda Handley and Des Hart, gave a talk and demonstration about the use of a defibrillator and CPR awareness. Two sessions were held at the village Hall so that participants could familiarise themselves with the equipment. If purchased, a defibrillator would be accessed via the emergency services, who would provide guidance for use and a code to unlock it.

At the time of the demonstration, no decision had been made upon a purchase and was to be discussed at further Parish Council meetings.



Broadband (and road closures)

In **January**, a green cabinet/ box was installed at Whitepost Corner, near the junction of the A1120 and the Street, to prepare for the installation of fibre broadband. Three-way traffic lights at the junction of the A1120 and The Street controlled the flow of traffic.

in **March**, the green box was connected to a power supply. The Street was closed for roadworks to allow the connection of the green box to power supplied from the post and transformer in the grounds of Mary Vale. Advance notice of the closure had been given for the 5th to 16th March. The work actually started on 6th March, completed early, on 14th March and the road re opened.

in **June**, workmen were seen in the village making connections to the green box.

No announcement was made by BT about the availability of the service, and its availability was discovered by residents on a piecemeal basis, partly by word of mouth. The village now has a reasonably fast broadband service, with up to 38 Mbps in some properties.

Other Road Works 16th to 20th July

More Road Closures from **16th to 20th July**, Overnight closure of the A1120, from 7pm to 5 am, caused disruption and inconvenience and a complaint was made about poor signage to the Suffolk Highways Authority.

"Overnight A1120 closure signage causing issues at north end of Ashfield-cum-Thorpe. Road closed signage needs to be at bottom of hill at Clowes Corner to stop traffic getting to village from Kenton direction and only then finding road closed. Last night gridlock with near misses and vehicles having to turn around in fields. The relevant Suffolk Highways team will investigate your report and make a decision on any action that may need to be taken and by when."

Police Matters

19 January, there was an attempted break-in to an outbuilding at **Sunnyside** during the early hours of the morning. A door was forced, but the would-be thief ran off when the alarm went off.

17 March Telephone Scams Police urged residents to be alert following reports that a number of residents had been contacted by a caller claiming to be from the tax office, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). Fraudsters were contacting the elderly and intimidating victims with threats of arrest for alleged outstanding debts or unpaid taxes in their name.

14 October A garage was broken into overnight at **Mary Vale** and power tools were taken.

17 December Fatal Accident – this occurred at the junction of Thorpe Lane and the A1120. The following information was issued by the Police:

"Officers were called at 9.00am this morning, Monday 17 December, to reports of a collision on the A1120 in Ashfield involving a coach and two cars - a red Honda Civic and a silver Skoda Octavia. The driver of the Honda, a woman in her 40s, was sadly pronounced dead at the scene. The male driver of the coach was taken to hospital with minor injuries. The coach was not carrying any passengers and nobody else was hurt as a result of the collision. Emergency services are still on the scene and the road remains closed while the vehicles are recovered and an investigation into the full

circumstances of the incident is carried out. Road diversions are in place, but motorists are asked to avoid the area if possible.”

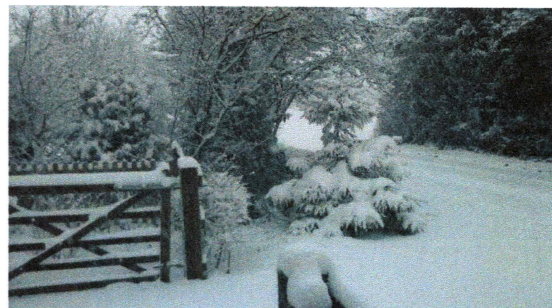
A further police release was made on the 19th December:

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/news/latest-news/17-12-2018/ashfield-%E2%80%93-family-pays-tribute-victim-fatal-collision>

Weather

A cold winter and spring and a hot and dry summer.

The Village experienced strong winds at the start of the year. February was very cold. We had a light dusting of snow on 5th February then a very cold spell of weather from the arctic labelled “The Beast from The East” by the media.; a bitterly cold easterly wind arrived on Saturday 24th February and then snow on Monday night 26th February. Ashfield had at least 4 ½ inches of snow overnight and icicles formed on roofs. The powdery snow was blown about by strong winds, resulting in snow drifts. Radio Suffolk reported many problems on the roads, the A140 in particular was blocked in several places. Ashfield Street was covered with snow and ice for most of the week and there was very little traffic through the village. Radio Suffolk reported that traffic was very slow and non-essential traffic was discouraged. On Tuesday most of the schools in Suffolk were closed, including Debenham High School, which was closed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. No fresh snow fell on Friday night and the ice on the street started to melt during the day.



The cold weather continued into March and a “mini beast” arrived; more snow fell on 1st March and Debenham High School was closed on 1st and 2nd March. There was a light dusting of snow on Friday 16th March and 17th March, and cold winds. The weather warmed up gradually the following Monday.

The Summer was hot and dry, and 23rd July was particularly hot. We then had torrential rain on 28th July, a cool weekend and then warm again by 6th August. August started hot, then there was heavy rainfall on 9th and 10th, followed by sunshine. The Weather at the end of the year was relatively mild, and some gardens even had flowers in bloom in December.



August 20th in Ashfield

Property/House sales and moves



Christmas Cottage- Liz Wiggins put Christmas Cottage on the market in January with agents William H Brown, seeking offers in excess of £330,000. A sale to Mr. Peter Raffel completed at the end of June and Liz moved away to Debenham.

White Railings – A detached house with 5 bedrooms, was marketed for £375,000. The sale was completed in April. Margaret and Brian Lennon moved away from Ashfield. They had lived in the village for many years and taken an active part in village life. Brian had been a long serving Chairman of the Community Council and Margaret had once been a dinner lady at Earl Soham Primary School and also an “Avon lady”. They moved away to live nearer to their family.



The Old Post Office – A cottage with 3 bedrooms and a large garden. The property was the village post office from 1941 to 1999. It was refurbished by Danny and Mel Wilson, who moved there in 2014. It was advertised for sale in March at £425,000 and the sale was eventually completed in October.

Grove Farmhouse - was auctioned in May. The auction guide price was £275,000. It was advertised by the selling agents Clarke & Simpson as a “derelict Grade II listed farmhouse standing in a pleasant spot along a no through road, with grounds of over three quarters of an acre”.





1 Lodge Cottage - was on the market in the spring and sold for £285,000 in September. The property is a semi-detached house with two bedrooms.

New House – Construction of this new house, on what had once been Jack Scott’s Vegetable patch at High Row Farm, continued throughout the year. By June, the roof trusses had been added and by December the house was nearing completion, and the hedge between the new house and Mara had been removed.



Bramcote - In June, Gill and Dick Knight advertised the sale of their home, a modern detached house with 5 bedrooms, and within a week, had two offers. The sale was completed in September and Gill and Dick moved to a temporary home in the centre of Bury St Edmunds, whilst finding their “perfect place in the perfect location”. They had lived in Ashfield for almost 34 years. Gemma and Jamie Griffin and their daughter Florence became the new residents of Bramcote.



4 The Ashes was advertised for sale, offers were invited in excess of £300,000. The house was still on the market at the end of the year.

People

Maureen Minter

Maureen raised over £480 for breast cancer awareness and treatment, when she took part in the London Moon Walk Marathon, overnight on **12th to 13th May**. Maureen and her daughter completed the full marathon walk.

Edward Bowman

The funeral of Edward, who died in December 2017, was held on **19th January** at Ashfield's Church with a reception at the Village Hall.

Ann Snell

Ann Snell died on **6th February** and her Funeral was held at Ashfield's Church on **23rd February** with a reception afterwards in the Village Hall. Mrs Snell moved to Merryvale House, Ashfield in 1980 with her husband Richard. She was a familiar figure in the village, walking her dog. After Mr Snell died in 1989, she moved to Earl Soham. She was buried in Ashfield graveyard, near to her husband.

Sharon Bennett

Sharon of Blacksmith Cottage died unexpectedly in **March**.

Shirley Farley

Shirley of The Ashes died In March, another unexpected death.

John Hadden

John was a former Ashfield resident, having lived in the village for 44 years. He moved to Debenham four years ago, due to ill health. He died on **27th July** aged 77.

Anita Sharpe

Ashfield Cum Thorpe Village Recorder 2018.

EARL SOHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher's report for Parish Councils: May 2019

The school continues to thrive and is always a very lively place to be. There are currently 59 pupils on role. Please see below for some of the key events that have taken place.

PE and Sports Competitions

There continues to be a strong emphasis on all aspects of PE and sport. The children have taken part in a number of competitions. These have included swimming and tag rugby (where Mr Hazlewood, one of our governors, was able to give us the support of his expertise as a rugby coach). We entered two teams in the swimming tournament which meant that over 20% of the Key Stage 2 pupils had the opportunity to represent the school. We were proud of their effort with the B team finishing 10th and the A team finishing 5th. We had a finalist in all events bar one. We are looking forward to further competitions later this term.

Educational Visits

During the spring term we had a 'tractor in school' when a local farmer visited and this was followed up by a visit to the Food and Farming Fayre organised by the Suffolk Agricultural Association. The children really enjoyed learning about how our food is produced and what happens to get in onto our tables. Later this term the Year 6 pupils will be spending a week away in Norfolk and we also have visits planned for Latitude and Alton Water.

PTFA

The PTFA evening talks are both educational and fun. The most recent was very informative and gave an insight into the fashion industry and its sustainability. A topic very much in the news recently. The quiz night was very successful and raised over £1000 for the school. Planned events for this term include a jumble sale (11th May) and the annual school fete (July 6th).

Closure due to Burst Pipe and Flood

The school was closed for one day in the autumn term due to a flood in the ICT area. This was caused by a burst pipe. Three laptop computers were damaged beyond repair and have since been replaced. The children welcomed an extra day off but parents may not have been so pleased!

World Book Day

The ever popular annual event took place earlier in the year and children (along with staff) very much enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters. This was again a good way to promote reading.

Breakfast Club

The school now offers a breakfast club which gives busy parents the opportunity to drop their children off early. The children involved enjoy eating breakfast together before school starts.

Peter Lambillion-Jameson, Head Teacher