**CHEDISTON AND LINSTEAD GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL**

A meeting was held on Monday 20 November 2023 at 7.30pm in Linstead Village Hall

**MINUTES**

1. The Chairman welcomed Cllrs to the meeting, those present were: John Ibbott, Janet Heath, Jo Wareham, Anna Bramble, Threasa Gilbey and County Councillor Stephen Burroughes.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Jonny Vaughan and District Councillor Julia Ewart.

3. There were no declarations of Interest to declare

4. Minutes of previous PC meeting held on Monday 18 September 2023 were recorded as a true and accurate account of the meeting and duly signed.

5. Matters arising from minutes not covered by the agenda – The Halesworth Museum laid on an evening event with a guest speaker to show the Linstead Gold Ring. The event was well attended and raised £140 towards the rings purchase.

6. Public Forum – Cllr Burroughes spoke about a new Highways Contract with Milestone Infrastructure part of M Group Services for the next 20 years – they will be responsible for maintaining roads; paths; rights of way; improving drainage; hedge cutting; constructing new road schemes; snow clearing; gritting and much more. A statutory consultation runs until 18 December in relation to an energy offshore connection. Suffolk are needing more foster carers, (full or part-time) children in care numbers have risen from 600 ten years ago to over 1000 children in 2023, for more information fosterandadopt@suffolk.gov.uk or call 01473 264800. Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme offers grants up to £5000 to improve flood resilience for individual homes and business, they are being funded through the Council Tax Department. Cllr Burroughes is funding a vehicle and speeding report on the B1123 to support extending the 30mph area through the village of Chediston.

7. Finance – Financial Statement was given to Councillors. - Cheques for signature: CAS – One Suffolk web-site fee £60.00 East Suffolk – Uncontested election fee £56.10 and Primary Care Services – replacement defibrillator pads £360.00

8. The Precept 2023/24 was discussed; it was proposed to seek to increase the precept amount by £250 to take account of rising costs up to £3500.00. This was seconded and Cllrs voted unanimously to support this.

9. A further CIL payment has been received £1240.00 this will be added to the £602.95 already held to support projects for the community. Monies must be spent on provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

10 Hedgerows and ditches: Hedgerows along Wissett Road from Willow Lakes to the village boundary on both sides. On the B1123 from Church Farm Lodge entrance towards Halesworth up to the bridge. By Herne Hill entrance on the bend towards Halesworth, all have been identified as having overgrown boundary hedges and being unsafe for cyclists and walkers. Ditches on the B1123 have not been cleaned out since 1985. Unfortunately, The Environmental Agency believes states that overgrown ditches slow down water flow and this aids water management.

 Although the Parish Council as decided not to intervene in the past, it was decided that the Clerk will write to the four land owners and alert them to the concerns that have been raised by residents.

11. The agreed dates for meetings in 2024 are as follows: 15 January 2024 - Chediston Church Roo 18 March 2024 - Linstead Village Hall 20 May 2024 - Chediston Church Room – AGM Meeting 15 July 2024 - Linstead Village Hall 16 September 2024 - Chediston Church Room 15 November 2024 - Linstead Village Hal

12. Complaint re web-site – The Clerk will find out if we are obligated to maintain a web-site or can we just have a facebook page other social media sites. It has been decided that the web-site is not fit for purpose and we will investigate employing a local company to make us a new user-friendly web-site using funds from our CIL.

13. Correspondence for circulation - Refuse and Dog Waste Bin Policy - New Policing Operating Policy to keep Suffolk Safe - Clerks and Councils Direct - Sizewell C starts private funding process - Suffolk CC: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/LibraryConsultation Cllr Ewart and Cllr Burroughes reports

14. AOB. A resident has identified two foot-path signs that have rotted at the base and fallen over. There is a small budget held by Highways to replace village and road signs.

15. Date and Time of next meeting is 15 January 2024 in Chediston Church Room.

Signed ………………………………………………… Dated ……………………………………………