GREAT BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH ROOM, STOWMARKET ROAD ON WEDNESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2013

PRESENT: A. Beckett, Mrs B Edrupt, Mrs S Fairburn, Mrs P Robinson, R. Simpson, County Councillor J Field and District Councillor M. Blakenham

1.9 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A resident asked for an update on the present situation with regard to the installation of a pedestrian crossing on Stowmarket Road. The Chairman advised that they would contact Suffolk County Council to ascertain what action can be taken. Councillor John Field would be happy to support the installation with a grant from his locality budget.

Mr Lockwood asked if the Chairman could clarify the present situation with regard to the Sita grant. The Chairman advised that the only outstanding matter was that the local press needed to be contacted to arrange a convenient time for a photograph of the play area now that the installation had been completed and advised Mr Lockwood to contact them direct now that he had been passed all the paperwork in the connection with the grant.

2.9 REPORTS OF THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Field’s report was circulated at the meeting.

Councillor M. Blakenham reported on the greenhouse project and the current situation. A number of meetings had been held with residents of Little Blakenham Common to address concerns. Consultants had now been appointed and he was hoping to submit a planning application in October. Councillor Blakenham did declare an interest in this item as he is one of the land owners.

3.9 REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PCSO Phil Brill’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

4.9 Apologies: P. McLauchlan

5.9 Declarations of interest appropriate to any item on the agenda – None were received.

6.9 MINUTES of the meeting of 10th July 2013 were approved and signed.

7.9 WORKPLAN Councillors received an update on all outstanding issues.

8.9 FINANCE

a. Monthly payments – It was agreed to sign cheques to the value of £1,931.53. It was also noted that cheques to the value of £1,806.50 had been signed in August 2013.

b. External Audit – Councillors noted that the audit for the year ending March 2013 had been completed. There were no matters raised.
9.9 PLANNING

2344/12 – Erection of 16 dwellings comprising 3 two bedroom dwellings, 12 three bedroom dwellings and 1 four bedroom dwelling together with associated garaging and car parking. (substitution of house types to plots 239 – 255 as approved under reserved matters approval 3489/09) – Former Masons Cement Works, Gipping Road

Comments forwarded to MSDC – The Parish Council has no objections to this application.

During the discussion of this item it was agreed that the Clerk write to Orbit Homes to ascertain the current position with the building works for Phase 1 of the project and the plans for Phase 2.

10.9 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

a. Village Hall Management Committee – The Chairman reported that she had sought legal advice and had been informed that the Management Committee members themselves would be liable if the Committee was found not to be managing the Village Hall correctly and that if she still had concerns then the best course of action would be to resign. The Parish Council would not be liable as they are only the Custodian Trustee for the land, not the running of the Village Hall. The Chairman informed the Council that she had now resigned as the Vice Chairman and as a member of the Village Hall Management Committee. This now left a vacancy for a Council representative on the Committee. The Council felt that at this time it would not nominate a further representative.

b. Sita Liaison Meeting – The Chairman reported that the construction was ahead of schedule. The Sita Liaison Group had been invited to attend a site visit to view the current position. The site visit was due to be held whilst the Chairman was away and therefore it was agreed that Mr Simpson attend in her place.

c. PCSO Tasking Group – The Chairman reported that the crime rate as compared to this time last year had fallen. A member of the Tasking Group was trying to secure further funding towards the financing of the PCSO vehicle. A new PC had been appointed to replace PC Andy Martin.

It was noted that a number of Parish Councillors would be absent from the planned October meeting. It was therefore agreed to move the date of the meeting to Wednesday 16th October 2013.

Chairman Date

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