

GREAT BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th September 2019 in the Parish Room, Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham at 7.30pm.

Present: Steve Plume (Chairman), Widge Bowman, David Jones
Clerk to the Council – Janet Gobey.
County and District Councillor John Field
Two members of the public.

The Chairman opened the Meeting at 7.30 pm.

1. To receive and approve any apologies for absence.
No apologies were received.

2. Declaration of any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

- a. Councillors declaration of interest appropriate to any item on the agenda.
None.
- b. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interest (if any).
None
- c. To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate.
None.

3. Public Forum

- a. To receive the report from the County Councillor (*allow five minutes*).
Cllr. Field presented his report.
- b. To receive the report from the District Councillor (*allow five minutes*).
Cllr. Field presented his report. Some changes are being made to local routes which will affect Barham and Needham Market. Galloways have withdrawn from all County Council bus routes. SCC will be retendering those routes.
Blueleighs Park – BMSDC are investigating the number of extra units appearing there.
Land next to the Village Hall – SCC have now established that the land is owned by Taylor Wimpey and are opening negotiations with them for a possible purchase.
BMSDC are working on a new Industrial Strategy.
- c. To receive questions from members of the public (*allow fifteen minutes maximum*).
A resident raised the issue of increasing litter around the village and suggested that the litter picking contract be reviewed and more hours given to the contractors to cope with the increase in litter. Councillors made the point that the council could only spend a reasonable portion of its resources in this area and noted that it was disappointing that only one resident had appealed to the request for volunteer litter pickers. The resident present also volunteered to join a group, but more volunteers would be necessary.

There was a question about the future of the allotments – the chairman urged allotment holders to keep working their plots, as it was essential that the allotments were seen to be used so that the landowners could not claim that there was no demand for them. Cllr. Field agreed to discuss the issue with the BMSDC planning manager.

4. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 10th July 2019.
Councillors approved these unanimously and the Chairman signed them as a true and correct record of the meeting.

5. To note the Clerk's update from previous Meetings.
Councillors noted this.

6. Planning

- a. To consider the following planning applications.
None

b. To note any planning determinations.

DC/19/02485	Location: Land on The West Side Of, Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk	Proposal: Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/18/01487 - Condition 4 (Archaeological Works).
DC/19/01775	Location: Land at Blackacre Hill, Bramford Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk	Proposal: Discharge of Conditions Application for 1755/17 - Condition 32 (Hard and Soft Landscaping Masterplan).
DC/19/03238	Location: 50A Blueleighs Park, Chalk Hill Lane, Great Blakenham, Ipswich Suffolk IP6 0ND	Proposal: Notification of Works to Trees Protected by a Tree Preservation Order - Remove 4no. Trees.

Decision: Granted

Councillors noted these determinations.

DC/19/03305	Location: Energy from Waste Lodge Lane Great Blakenham Ipswich Suffolk IP6 0JE	Proposal: Variation of condition 43 of permission MS/210/11 to increase operational capacity from 269,000t per annum to 295,000t per annum.
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Decision: Raise no objection.

Councillors noted this

c. Any other planning matters to note.

None.

d. To receive an update on SnOasis Reserved Matters.

The Chairman said that there would be a meeting on 30th September with DP9, YourShout and the developers to discuss how this would be taken forward.

e. To consider the Council's response to the BMSDC Draft Joint Local Plan.

Councillors agreed that they would not make a response at this stage, as their comments had not changed from the first consultation.

7. Growth, Highways and Infrastructure

a. To note progress on the Joint Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillors noted that it was likely that this would not be proceeding because of lack of support from the community, as there had not been one offer from any resident in the three parishes to become involved. Lack of community support would automatically mean that the Draft Plan would be rejected by the examiner because this is an essential criterion.

b. To receive an update on determining the ownership of land behind the Village Hall which could be the site for a preschool.

Already covered in the County Councillor's report

c. To note progress on the Parish Infrastructure Improvement Plan.

Councillors noted that there had been no sustainability surveys carried out.

d. To consider the options for the updating of bus timetables displayed in the Parish after July 2019 timetables.

Councillors discussed this and felt that they needed to know how much work would be involved. ACTION: Clerk to check all the bus stops and their condition and whether Suffolk Onboard would have a system for issuing automatic updates about changes to bus timetables.

e. To consider any response to the Ipswich Northern Route proposals.
Councillors agreed that, while they were in favour of improvements to the traffic infrastructure in rural Suffolk, it seems counterproductive that some local parts of rural Suffolk are going to be wrecked by a new town of approximately 15,000 new homes which will generate more traffic and add to the existing congestion on the A14 and A12.
Councillors agreed that it would be better to create a new super junction between Junction 52 and Junction 53 and scrap both the existing junctions.

f. To consider any response to the Draft Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Housing Land Supply Position Statement Consultation July 2019.
Councillors agreed that they had no comments on this.

8. Governance

a. To note the Clerk's mileage and expenses.

Councillors noted this.

b. To note the S137 monitoring spreadsheet.

Councillors noted this.

c. To consider the request from the PCC for a donation to St Marys Church, Great Blakenham Christmas Festival 2019.

Councillors agreed to make a donation of £100 to sponsor a Christmas tree. The Clerk informed Councillors that she had found out that the mother and toddler group that meets in the Parish room had been suspended while there is no leader and that the group were not in a position to spend the S137 grant that the Council had made. Councillors agreed that the PCC should be asked to refund the money. They would be welcome to reapply once a new leader is appointed. ACTION: Clerk.

d. To review the Council's social media policy.

After some discussion, Councillors agreed to suspend the comments facility on Facebook for six months, with a review at the end of the period.

9. Allotments

a. To note any update on the long term future of the allotments.

Councillors noted that the land agent had said that the landowner had no intention of selling or gifting the allotments to the Council.

Councillors agreed that there should be a publicity campaign organised by the Council to attempt to resolve the situation.

b. To consider possible options for moving the allotments.

Councillors agreed that an appeal for land should be put in InTouch and that the Clerk should write to local landowners. ACTION: Clerk.

c. To note the position regarding the latest allotment water bill.

Councillors noted that, after providing Anglian Water Business with correct meter readings, the Council is now in credit with Anglian Water Business, rather than facing a large bill.

Councillors agreed that, after the difficulties with Anglian Water Business over establishing the correct readings etc., the Council would not proceed with setting up a direct debit facility for the water bill.

d. To consider how to dispose of the allotment barrier.

Councillors agreed to advertise the barrier through SALC, free to any Council that would remove it. ACTION: Clerk.

10. Village Maintenance

a. To consider the quote for stickers for the rubbish and dog waste bins in the village to tell people who to contact if they need emptying.

Councillors noted that the quote had not yet been received.

b. To consider the reply from SCC Highways regarding replacing the Village Gateway signs.

Councillors noted that no reply had been received to date.

c. To agree the Council's policy on maintenance of the green areas at Hackneys Corner. Councillors agreed that there was an opportunity to make the grass and planted areas more wildlife friendly, but this would require the co-operation of Orbit, as they had recently mowed down all the poppies.

d. To consider possible sites for new grit bins.

Councillors agreed to purchase three new grit bins for the Roman Close development – one of these will need to be smaller to fit in a particular spot at the top of the development.

ACTION: Clerk and Cllr. Bowman to find suitable locations.

11. Churchyard and Cemetery.

a. To note any update on the purchase of land for the extension of the Cemetery.

Councillors noted that there had been no developments.

b. To consider the quote for repairing the entranceway to the Cemetery.

Councillors noted that this had not been received as yet.

12. Village Hall

a. To receive a report from the Councillor representing the Parish Council as Custodian Trustee on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Councillors noted this. A new pricing structure has been agreed by the VHMC.

13. Training and Development for Councillors and Clerk

a. To note the following training already booked (if any).

None.

b. To consider any other training requests.

None.

14. Finance

a. To note the following cheques signed out of Meeting.

Shades Home Maintenance	July 2019 - Churchyard and cemetery maintenance. Litter picking. Hackneys Corner maintenance. Sign cleaning.	£1530.00	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215
Great Blakenham Chequers	Donation for purchase of new goal posts	£270.00	LGA 1972 s.137
Janet Gobey	Clerks salary July 2019	£673.99	LGA 1972 s.111
BMSDC	Litter and dog waste bin emptying April 2018 to March 2019	£516.00	LGA 1972 s.111
BMSDC Election Charges May 2019	Uncontested Parish Council election	£104.78	LGA 1972 s.111
Landmark Construction	Repairs and maintenance of bus shelters	£9058.44	Local Government Misc. Provisions Act 1953 s 4
Signscape & Signconex	New noticeboard for Cemetery	£857.04	Local Government Act 1972 s 214 (6)

Councillors noted these.

b. To consider approving and making the following payments:

Shades Home Maintenance	August 2019 - Churchyard and cemetery maintenance. Litter picking. Hackneys Corner maintenance. Allotment access clearance.	£1440.00	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215
Janet Gobey	Clerks salary August 2019	£673.99	LGA 1972 s.111
Janet Gobey	Clerk's expenses - mileage for July & August 2019 = £21.15. Postage stamps = £12.20.	£33.70	LGA 1972 s.111
SALC	Allotment management workshop	£43.20	LGA 1972 s.111

Councillors approved the making of these payments.

c. To note the Council's Financial Report for July/August 2019.

FINANCIAL REPORT 29/6/2019 TO 30/7/2019

BANK BALANCES – 30/7/2019

BUSINESS PREMIUM ACCOUNT - £15,771.72

COMMUNITY/CURRENT ACCOUNT – £83,162.30

TOTAL - £98,934.02

MONTHLY – JULY 2019

EXPENDITURE: 29/6/2019 TO 30/7/2019

Cheques (cleared): £3464.51

Direct debits:

£15.36 Chairman's phone

£5.29 Clerk's phone

Business Debit card payments:

£35.00 - Survey Monkey

Total: £3520.16

PLUS Cheques (uncleared): £13057.25

INCOME: 29/6/2019 TO 30/7/2019

None

RESERVES (approved at January 2019 Council Meeting)

General Reserves

£20,000

Earmarked Reserves

Long term Earmarked Reserves:

Purchase of land for Cemetery extension - £12,500

Landscaping, fencing for Cemetery extension - £3,000

Legal fees for Cemetery extension - £3,000.

Ground penetrating radar survey of the Cemetery £4,000

Purchase of the allotment land - £10,000

Other Earmarked Reserves:

Election and referendum costs - £2100 (poll cards, election and count costs).

Purchase of speed monitoring equipment - £16,000

Maintenance and improvement work on the village War Memorial - £10,000.

Contribution towards village preschool facility: £10,000.

Neighbourhood Plan: £7,000.

TOTAL: £77,600

Councillors noted that the report did not cover August as the bank statements had not been received in time and so could not be verified against the report. Cllr. Bowman checked the paper bank balances against the figures on the Financial Report and signed to say that they agreed.

d. To authorise any invoices for Business Direct Debit card payments.
Cllr. Bowman authorised these.

15. Reports

To receive reports from Councillors assigned to the following:

- a. SnOasis Parish Alliance – Cllr. Plume – already given.
- b. Viridor Liaison Committee – Cllr. Plume - Cllr. Plume had been unable to attend the last meeting as the notice of the meeting was too short.
- c. Suez Liaison Group – Cllr. Bowman – no meeting has taken place.

16. Correspondence

To note the following items of correspondence and form a response where appropriate:

SALC (by email 31 st July 2019)	Draft ICO Data Sharing of Practice
BMSDC Strategic Planning (by email 30 th August 2019)	Questions at the Joint Local Plan Briefing on 6 th August 2019 in Stowmarket
Suez UK (by email 23/7/2019)	Suffolk energy-from-waste facility monthly site update for August.
Suez UK (by email 30th August 2019)	Suffolk energy-from-waste facility monthly site update for September.
Suffolk Preservation Society (by email 17/7)	Launches of 10-year Manifesto
SCC Highways Communications (by email 29 th August 2019)	Revised grit bin procedures.

Councillors noted these.

17. To note the date of the next Meeting –
9th October 2019 at 7.30pm and any items for the Agenda.
Councillors noted this. No items were put forward for the Agenda.

The meeting was closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed as a true and correct record of the Parish Council meeting of 4th September 2019.

Steve Plume – Chairman Great Blakenham Parish Council

Date – 9th October 2019.