

GREAT BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Parish Rooms, Great Blakenham on **Thursday, 10th February 2022 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors:	S Plume (Chairman) W Durrant J Field
In Attendance	J Blackburn – Temporary Clerk County Cllr C Chambers

GB1/100222 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

None had been received.

GB2/100222 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None had been received.

GB3/100222 – THE PARISH COUNCIL

- a) **Update** - Cllr Plume reported that the Clerk to the Parish Council had resigned with immediate effect. She had not worked any notice. He also reported that one of the Parish Councillors had resigned in January.
- b) **Increase in Councillors** – Mr Eoin McNamee had expressed an interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

It was AGREED: That Mr McNamee be co-opted onto the Parish Council.
- c) **Replacement Clerk** – Cllr Plume reported that he had advertised the post of Parish Clerk, which had resulted in five expressions of interest. Interviews would be arranged in due course.
- d) **Yearly Audit** – Cllr Plume reported that as the Clerk had not arranged for the Parish Council's accounts to be audited for 2020/21 the Parish Council would be fined £300.
- e) **Accounts** – A precept confirmation had not been submitted to BMSDC so Cllr Plume submitted the Precept for 2022/23 of £48,478 which was the same amount as the previous year, 2021/22.

It was AGREED: That the application for the 2022/23 Precept of £48,478 following the emergency action of the Chairman be ratified.
- f) **Cemetery** – Cllr Plume reported that it had come to light that work had not been undertaken in this area for some time which had caused a mistake to be made. The Grave Digger had contacted Cllr Plume in relation to confirmation of a grave needing to be dug, which had not been confirmed. Fortunately the Grave Digger had chased this in time before the funeral took place.
- g) **Allotments** – Work was currently outstanding.

GB4/100222 – PUBLIC FORUM

There were six members of the public present.

- a) **To receive the County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Chambers reported the following points:

- Budget meeting had been held the previous week - £1 million had been allocated to Suffolk Highways over the next four years to be used for signage and grass cutting
- Drainage Schemes had been planned
- 10,000 SCC owned street lights had been replaced with LEDs
- Village Gates – had spoken to Highways who had confirmed that something would happen with these in the near future
- Crossing – request had been made to change the Zebra crossing with traffic lights

Cllr Chambers explained that due to funding for Children's Services, which had taken a lot of the budget, Highways in the past had had limited funds to replace broken road signs and reduce grass cutting. Now funding had been put aside these things plan to be improved.

b) To receive the District Councillor's Report

Cllr Fields reported the following points:

- Port One -The reserved matters application adding detail to the outline planning permission for phase 5, units 7 to 10 of the Port One Logistics Park on Blackacre Hill was submitted on 8th February. This development, like the District Councils Gateway 14 was within the low tax, low regulation Freeport East.
- Solar Farms – currently three – covering large areas – 60 hectares
- Bramford - Twinstead Line extension – most cables would be above ground – consultation on now
- Budget – the District Council were currently putting £1.5 million funding into small schemes across the district from its reserves.
- The Council Tax for the next financial year had been frozen, meaning no increase in Council Tax.
- A pilot scheme was underway which would ensure people would have more say in planning applications.
- Insulation for houses – there was more pressure for homeowners to move from gas to heat pumps for climate change purposes so the District Council were looking into schemes to look at their buildings and what could be done to move towards such schemes.

c) Questions from Members of the Public –

Members of the public present questioned the crossing being changed from a zebra crossing to traffic lights. They expressed their concern over the light pollution traffic lights could bring, especially as the crossing was adjacent to their property. They also felt that the crossing should be repositioned as pedestrians had not been observed using the crossing in its current location.

Cllr Plume explained that the crossing was on the main route for children walking to school and complaints had been made of incidents of near misses. A study had been carried out before the crossing was initially installed and its current location had been the most appropriate. The traffic lights would replace the flashing beacons and would be covered at the sides so as not to impact on neighbouring properties.

Another member of the public questioned the cost of the crossing and felt that a speed sign would be more appropriate.

Cllr Plume explained that an APNR (speed sign) had been applied for which unfortunately had been turned down.

Cllr Chambers confirmed that he would register the concerns raised with Highways and would ask for an Officer to possibly do a site visit.

On other matters, members of the public also asked for an update on the wildflowers at Budgeons and requested yellow lines on the deceleration lane by the Church, as parking was an issue.

Cllr Plume confirmed he would ensure yellow lines would be included on a future Agenda for further discussion.

He reported that in relation to the wildflowers the Roadside Reserves Officer had offered information and a plan as to what would be best to plant there but unfortunately she then left her post. The replacement in her post was un-cooperative and wouldn't engage.

Cllr Plume confirmed he would add this to a future Agenda.

GB5/100222 - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th NOVEMBER 2021

It was **AGREED**: That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 11th November be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

GB6/100222 - TO RECEIVE THE CLERKS UPDATE

There was nothing to report.

GB7/100222 – PLANNING

a) Applications

None had been received.

b) Decisions

The following planning determinations were noted:

DC/21/04358 - Land at Blackacre Hill Bramford Road Great Blakenham Suffolk - Application for approval of Reserved Matters following approval of Outline Planning Permission DC/20/03891 dated: 17/02/2021 - Appearance, Landscaping, Layout, and Scale in relation to the Construction of Phase 8 Units 1 and 2 Class B8 Warehouse buildings including ancillary office space, production areas (Class E (g)) and car parking deck - **Granted**

DC/21/05820 - Land at Blackacre Hill Bramford Road Great Blakenham Suffolk - Application for approval of Reserved Matters following Outline Planning Permission DC/20/03891 dated: 17/02/2021 - Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for the Construction of 2 Phase 6 / Unit 6 Class B8 Warehouse building including ancillary office space, with car parking, loading/unloading areas, boundary landscaping and continuation of estate road – **Granted**

c) Other Planning Matters

None.

d) Valley Ridge Update

Nothing to report.

GB8/100222 – GROWTH, HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

a) **Crossing**

This had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

b) **Gateways**

This had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

c) **Yellow Lines or Traffic Regulation Order – Plummers Dell**

Cllr Chambers confirmed he had sent an email to the resident concerned.

d) **Proposed Roadworks**

The Clerk suggested using One Network - <https://one.network/uk> where if you registered you would be notified of any road works or closures in your area.

GB9/100222 – GOVERNANCE

a) **Approve Tender for Street Cleaning and Village Maintenance**

Cllr Plume confirmed to members that the Tender had not yet gone out and suggested that this be reviewed first.

GB10/100222 – ALLOTMENTS

a) **Long term future of Allotments**

There was nothing to report.

GB11/100222 – VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

a) **Installation of Bus Shelter – South Side of Bramford Road**

Cllr Chambers confirmed he needed to chase this up.

A member of the public suggested a road sweeper being considered/looked into.

Cllr Plume confirmed that two dog bins had been ordered for the new estate. The order for the defibrillator had been delayed and a litter bin had been ordered for the bus stop the delivery of which would be 18 weeks.

GB12/100222 – CHURCHYARD AND CEMETARY

a) **Update on refurbishment of Cemetery shelter.**

No update had been found on this at the current time.

GB13/100222 – TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

a) **Training Booked**

No training had been booked.



b) **Other Training Requests**

Cllr Eoin McNamee requested that he undertake the New Councillor training – all agreed

GB14/100222 – FINANCE

a) **Payments**

It was AGREED: That the following payments be made:

Shades Home Maintenance - Dec 2021 - Churchyard and cemetery maintenance. Litter picking. Hackneys Corner maintenance. Sign cleaning. Bus shelter cleaning. Cemetery hedge work - £930 (LGA 1972 s214 (6) LGA 1972, s.215

Shades Home Maintenance - Dec 2021 - Extra street cleaning Stowmarket Road, Bramford Road, Hackneys Corner, outside Boltons - £480.00 (LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215

Shades Home Maintenance - Jan 2022 - Churchyard and cemetery maintenance. Litter picking. Hackneys Corner maintenance. Sign cleaning Bus shelter cleaning. Cemetery hedge work.- £930 (LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215

Shades Home Maintenance - Jan 2022 - Extra street cleaning on Stowmarket Road, village hall area, Bramford Road, area opposite and next to Boltons and extra emptying of bins at Budgens each week - £480.00 (LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215

b) **Financial Reports**

None

c) **S137 Donations to a Cancer and Dementia Charities**

It was AGREED: That £250 be donated to each charity.

GB15/100222 – REPORTS

a) **Virdor Liaison Committee**

There was nothing to report.

b) **Suez Liaison Group**

There was nothing to report.

GB16/100222 - CORRESPONDENCE

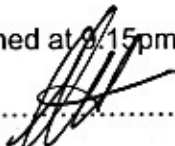
There had been an anonymous request from a parishioner that an incident of "land grabbing" occurring and it was confirmed that this incident was being investigated.

GB17/100222 – FUTURE MEETINGS

It was AGREED: That the next meeting be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 13th April 2022.

The meeting finished at 9.15pm.

Chairman:



Dated:

10th March 2022