

GREAT BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting was held on Wednesday 13th April 2022 at 7.30pm. at the Parish Room, Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham.

Present: Cllr. Steve Plume (Chairman), Cllr. Eoin McNamee, Cllr. Will Durrant, Michaela Butcher, District Cllr. John Field, County Cllr. Chris Chambers, eight members of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

MINUTES

1. To receive and approve any apologies for absence.
 - a. *No apologies for absence were received.*
 - b. *Announcement of the appointment of a Parish Clerk on 12th March 2022*

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.
 - d. To ask if anyone wishes to be co-opted on to the Parish Council
No one requested to do so.

3. Public Forum
 - a. **To receive the report from the County Councillor.**

County Cllr. Chambers gave his report:

98.5% of pupils in the area were successful in securing a space at one of their preferred secondary school.

A new initiative has been created for Suffolk residents providing guidance for low impact living to improve efficiency and reduction of emissions, further information can be found on the website greensuffolk.org

Suffolk Waste Partnership have launched a 12 week campaign to encourage households to recycle glass and use bottle banks rather than throwing it out with the household waste.

Suffolk County Council met on 24th March to discuss their relationship with Gasprom (a Russian gas supplier) and agreed to sever ties with immediate effect in light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

County Cllr. Chambers advised that since sending his report through in advance of the Parish meeting he had received an update from Highways about the possibility of changing the zebra crossing to a pelican crossing. Highways have advised that the cost would be approximately £130,000; the crossing would need to be relocated so that it is 20 metres away from an existing junction. Some other crossings have received funding assistance through developer contributions.

County Cllr. Chambers will look into the costing to change the existing zebra crossing lights to ones that use halo LEDs – these are directional, an example can be seen on the zebra crossing lights in Claydon.

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It was suggested that we could invest in some speed indication devices – either the ones that flash up the driver's speed, or ones that show a face with a smile or a frown depending on the speed of the driver. Required locations would be on the roads that enter the village - Stowmarket Road (from Needham), Bramford Road, and Gipping Road coming from Claydon. They may need to be mobile so the location can be varied around the village, so powered by batteries and solar rather than being hard wired. The Parish Council would be required to move them around. County Cllr. Chambers will look into the costings for these, as well as for devices that are permanently sited and wired into the mains.

County Cllr. Chambers had also received an update earlier in the day about the costings for gateway signs (albeit for a different parish) and advised that the cost is now £2000 per pair of gateway signs, inclusive of installation, plus a fee of £150 for the licence for the installation (this licence will cover all gates in the village). Until Port One is finished we will not have a gateway sign installed on Bramford Road as there are ongoing roadworks.

County Cllr. Chambers raised the issue of Plummers Dell and the previous subject of the installation of double yellow lines and asked if any further action / investigation was required. Parking in Plummers Dell is an ongoing issue (see also a complaint from a resident received on 10/03/2022) and Cllr. Field added that John Pateman-Gee at MSDC is moving to a new position in the next few weeks so we need to establish who his replacement will be.

Finally, the request for installation of a bus shelter on Bramford Road has been passed to Highways. GBPC suggested writing to the Secretary of Transport, to outline the frustrations experienced when with Suffolk Highways and the cost of using them for simple jobs, it isn't good use of our tax pounds.

b. To receive the report from the District Councillor (allow five minutes).

The revised building regulations are beginning to drive an improvement in environmental performance in recently submitted planning applications, but the financial impact of these considerations are driving developers decisions to include them.

A copy of the Planning Peer Review has been received in respect of the planning committee's operations and is under review.

Babergh and Mid-Suffolk Council will be promoting a 'Net Zero Carbon Toolkit' that has been produced as a guide for developers and individuals to work towards net zero for housing and industrial premises.

Babergh and Mid-Suffolk Council has published its first climate change and biodiversity annual report.

County Highways has received funding to improve walking and cycling facilities in the district, including in the Great Blakenham area.

A business case for development of Freeport East is to be submitted to the government by 15th April for review.

The tomato greenhouses at Bramford Road have been bought – the future looks hopeful but there will be no crop this year.

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Cllr. Plume enquired about Bathside Bay, and the lack of mitigation in respect of migratory birds and animals. Cllr. Field is unsure of the details but believes that areas will be set aside and not developed specifically for this purpose.

c. To receive questions from members of the public

A member of the public raised the issue of floodlights that have been installed on the Highways Assurance site in Pest House Lane – the light floods across the lakes and into Great Blakenham. The resident has contacted Barham Parish Council, the Environment Agency and the Planning Department as it would appear that planning permission has not been applied for. GBPC will contact the Barham Parish Clerk to raise this.

It was also noted that the bus stop outside the old farmhouse has vegetation growing out of the guttering – GBPC to ask Council Contracted Maintenance Team to clear this.

4. To approve the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 10th February 2022.

Approved

5. To note the Clerk’s update from previous Meetings.

Nil

6. Planning

a. To consider the following planning applications.

DC/22/01616	Unit 1 , Addison Way, Great Blakenham, Suffolk IP6 0RL	Erection of signwriting workshop NO OBJECTIONS WERE RAISED
DC/22/01433	Land South Of, Chalk Hill Lane, Great Blakenham, IP6 0NA	Reserved Matters Application for Outline Planning Permission DC/20/01927. Appearance, Scale and Layout of 8no dwelling houses and the Landscaping of the site to be considered. COMMENTS DEADLINE EXTENDED TO 20/04/2022 NO OBJECTIONS WERE RAISED
DC/22/01871	Blue Leighs Caravan Park, Chalk Hill Lane, Great Blakenham,	Application for works to trees in a conservation area – comments invited by 29/04/2022 GBPC TO WRITE WITH OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSAL

b. To note any planning determinations

DC/22/00030	52 Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk, IP6 0LN	Householder Application - Erection of two storey rear extension. NOTED
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c. Any other planning matters to note.

None

d. To receive any update on the Valley Ridge development.

None.

7. Growth, Highways, and Infrastructure

- a. To note any update on the Council's formal request to Suffolk County Council to change the Stowmarket Road zebra crossing to a traffic light-controlled crossing.
See County Cllr. Chris Chambers report.
- b. To note any update on the Council's formal request for new gateway signs for the parish
See County Cllr. Chris Chambers report.
- c. To note any update on the Council's formal request to Suffolk County Council for the installation of yellow lines or a Traffic Regulation Order for Plummers Dell.
See County Cllr. Chris Chambers report.
- d. To note any update on the notification to the Council of proposed roadworks by SCC Highways.
No update

8. Governance

- a. We missed the audit deadline in 2021 but will be undertaking the internal audit in the coming weeks, followed by the external audit in due course.

9. Allotments

- a. To note the update on the long term future of the allotments.
No long term update. No contact from Stern Farms land agents
- b. To update on allotment allocation.
Details are now on file for all allotment holders except for plot 11. GBPC asked all allotment holders present in the meeting to ask the ploholders on 11 to contact the Council if they saw them.
- c. To confirm pre-allocation maintenance to vacant plots.
Our Contractors have cleared and rotavated plots that had been unattended, and these plots have now been allocated to new holders.
- d. To consider quotes received in respect of the proposed fencing and sheds, to note the extension of the car parking area, and installation of a notice board and a dog waste bin on the public footpath.
Quotes received from a selection of fencing contractors to install fencing around the outer perimeter and internal fencing to facilitate a footpath, with one gate per two plots and numbers on the gates. The measurements from one of the contractors was significantly different to another so we will get them to visit the site again to re-measure.
Sheds will be constructed on concrete bases on plots that currently do not have a shed, and any existing sheds that are not fit for purpose will be dismantled and replaced with a new shed and concrete base should the ploholder require.
Replacement shed dimensions are 6 feet by 4 feet with an acrylic window – this size is dictated by the overriding tenancy agreement with the allotment site's landlord, but any plots with existing sheds can retain that size shed if they don't require a replacement shed.
Plot 1 will be sacrificed in order to extend the car parking area.

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A noticeboard will be installed in the car park and a new dog waste bin will be installed near the entrance to the footpath.

Council contracted maintenance team will be contracted to tidy up the public footpath as it isn't maintained by the landowners.

- e. *The tree that fell earlier in the year during a storm has been almost completely removed by a resident that wanted it for firewood. Only the stump and roots remain, we will contact our arborist for a quote to remove this.*
- f. *It was agreed that skips would be provided in the run up to the fence installation so that assorted debris that has built up on the site over the years can be removed, as well as old sheds that need dismantling prior to new sheds being constructed on various plots.*
- g. *It was noted that a dedicated communal compost bin section would be constructed in the new car park area after the installation of the new fencing.*
- h. *Allotment holders were advised that a new Plotholders Tenancy Agreement would be sent out for their signature and return, but it was noted that one of the clauses needed adjusting so the agreement will be reviewed and amended for distribution at a later date.*

10. Village Maintenance

- a. To note the Council's formal request to Suffolk CC Highways to install a bus shelter at the bus stop on the south side of Bramford Road.
See County Cllr. Chris Chambers report.
- b. Two new dog waste bins have been installed on the Mill View development.
- c. Commemoration of the Queen's platinum jubilee. The owner of Budgens has welcomed the idea of planting a tree (English Oak) on his land (Grass area to the right of the Moses Walk entrance) at Hackneys Corner along with a plaque and protective guard. Other ideas or suggestions.
Season for oak tree planting will recommence in June. A quote is to be obtained from the local forge for creation of a bench that can be placed around the base of the tree
- d. The new defibrillator has been installed outside Rand's Engineering in Chapel Lane – what three words location code is *///cost.Monday.shot*
- e. Road sweeping – it was agreed that M W Sweeping will be contracted to sweep for two hours per month for the next twelve months.
Viridor has advised that their sweeping now extends past the traffic lights on Hackneys Corner. Viridor are happy for M W Sweepers to tip on their site after each month's two-hour sweep. The kerbside of Stowmarket Road from the Needham Market direction into the village has a lot of compacted dirt that needs dislodging before M W Sweepers can effectively sweep this area. GBPC to contact Fews to see if there is any equipment, they have that could be used to break up this dirt. If nothing is available M W Sweepers will need notifying that an extra person will need to attend on the first sweep to break the dirt up with a shovel.
- f. Tree cutting on Hackneys Corner
See comments in 'Correspondence'.
- g. Streetlights on Hackneys Corner.
See comments in 'Correspondence'.
- h. Review of village maintenance tender
Tenders for lawn and cemetery maintenance, and litter picking tenders to be sent to all councillors.

11. Churchyard and Cemetery.

- a. To receive an update on the refurbishment of the Cemetery shelter.
Quote sought from specialist carpenter, update to be made at next meeting.

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12. 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.

Clerk training has been booked for the parish clerk, commencing every Tuesday from 26th April.

'Creating Wildflower Meadows' course has been sourced and will be booked for the Chairman, Cllr. McNamee and the parish clerk.

13. Finance

a. To consider approving and making the following payments:

Shades Home Maintenance	March 2022 - Street Cleaning - extra street cleaning on Stowmarket Road, Bramford Road, area opposite and next to Boltons and extra emptying of bins at Budgens each week.	£600	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215
Shades Home Maintenance	March 2022 Allotment clearance £144.00 per plot which includes hiring of rotovator – 7 plots worked Oak tree cutting back on plot 25 at allotments.	£1008.00 £120.00 (Total invoice £1128.00)	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215
Shades Home Maintenance	March 2022 Grounds Maintenance Grass cutting at St Mary's Church, Great Blakenham. Grounds Maintenance Grass cutting at The Cemetery, Great Blakenham. Budgens Grass Cut / Weeding Budgens Litter Pick/Bin Empty Street Cleaning Hedge cutting Hedge cut at Great Blakenham cemetery.	£1305	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215
Parish Room	Parish Room hire for meeting April 2022 to March 2023 inclusive	£220.00	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215
Glasdon	Dog bins – Mill View Development	£351.34	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215
M W Sweeper Hire	Sweeper hire and tip fee	£228.00	s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk costs February 2023	£103.75	LGA 1972, s.111
Sackers	Skip Hire – invoice 456148	£240.00	s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215
SALC	SALC Membership Subscription for 2022/23	£609.98	LGA 1972, s.111

Councillors unanimously approved the making of these payments.

- b. *To note the Council's Financial Reports for March 2022 including any payments made out of Meeting and any invoices for business direct debit card payments.*
- c. *Cllr. McNamee has completed the Barclays mandate form to enable access to the bank accounts, forms still to be completed and submitted the the parish clerk..*

14. Reports

To receive reports from Councillors assigned to the following:

- a. Viridor Liaison Committee - Cllr. Plume – no update
- b. Suez Liaison Group – Cllr. McNamee to link

15. Correspondence

- a. Suffolk Highways has responded in respect of report reference 00356621 - Bramford Road, Great Blakenham. The sign plate has slipped down but Suffolk Highways has visited the location and don't believe that remedial action is required at the moment; they will monitor the location
- b. Suffolk County Council Public Rights of Way Team has responded in respect of a report submitted about footpath 19 being blocked off by boarding erected by a property developer. This response indicates that they have looked at the wrong footpath in their investigation, an update to this effect has been submitted to the Public Rights of Way Team with a request for further review.
- c. An email has been received from a resident about tree cutting required on Hackneys Corner. All but one household are in agreement that the trees in front of the properties on Hackneys Corner need trimming. The trees are on council land but the hedgerow is not, it was planted by the developers on the development on the site. The Parish Council has agreed to pay for the cost of the tree management and will write to all residents on Hackneys Corner with the proposal for the tree maintenance to inviting comments / objections. Once responses have been received from all residents a decision will be made on the required approach.

16. Future meetings

- a. The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held at 7pm on Thursday 12th May, followed by the Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm and the members of the public left. The Chairman and Councillors agreed to re-open and continue the meeting after 9.55pm to process the signing of the cheques for the invoices that had been agree.

Meeting closed at 10.30pm.




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