

GREAT BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Members of the public and the press are invited to attend the Parish Council Meeting to be held on Thursday 14th July 2022 in the Parish Room, Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr. Steve Plume (Chairman), Cllr. Will Durrant, Cllr. Eoin McNamee, Michaela Butcher (Clerk), District Cllr. John Field, 6 members of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm

MINUTES

1. To receive and approve any apologies for absence.
County Cllr. Chris Chambers

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

- a. Councillors declaration of interest appropriate to any item on the agenda.
- b. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interest (if any).
- c. To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate.

One pecuniary interest - the Chairman's allowance for the year 2021 / 2022 is to be discussed later in the meeting, the Chairman will leave the room when this is discussed

3. Public Forum

- a. To receive the report from the County Councillor (*allow five minutes*).

County Cllr. Chambers was unable to attend the meeting

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

District Cllr. Field noted:

The District Council has underspent on its budget by £1M – whilst this is better than overspending, it does mean that some services have not been delivered as expected. The District Council continues to overspend on staffing as it is still having to use agency staff to catch up on projects after the pandemic. A new Housing Revenue Account Business Plan has been launched, these are set up every few years. This one covers the next thirty year period and will look at the acquisition of a number of properties over the next five years amongst other projects. The building of new properties was considered but was deemed too expensive at this time.

- c. To receive questions from members of the public (*allow fifteen minutes maximum*).

Residents raised concerns with District Cllr. Field about further clearance work around the Blueleighs development and the Great Wood, the ongoing perception that development seems to always get approved without concern for the area, as well as the lack of maintenance of the road leading onto the development.

A resident raised concerns and supplied photographic evidence about the height of the landfill on the Valencia site – it has significantly increased in recent years. The Chairman advised that he had recently spoken to Valencia and they advised that a licence had been granted to make the cell in question higher – the cell is uncapped and filled further.

Chairman Plume also noted that a new cell is being prepared further down the development to commence usage in early 2023

Chairman Plume also noted that he had spoken to the new General Manager of the development about the liaison committee meetings and these are likely to commence in the near future.

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4. To approve the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9th June 2022 Approved. The Chairman also noted for public information that minutes are not posted to the Council website until after the meeting following the minutes in question, when the minutes are then approved.

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

A design for a bench is still needed for the bench to surround the Jubilee tree

The Clerk has contacted two specialist carpenters and awaits their visits and assessment of the renovation work required to the cemetery shelter

6. Planning

a. To consider the following planning applications.

SCC/0073/22/ MS/SCOPE	Masons Landfill, Bramford Road, Great Blakenham, Ipswich, IP6 0JX.	EIA Scoping request for a proposed solar farm on a restored landfill Received after the agenda was published and emailed to all councillors Comments are invited by email, Chairman Plume will respond
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b. To note any planning determinations

DC/22/02495	Land North Of, Chalk Hill Lane, Great Blakenham, Suffolk	Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No detached dwelling. PLANNING PERMISSION HAS BEEN REFUSED
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c. Any other planning matters to note.

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None received.

7. Growth, Highways and Infrastructure

a. To note any update on the Council's formal request to Suffolk County Council to change the lights on the Stowmarket Road zebra crossing to halo lights traffic

Carry over to the next meeting as County Cllr. Chambers was unable to attend

b. Three new gateway signs have been ordered. Port One has agreed to install the gateway sign on the Bramford Road entrance into the village as part of the work they are doing to create a footpath and cycle path. The gateway sign on entering the village from Claydon will welcome visitors to the village, the reverse of the sign will welcome visitors to Claydon The new gateway signs should be delivered within the next five weeks

c. To note any update on the notification to the Council of proposed roadworks by SCC Highways

Carry over to the next meeting as County Cllr. Chambers was unable to attend

d. National Highways has advised that resurfacing work on the A14 between junctions 52 and 55 will be carried out in 2 phases over 2 months between Monday 25 July and Friday 23 September. Work will be carried out between 8pm and 6am on weeknights only. As part of this work they will also be replacing traffic monitoring loops in the road, replacing the road markings, studs and four safety barrier terminals to ensure the A14 continues to remain in a safe and serviceable condition. Clerk to update the Facebook and Twitter pages with this information.

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8. Governance

- a. To receive update on access to parish council funds from Barclays Bank
Cllr. McNamee has not been added to the mandate yet; he needs to attend the Barclays Bank branch in Ipswich in person to get submit some identification documents
When the Clerk dropped in an additional form a couple of weeks ago Barclays confirmed her name in recorded on the account records, but no paperwork has been received yet and cheque books and statements are still being sent to the Chairman's address as this is the current registered business address for the account
- b. To consider CIL money application to support projects
This has already been submitted
- c. To consider adoption of new Standing Orders
Councillors unanimously agreed to adopt the new Standing Orders
- d. To discuss the councillors code of conduct
A new Code of Conduct is being drawn up by SALC which will be available soon.
In light of recent comments on various social media the Chairman clarified that, if discussing Council business, a Councillor will comment via the Council's recognised social media platforms, but they are also entitled to express their own opinion on non-Council matters on their own private and personal social media accounts
- e. To consider S137 payment to Great Blakenham Chequers youth football teams (see correspondence)
Councillors unanimously agreed to a donation of £1100 to fund half of the cost of new goalposts needed for the Great Blakenham Chequers Football Club
- f. To discuss and review the chairman's yearly payment
The Chairman left the room at 8.25pm. Councillors unanimously agreed to a payment for the 2021 / 2022 year of £600.00.
The Chairman re-joined the meeting at 8.30pm

9. Allotments.

- a. To note the improvement works on allotment will commence on 11th July 2022
The Chairman has spent the last few days assisting our contractors with the clearance work in advance of the new fencing being installed. The outer fencing has been disposed of, 90% of the inner fencing has been cleared, the public and allotment footpaths have been levelled out, the car park extension is ongoing, and some of the sheds have started to be dismantled. The fencing contractors will be on site from 25th July
Clerk to contact Goddards to advise them that the Chairman will meet them on site on the morning of 25th July
Clerk to follow up Goddards in respect of the Armco barrier that is to be installed in the car park
Noticeboard has been ordered – see section 13. Finance

10. Village Maintenance

- a. Tree cutting Hackneys Corner – a letter is to be sent to all residents updating them on the proposed maintenance to be carried out on the Council owned trees. Including a note regarding their management of the hedgerow.
The Chairman will contact FSL Trees to ask him for a further review of the necessary works, this assessment will then be fed back to the residents and a date set for commencement of the tree management exercise
- b. Street lights Hackneys Corner
Information has been emailed to County Cllr. Chambers asking for assistance in establishing who is responsible for the these lights as we have been unable to establish responsibility
- c. To consider waste bin at the Chapel Lane bus stop
A new bin needs to be ordered from Glasdons (the same as the large one on the village hall site) – Clerk to order



d. Wildlife initiative – discuss supplying swift / sparrow / house martin nest boxes / insect hotels. Correspondence received from Suffolk Wildlife Trust with further details
Carry over to next month

e. We have approached Barking Forge to discuss the creation of a Platinum Jubilee memorial bench to be situated next to the tree that will be planted on the land outside of Budgens later in the year. Design to be drafted and submitted to Barking Forge for consideration

Clerk to speak to Rob about maybe drawing a design

f. To discuss turning the blue bench on Hackneys Corner into a yearly commemorative bench by re-painting, for example, this year is the 50th anniversary for Pride, or show our support for the Ukrainian conflict. Each year at the annual meeting of the parish we could receive suggestions for the next 12 months.

Councillors and residents unanimously agreed to paint the bench half yellow this year to show support for Ukraine. Going forward, a proposal could be put forward at each Annual Meeting for a suitable colour scheme / theme

g. To consider the management of trees as outlined in 15a

There are some overgrown trees and hedging along a strip of common land backing onto Mulberry Gardens. The Chairman will discuss this with FSL Trees when he talks to them about the tree management required on Hackneys Corner and will ask him to also review this area and come up with a plan of action.

11. Churchyard and Cemetery.

a. To consider any quotes for repairs and maintenance of the shelter in the Cemetery
The Clerk has contacted two specialist carpenters and awaits their visits and assessment of the renovation work required to the cemetery shelter – one company had previously provided a quote and needs to review it, previous quote to be reviewed, one company is a new contact

b. Email received from the Church Warden of St Mary's Church with regards to grounds maintenance that is needed. Correspondence has been entered into with the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Board of Finance to establish the responsibilities of Great Blakenham Council and the Parochial Church Council in the maintenance of St Mary's Church

The church warden referred to previous correspondence about the footpath (see also section 11). The Council is still looking into this and is trying to establish the official closure date of the churchyard and what terms were agreed at the time. The church warden noted that it was possibly in the 1940s which gives a more specific date range that we can use to investigate further. The Chairman has searched the London Gazette for further information without success so far, further investigation is required.

12. Training and Development for Councillors and Clerk

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

Councillor Training courses x 6 September to November 2022 – Cllr. McNamee

b. To consider any other training requests

13. Finance

a. To consider approving and making the following payments:

Shades Home Maintenance	Invoice 2192 Grounds Maintenance Grass cutting at St Mary's Church, Great Blakenham. Grass cutting at The Cemetery, Great Blakenham. Hackneys Corner Grass Cut / Weeding	£1710.00	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215
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	Hackneys Corner Litter Pick/Bin Empty Street Cleaning Blue Bench (Hackneys Corner) Clean Bus Shelter Cleaning Parish Council Notice Board Cleaning Cheque 102882		
Shades Home Maintenance	Invoice 2193 Street Cleaning Extra street cleaning on Stowmarket Road, Bramford Road, area opposite and next to Boltons and extra emptying of bins at Hackneys Corner each week. Cheque 102883	£600.00	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215
HMRC	Quarterly tax and NI contribution Quarter 1 ending 05/07/2022 Cheque 102884	£457.27	LGA 1972 s.111
Michaela Butcher	Clerk salary June 2022 Cheque 102921	£434.28	LGA 1972 s.111
Michaela Butcher	Clerk's expenses - mileage for March to July 2022 Cheque 102922	£19.08	LGA 1972 s.111
Michaela Butcher	Clerk's expenses – stationery Cheque 102923	£2.95	LGA 1972 s.111
SALC	Councillor training course – E McNamee Invoice 26190 Cheque 102917	£31.20	LGA 1972 s.111
SALC	Councillor training courses x 5 – E McNamee Invoice 26218 Cheque 102918	£156.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Coplestonians Football Club	S137 donation – Frame Football Team Cheque 102887	£2000.00	LGA 1972 s.137
Glasdon UK Limited	Gateway signs x 3 Invoice ref 3085135 Cheque 102919	£7393.89	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215
Glasdon UK Limited	Dog bin – Stowmarket Road Invoice ref 3087250 Cheque 102920	£270.96	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215
Suffolk County Council	Account ref: 9516120 Invoice ref: 9516120 Street lighting energy & maintenance costs April 2021 – March 2022 Cheque 102886	£1466.69	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215
Signscape and Signconex	New noticeboard to be in the allotment car park Invoice ref: 23419 Cheque 102888	£1485.13	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215

Sackers	Skip Hire – allotments Invoice OUT-88991 Cheque 102885	£240.00	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215
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- b. To note the Council's Financial Reports for June 2022 including any payments made out of Meeting and any invoices for Business Direct Debit card payments
The Clerk brought the financial report but omitted to bring the accompanying paper copies of the statements – these were emailed immediately after the meeting to Cllr. Plume, Cllr. Durrant and Cllr. McNamee to compare and approve the balances
Cllr. Plume suggested that the separate savings account is closed down and the funds transferred to the main current account
- c. To note the Clerk's invitation to join the workplace pension scheme
The Clerk is not joining the workplace pension scheme

14. Reports

To receive reports from Councillors assigned to the following:

- a. Viridor Liaison Committee – Cllr. Plume Meetings have not recommenced yet. The new name of the company going forward is Valencia
- b. Suez Liaison Group - Cllr. Plume attended a meeting on Tuesday 12th July. The new name of the company going forward is Viola. A key point that Cllr. Plume took away from the meeting is that their emissions schedules are being revised and tightened up, which is good news

15. Correspondence

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

- a. A resident in Mulberry Gardens has enquired about cutting back the trees and shrubs located on the strip of amenity land that backs onto properties in Plummers Dell – they are up to 25 feet high, very overgrown and cast shadow across the gardens in Mulberry Gardens and maintenance is required
Agreed - see 10g above
- b. A request has been received for funding of sports equipment for Great Blakenham Chequers FC
Agreed - see 8e above
- c. It was noted that The Bat Conservation Trust sent a thank you message in respect of the donation of £100
- d. Mid Suffolk District Council have sent out information about a wildflowers and re-wilding project sponsored by MSDC. Cllr. Plume has added a post to Facebook asking residents for location suggestions for this development – to be reviewed in the September meeting
- e. Shades Maintenance submitted a 'Community Self Help Scheme' form for completion by the Council in respect of works to be carried out alongside the highways – the form was signed by Cllr. Plume and will be posted to Suffolk County Council
- f. A resident has contacted us raising concerns about safety due to the parking of Highway Assurance vehicles in Masons Drive. Clerk to forward this email to County Cllr. Chambers. Cllr. McNamee noted that he has had contact with Orbit in recent months about action they can take to clamp vehicles parking on the development
- g. Suffolk Police has contacted us advising of a number of complaints regarding the occupants of an Orbit Social Housing property that moved onto the development in the last fortnight – investigations are ongoing



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