

## GREAT BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.30pm. at the Parish Room, Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham.

Present: Steve Plume, Eoin McNamee, Will Durrant, John Fields, Jamie Yates, Michaela Butcher

Apologies: Chris Chambers,

### MINUTES

1. (a) Update on the status of a new clerk

*Interviewed and agreed on new appointment. Post offered and accepted. Contract pending signing.*

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.
- d. To ask if anyone wishes to be co-opted on to the Parish Council

*Nil to note*

3. Public Forum

**a. To receive the report from the County Councillor.**

*Apologies given to chairman. No progress as of yet with Highways.*

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

*Discussed budget position. Agreed to freeze district part of council tax. Surplus funds remain in budget due to savings during COVID and vacancies from reduced staff expenditure. Rental property investment income potential reducing income source.*

*Proposed 2 zero carbon electric buses. Mostly for Stowmarket. Cost remains unclear for vehicles. The hope is that more vulnerable users could access public transport routes while reducing environmental impact.*

*More information pending on new county deal and how this will affect local decision-making powers.*

*Note digital skills training programme available for local businesses. New library noted in Needham Market*

*More money allocated to reducing rough sleeping in the district.*

*Building regulations improving aiming to be carbon zero and reduce energy costs. Note judicial review of planning at Thurston Parish Council of incorrect planning decision.*

*Disappointingly tomato growth at Bramford road greenhouses has ceased. Council is working to find a viable option for this to recommence. No current means of resolution to the issue. Discussion with members that this is a potentially short-sighted development.*

**c. To receive questions from members of the public**



*JY enquired if village hall committee agree to upgrade basketball net and hard ground at play area would council be willing to fund. If business case presented council will review.*

**4. To approve the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022.**

*Approved*

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

*Nil*

**6. Planning**

a. To consider the following planning applications.

	Solar panels on outbuilding at Tollgate farm	
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b. To note any planning determinations

DC/21/06969	Land At Blackacre Hill, Bramford Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk	Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/20/03891- Condition 5 (Ground Floor Levels), Condition 7 (Construction Management), Condition 11 (Materials), Condition 28 (Parking and Turning) (Part discharge of all conditions in respect of Units 1 and 2 /Phases 1 and 2)
DC/21/06970	Land At Blackacre Hill, Bramford Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk	Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/20/03891- Condition 5 (Ground Floor Levels), Condition 7 (Construction Management), Condition 11 (Materials), Condition 28 (Parking and Turning) (Part discharge of all conditions in respect of Unit 6/Phase 6)

*Noted. Chairman will return no major objections. Will request that the development aims to be more energy efficient.*

**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.

*No update*

b. To note any update on the Councils formal request for new gateway signs for the

*SP*

parish

No update

- 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.

*Noise complaint closed. Have enforced requirement for 24-hour operational application at Plummers Dell and Pest House Lane. Chairman will review possibility of adding relevant planning applications to GBPC website.*

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

No update

- e. To note - On 23 February 2022, Suffolk County Council made the above order under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which has introduced a prohibition of right turn for all vehicles travelling southbound on Bramford Road, Great Blakenham, into Blackacre Road.

*JY queried if alternative traffic controlled proposed to access Port One given size of development. Current proposal is to maintain current access.*

## **8. Governance**

- a. To confirm appointment of a new Clerk – see above

## **9. Allotments**

*No long term update. No contact from Stern Farm.*

*Use of space not as per allocation on records. 5 plots applied for. Fallen tree in 1 plot will be removed. Plot 1 will move to plot 12 when cleared. Plan to then improve car parking. Contractor will work to clear allotment next week. Water supply and gate need work as part of this. Local farmer will dispose of wood from clearing of fallen tree.*

*Discussed sheds on allotments – will discuss this at next month's meeting. Notice board on allotment proposed to improve engagement with users. Consider liaising with council to improve maintenance of pathway through allotment which has fallen into disrepair. JY suggested addition of a communal compost heap.*

*Note request from allotment users to add dog waste bin to end of path.*

## **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.

*Images of positioning sent to council Chambers to sort.*

- b. To confirm 2 new dog waste bins have been ordered for Mill View development  
*Chairman will liaise with developers to ensure appropriate siting not in breach of planning.*

- 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. JY will forward details of local provider. Agreed to pursue proposal.*

- d. Defibrillator for Rands is still on back order, Site contact is aware.

*Has been dispatched.*

*Quote obtained from private road sweeper from Fewes and Bramford road to traffic lights. Viridor will dispose of waste from this for free. Agreed to trial.*

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### **11. Churchyard and Cemetery.**

- a. To receive an update on the refurbishment of the Cemetery shelter.  
*Quote sought from local carpenter. Chairman will update at next meeting.*
- b. As we are unable to access funds at this time, I have asked our contractors to purchase the replacement hedgerow for the Lawn Cemetery and invoice us when the job is complete  
*Contacted today. Hedgerow has improved naturally. More privet to order to repair. Top bins to be contacted to dispose of soil dump.*

### **12. Training and Development for Councillors and Clerk**

- a. To note the following training already booked (if any).  
*None. Chairman to log on to portal to check available dates.*
- b. To consider any other training requests.

### **13. Finance**

- a. To consider approving and making the following payments:

Shades Home Maintenance	Feb 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	Feb 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
Parish Room	Parish Room hire for meeting 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	£20.00	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215
Wave	Water supply to the Great Blakenham allotments	£98.87	LGA 1972 s214(6) LGA 1972, s.215

*Note parish hall invoice will now be annually rather than monthly. Cllr Durrant still awaiting signatory status. Note donations to Ipswich hospital cancer fund.*

### **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 County Council Suffolk (Parish of Great Blakenham) (B1113 Bramford Road) (Prohibition of Right Turn) Order 2022. Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which has introduced a prohibition of right turn for all vehicles travelling southbound on Bramford Road, Great Blakenham, into Blackacre Road
- b. email from the church wardens relating to parking outside of the church

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*Church wardens contacted and will attempt to maximise the use of the car park. Given no breach of legislation this not yet enforceable. JY has questioned if yellow lines would be worth considering. Agreed to wait for pending applications to be completed before considering this.*

- d. email from resident relating to speeding in Blakenham Fields and installation of speed humps.

*Roads yet to be adopted so not applicable to council at present.*

*Note previous discussions about breach of planning due to positioning of new fencing at Tollgate farm. Ongoing debate about where land boundary starts before*

#### **16. Future meetings**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> of April for next meeting.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of May agreed for annual meeting and parish council meeting.



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