

GREAT BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Gt Blakenham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th October 2023 in the Parish Room,
Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Steve Plume (Chairman), Cllr Nick Leonard, Cllr Debbie Kemp, Karen Grimwood (Parish Clerk), SCC Cllr Chambers, MSDC Cllr Marriott and 2 members of the public

1. To receive and approve any apologies for absence. **Cllr Will Durrant**
2. Declaration of any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests
 - a. Councillor’s declaration of interest appropriate to any item on the agenda. **Cllr Plume non- pecuniary for items 9 & 11**
 - b. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interest (if any)
 - c. To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate.
 - d. Co-option of parish councillor(s) / to sign declaration of acceptance.
3. Public Forum
 - a. To receive the report from the County Councillor – **See attached monthly report**
Advised Cllr Chambers that we have received complaints regarding operating hours of current landfill site. It appears they are working outside hours and on weekends. Cllr Chambers requested to investigate.
 - b. To receive the report from the District Councillor – See attached monthly report
 - c. To receive questions from members of the public (15 mins) -
Has concerns relating to the planning applications for Masons Landfill site SCC/0091/23MS and SCC/0083/22MS . Operating working hours ,HGV traffic, Noise and dust ETC . Feels that living within an industrial estate. ? Has read the planning application but as a lay person it is very difficult to understand. Cllr Plume agreed and concerned that level of planning application engagement with SCC Planning Dept is not good.
Cllr Chambers to provide clerk with proposal breakdown of SCC/0091/23MS. Has been advised that it is 24/7 operation, but deliveries will be between 0700 to 1800 Mon – Fri and 0700 to 1300 Sat.
Cllr Plume concerned that operation hours between the two applications are conflicting and requested further clarification. Cllr chambers to organise a site visit with all parties and feels that application deadlines will be flexible.
4. To approve the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26th September 2023 - **Approved**
5. To note the Clerk’s update from previous Meetings.
 - a. Thank you email received from church for donation towards Christmas Festival & Fayre. **Noted**
 - b. Maintenance worksheets have been provided to Contractors to complete. – **Noted**
 - c. Adobe Pro has been purchased and installed. **Noted**
 - d. Notice board for Village Hall has been ordered. – **Note Request for payment was last minute so not showing on the payment requests for approval on this agenda. Had to be paid via BACS before they will deliver. £1927.90.**

6. Planning

- a. To consider the following planning applications

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| SCC/0083/22MS Consultation MERF | Masons Landfill, Bramford Road, Great Blakenham IP6 0JX | Construction and operation of materials recycling facility and associated infrastructure. Response needed by October 22nd 2023 – PC already responded to application and raised concerns on operating hours, traffic, noise and pollution |
|------------------------------------|---|---|

W DURRANT
9/10/23

- b. To note any planning determinations – **none**
- c. Any other planning matters to note – To review planning comments for Port One Extension
Email received 05/10/23 MSDC advising that the Port One Extension planning application has been delay until mid-November and a date will not be confirmed until a decision has been reached concerning PC objections to the application. Advised that the offer of solar panels on the village hall and parish rooms as a benefit would not be decided until a positive outcome was received regarding supporting the development.

Phone call on 12/10/20 from MSDC to chase to see if we are now in support of the planning application. Its fine for the PC to raise their concerns but it would be useful to have our support going forward as this may affect the size of the benefit to Gt Blakenham village.

PC feel that although the concerns raised on the application have all been addressed on Phase 1 & 2 and imagine the same will be done on this phase, at no point was the offer of the benefits to village offered on the understanding it was subject to supporting the development going forward.

Clerk to send email to be planning dept to confirm support now that concerns have been addressed to enable the benefits to go ahead.

Clerk to write an email to planning to complain on how this was handled.

7. Growth, Highways, and Infrastructure

- a. **SID Devices – Approval to purchase 2 SID devices**
- b. **Early Years Provision -**

Cllr Chambers advised that a potential site has been earmarked for early years provision in Barham. SCC and landowners have ordered a feasibility study on the current building onsite. If it gets the go ahead it would be leased for 25 years secured by SCC and may have scope to have 50 children to attend. PC to consider financial support if needed on the provision that pro rata placements would be guaranteed for Gt Blakenham children. Watch this space.

8. Governance

- a. **Update on EE contract and clerk phone – New reconditioned phone has been purchased .A block on the current EE account so will have to consider a new sim with alternative provider. Clerk to continue to be reimbursed for payment of clerk mobile and wifi hub on private account until contract is up for renewal. Bill to be provided monthly.**

9. Discuss funding /donations for Gt Blakenham Village Hall –

To date they still have not obtained access to the bank accounts and it may take as long as the end of October. The VH Chair has asked the PC for help. To hopefully donate to the Board funding to cover an external post box, Cash Register, Laptop, Pay as you Go phone (phone only), Printer/Scanner/Copier, Shredder, and Safe. The cost of these being in the region of circa £1,500 inc vat which will enable us to start moving forward practically.

In addition, they have some requirements around paying some reoccurring invoices and works to the overgrowth around the hall and are seeking a grant of £3,000 once they have access to the accounts – PC decided that as custodian trustees they would want to support the hall as asap and agreed to the requests. Clerk has discussed with Salc and confirmed this grant aid can go ahead under Section 19(3)of the Local Government(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

- b. **Budgets and earmarked reserves for 23/24 – Cllr Leonard and clerk to produce financial report for new year for next meeting**
- c. **To note Agar audit has been completed by PKF Littlejohn – Noted . Hoping that with new financial software that future audits will be easier for clerk**

- d. Update on Insurance – **Policy in place. Increased cost due to premium increases, increased fidelity cover and increased assets.**

9. Allotments

- a. Update on Sept 2023 inspection – **Inspection revealed some plots are still not being utilised. Agreed to inform these plot holders that PC will take back and re allocate to people on the waiting list. Agreed that will have to request contractors to help clear the plots in readiness and book further skips. Plots to be made smaller so will need additional 6 sheds to be ordered.**
- b. Update on tree surgeon quotes -**Agreed to obtain professional to crown the tree asap**

10. Village Maintenance

- a. Update for plaques for commemorative tree – **Agreed to order sandstone plaque. Cllr Kemp to provide link to clerk to progress.**

11. Churchyard and Cemetery

- a. Update on Sept 2023 Inspection – **Hedge cutting has been delayed due to weather this year but should be completed by end of October. The cemetery is not looking its best so will be instructing contractors to have a good tidy up.**

12. Training and Development for Councillors and Clerk

13. Finance

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

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|-----------|---------------|
| Shades | B | Hackneys Corner maintenance as per tender – Invoice 2383 | £135.00 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Shades | B | Grounds maintenance as per tender -Invoice 2382 | £507.50 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Shades | B | Street cleaning as per tender -Invoice 2381 | £1333.34 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Shades | B | Allotment Shed paint and labour – Invoice 2388 | £520.00 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Clerk | B | Reimbursement of EE Wifi Hub and Mobile costs June 23 -sept 2023 | £104.00 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Monthly Payroll | B | Month ending 31/09/2023 | £976.30 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| SALC | B | 6 months payroll services Invoice 27746 | £54.00 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Adobe | C | Adobe Acrobat Pro 1 Year -AE02020500672CGB | £238.75 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Rialtas | B | Alpha software, set up and training and support – Invoice 31014 | £538.14 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Ansvar | B | Insurance ACY2407980 | £1,008.59 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Cllr Plume | B | Microsoft 365 renewal reimbursement invoice-Z62J25UDBZUZ | £79.99 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Back Market | C | Re-conditioned replacement phone Clerk – Invoice 33490212 | £141.99 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| SARS | B | Donation | £500.00 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Signscape | B | Noticeboard – Inv 25174 | £1927.90 | LGA 1972 s111 |

14. Reports

To receive reports from Councillors assigned to the following:

- a. Gt Blakenham Village Hall - Cllr Debbie Kemp
Previous Trustees have not completed a handover and to date the new trustees still have not obtained access to the bank accounts . It has become very obvious that the hall was badly managed and if things don't change there will be no money to run the hall by next year. Trustees looking to obtain funding ,fund

raising and to continue to receive support from the PC . The sustainability report to improve the hall is a high priority. VH has asked for patience from the community whilst the problems with the transition are being looked at.

15. Correspondence

16. Future meetings

- a. To note invitation for items to be considered in the next meeting.- **Purchasing daffodil bulbs for grass verges.**
- b. To note the date of the next scheduled Meeting on **Thursday 9th November 2023** .

Karen Grimwood

Clerk to Great Blakenham Parish Council

Email: pc@greatblakenham.suffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 07508830777

Parish Council website: www.greatblakenham.suffolk.cloud

Date: 7th July 2023



091123

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT OCTOBER 2023

Transport grants to better connect rural communities

A new Mid Suffolk grant scheme will aim to increase community transport options across their district – to better connect local communities and reduce emissions.

This week, Mid Suffolk District Council's cabinet agreed to progress plans for a new 'environmentally sustainable' community transport grant scheme. The scheme will be funded by up to £820,000 that was ringfenced for rural transport provision as part of the council's 2022/23 budget.

The grant scheme's aim is to increase the number of alternatives to solo car journeys. This will, in turn, help lower emissions and improve air quality in line with the council's and the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership's net zero emissions targets.

It would be open to existing community transport operators, to deliver set and specified routes, covering as much of Mid Suffolk as possible. This would include strategic stops such as rail stations, colleges, supporting residents of all ages.

Operators would also have to deliver the provision in the greenest and most sustainable way possible. This could include utilising hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) or biofuel, and minimising 'dead mileage', with ambitions to go electric as soon as it becomes a viable option.

While developing a grant scheme proposal, the council will closely monitor other related projects. These may change the picture for service provision across the county.

They include local taxi-bus pilots, a number of Government grant schemes, and existing community transport provision, such as [Suffolk County Council's 'Connecting Communities'](#)

Cllr Teresa Davis, cabinet member for thriving towns and rural communities at Mid Suffolk District Council, said:

“This grant scheme is all about increasing availability and routes of community buses in Mid Suffolk, not only for those in need, but to offer more choice for people to opt for something other than their car.

“There’s still a lot of work and research to do with partners, but we look forward to being able to announce further details about these community bus routes soon.”

While it is hoped the new grant scheme could be up and running next year, further detailed research and consultation will be required first.

Joint Local Plan

Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s joint plan has been designed to help shape the districts to ensure residents and communities have sufficient housing, employment and inward investment, environment and heritage is protected, and the infrastructure is in place for healthy communities and thriving towns. It also incorporates feedback from thousands of community responses during its seven years of development.

Now, the first phase of the plan has achieved a major milestone – clearing a rigorous and lengthy examination process by the Planning Inspectorate – which means it can now be formally adopted. The Joint Local Plan is now expected to go before both councils for adoption at their November meetings.

Cllr Sallie Davies, acting cabinet member for planning for Babergh District Council said:

“I’m particularly pleased that Inspectors recognised that our Joint Local Plan contains appropriate policies to help mitigate and adapt to climate change, and allocates even more employment land than necessary. Most importantly, it will provide a clear framework for developers and our communities.”

The process has not, however, been plain sailing for Babergh and Mid Suffolk, with an announcement in 2021 that the JLP should be progressed in two parts, with housing allocations to be addressed in the second phase.

Community Climate Action Roadshows

Residents can find out more about the climate action they can take within their communities at community roadshow events next month. These will give residents the chance to speak to local groups and organisations about climate action tips, initiatives, and opportunities in their area.

There will be a series of drop-in style events across the districts, primarily on Saturdays throughout October. However, the drop-in at Stowmarket will form part of Stowmarket Town Council’s Go Green Go Wild event, taking place during the October half term. They aim to connect residents interested in lowering their carbon footprint and supporting their local area, with organisations that can help them.

Locations in Mid Suffolk include:

| | | | |
|------------|------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Eye | Saturday 7 October | 10am-1pm | Eye Town Hall |
| Bramford | Saturday 21 October | 9am-12pm | Bramford Village Hall |
| Stowmarket | Tuesday 24 October | 10:30am- 2:30pm | Milton House and Stowmarket Scout Centre (part of Go Green Go Wild) |

Stallholders will include a mix of organisations who provide a range of support and activities, such as:

- repair cafés
- isolation and community support groups
- wildlife conservation
- active travel and cycling – with the chance to try out a smoothie bike
- litter picking
- energy saving advice

Feel Good Suffolk: A new model for health and wellbeing services

October 2023 update

On 1st October 2023, a new service was launched called *Feel Good Suffolk* - a unique partnership between Suffolk County Council, district and borough councils (**including Babergh and Mid Suffolk**) and health colleagues. They will work together, taking advantage of their close community links to meet residents' needs.

This succeeds the OneLife Suffolk service, which has been in place since 2016, and links with the wellbeing work district councils already undertake.

District and borough councils taking a lead role

Previously, Public Health commissioned organisations such as OneLife Suffolk to deliver an integrated service, providing smoking cessation, weight management and other healthy behaviour services.

Feel Good Suffolk is a different proposition - rather than commissioning a separate provider, Public Health & Communities will work in partnership with district and borough councils to deliver a new approach. The focus is on prevention of ill health.

Residents should have greater choice with local providers in their area offering e.g. help to quit smoking, lose weight and to get active.

All of this will be delivered through a comprehensive face to face, online and telephone service.

The new model

A team of officers representing all partners has been working on the model that forms the basis for the new service. This will include recruiting and training *Feel Good* team members to support people in person, and a comprehensive website to provide information and support, as well as the means to refer in to the service.

What this means for the current OneLife Suffolk service

The OneLife Suffolk team has been in contact with all existing clients to make them aware of the new arrangements. When the service is no longer taking new referrals, clients will be informed and asked for

their consent to be contacted by the Feel Good Suffolk team from October.

To find out more speak to your senior lead officer on the Feel Good Suffolk partnership. For Mid Suffolk this is Di Robinson - email

di.robinson@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk or

Vicky.moseley@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

or email healthandwellbeing@suffolk.gov.uk

You can also visit www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/about-us/feel-good-suffolk

Improving the welfare of young people

Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils have introduced a new scheme to improve the wellbeing of young people in schools and connect them with their communities.

Launching in four schools across the district, the purpose of the project is to act as an early intervention for students, addressing vulnerabilities such as low self-esteem while helping them develop important skills and forge new relationships. Schools in Mid Suffolk are Thurston Community College, Stowmarket High School and Stowupland High. The day-to-day work of the project is being carried out by the Mix in Stowmarket.

Each school will have a 'youth link worker' who might be involved in setting up new after-school clubs, securing new equipment, improving facilities and beyond.

To ensure that these actions can be taken, an enabling fund has been set up to run alongside the scheme. The project will run for three academic years.

Ready, Steady, Rent! sessions to help break the cycle of homelessness

Dozens of people in temporary accommodation in Babergh and Mid Suffolk will be helped to break the cycle of homelessness thanks to a new training scheme helping households currently in temporary accommodation to move on to homes in the private or social rented sector.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' Housing Solutions service has partnered with The Stone Foundation to offer interactive learning sessions to potential tenants, helping to build their confidence and skills around basic domestic maintenance, budgeting and the everyday responsibilities of a home.

The initiative aims to help develop the skills needed to maintain a new tenancy and navigate the responsibilities need to successfully run a home, long term. This includes helping participants to reduce personal debt (including rent arrears), increase confidence and awareness of who to ask if they need support.

This interactive course is delivered over two days, in small non-classroom settings. Ten sessions are planned over the next 12 months, helping up to six residents each time, with places offered to those currently living in temporary accommodation or on the Central Suffolk Lettings rent guarantee scheme.

Councils help to tackle loneliness for older residents

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are joining forces with local groups to help tackle loneliness for older residents, by bringing generations together for free sing-alongs, games and fun.

The councils are once again lending their support to the Silver Sunday campaign, designed to help tackle the issue of social isolation, particularly for older residents in rural communities.

Silver Sunday first took place in London in 2012, but is now recognised nationally, with hundreds of events now taking place across the country – including five in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Local events will see students from Thomas Gainsborough School join members of the Sporting Memories group for games at the Kingfisher Leisure Centre, plus a rock n roll themed party hosted by the Ansell Memories Café at the Ansell Centre in Hadleigh.

Young people from Eye Local Opportunities group will be joining residents at Hertismere Place Care Home for an intergenerational sing-along and stories, with a similar event at Finborough Court Care Home for local schoolchildren later in the month.

The final event of the month is being hosted by Needham Market Football Club and involves Needham Market Sporting Memories group and Stowmarket and District Dementia Community Group, with mixed age matches featuring grandparents and younger family members.

*Adrienne Marriott
Blakenham District Councillor
03/10/23*



New and independent fire control centre gives the best deal for Suffolk

A new fire control centre fitted with state-of-the-art communications for mobilising and managing Suffolk's firefighters would be in the best interests of the county, a report to councillors says.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) announced in June it would be withdrawing from the shared control room arrangement in place since 2011 with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire and Rescue Service, based in Huntingdon.

The report recommending approval to Suffolk County Council's Cabinet, due to sit on Tuesday September 12, says fire control would now be brought back into the county by the end of 2024.

The report says the move is necessary because a project to replace the current mobilising technology agreed by both services in 2019, is currently two years overdue.

In addition, the French company providing the new technology entered "Redressment Judiciaire" a form of financial administration which resulted in the freezing of its assets and liabilities. If the company comes out of administration, it will remain with its liabilities to pay.

SFRS concluded the non-delivery and missed milestones by the new technology provider, together with its financial predicament, means continuing with the current IT mobilising project presents an unacceptable risk to firefighters and the public.

This risk should be mitigated as soon as possible by Suffolk having its own control room using tried and tested systems.

However, the current system continues to mobilise the emergency response effectively, keeping Suffolk safe.

An initial capital investment of £1.588m would be required for project delivery over three years. Additional revenue service of £1.615m annually will need to be provided to support the operating cost of the control room.



Public views sought over improvements to A140

Suffolk County Council has identified three junctions on the A140 – the Thornham Magna junction, the A1120 Earl Stonham junction, and the A140/B1078 junction, which also connects to the A14 – as pinch-point areas that may benefit from improvement.

The assessments show that these junctions are likely to suffer from increasing traffic congestion and associated road safety problems in the future.

Analysis has also shown that they lack sufficient infrastructure for active travel and passenger transport.

With these concerns in mind, the county council is seeking the public's feedback to inform future bids for funding from the Department of Transport to improve the junctions.

A public survey has launched today and will run for six weeks, closing on Sunday 15 October. More information can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/a140

Take part in the survey: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/A140MRNsurvey

Inflation, SEND school transport and care costs contribute to council's predicted overspend

Inflation, school transport for children with SEND, and looking after children in care are the main factors for SCC forecasting to spend £22.3m over its £688.1m budget for this year.

This is a similar story for many councils across the country, due to higher demand for their services, inflation remaining higher than expected for longer, and interest rates rising to levels not forecast by financial markets.

Recent research by the County Councils Network suggests that England's largest councils will need to make at least £1bn in savings to balance their current 2023/24 budgets.

A BBC investigation also reported that councils expect to be £5.2bn short of balancing budgets by April 2026, the average council facing a £33m predicted deficit by 2025-26.

Suffolk County Council projects a 4% overspend (£29.3m), to be partially offset by an additional Section 31 grant from Government, and additional income from the pooling of business rates with the district and borough councils in Suffolk, totalling £7m.

Chris Chambers - County Councillor for the Gipping Valley Division
Mob : 07595310290 E-mail : chris.chambers@suffolk.gov.uk



Details of the main areas of overspend are:

- **School transport** - forecast to overspend by £11.4m (39% of the overspend), with £8.3m of this being travel costs for children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). This is largely due to more children with SEND needs, transport operators being in limited supply, and rising costs from those operators who are also feeling the impacts of inflation, especially fuel costs.
- **Children in care** - forecast to overspend by £8.2m (28% of the overspend). The council has a responsibility to provide care for children and young people under the age of 18. Some of these have incredibly complex needs requiring 24-hour care from multiple carers. There is currently an unexpectedly higher number of children requiring this support, with this costing an average of £22,700 per week, per child.
- **Adult care services** - forecast to overspend by £3.5m (12% of the overspend) for purchasing care, due to increases in demand, and staffing costs in the sector. The fees paid for residential and nursing placements remain high with 64% of new residential and nursing packages being above the published rate of £806 per week, with some specialist packages being over £1,500 per week.
- **Inflation** - inflation and interest rates have been higher than experienced in a generation, with the legacy of COVID-19 continuing to have a significant impact of on various services. As an example, there is an estimated £3.0m (10% of the overspend) pressure as pay settlements continue to be above historical norms as inflation has remained stubbornly high during 2023 so far. High interest rates mean it has been more costly than anticipated to borrow money, which the council does to help fund big projects, such as upgrading highways, maintaining schools or developing household recycling centres.

In addition to the net overspend of £22.3m from this main budget, the council is forecasting an overspend of £15.8m against its £256.5m budget from the Dedicated Schools Grant and Pupil Premium Grant. This is money from Government specifically to fund schools and services for pupils. This overspend comes solely from resources spent on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision, not including school transport. Suffolk, like many other local authorities, is seeing a continuous increase in demand which is not being met by the same level of increase in funding.

Despite these challenges, council departments continue to make savings. This year's budget identified £25.1m of savings to be made, and the latest figures show that £20m of this is projected to be achieved.

Chris Chambers - County Councillor for the Gipping Valley Division
Mob : 07595310290 E-mail : chris.chambers@suffolk.gov.uk



Councils unite against National Grid pylon proposals

In a [joint letter to National Grid](#), the leaders of the three councils address the extensive impact on landscapes and local communities that the scheme would bring.

They also highlight that an offshore solution has not been sufficiently investigated, and the opportunities that this could bring to co-ordinate with other large-scale energy projects off the region's coast.

The Norwich to Tilbury project would see 114 miles of electricity pylons weave their way through the three counties. Only a small percentage of this cabling would go underground, an issue which the councils also raise, stating that more would be needed particularly in the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and near Diss and the Waveney Valley.

National Grid held a second, non-statutory consultation, which closed on 21 August 2023. It is expected that a statutory consultation will take place in 2024.