

GREAT BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Gt Blakenham Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13th April 2023 in the Parish Room, Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Steve Plume (Chairman), Cllr Will Durrant, Karen Grimwood (Parish Clerk), District Cllr John Field and four members of the public.

Minutes

1. To receive and approve any apologies for absence. **Cllr Kemp, Cllr McNamee, Cllr Leonard, SCC Cllr Chambers**
2. Declaration of any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests
 - a. Councillor's 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. Co-option of parish councillor(s) / to sign declaration of acceptance. **None**
3. Public Forum
 - To receive the report from the County Councillor – **See attached Report**
 - To receive the report from the District Councillor – **See attached report**
 - To receive questions from members of the public
 1. **Resident very concerned with the misleading article in the local paper asking the local public to make suggestions for the gifted Port One land supposedly called Gt Blakenham Riverside Park. Questions were asked about who decided to call it a park, would the PR company retract the article, why has it been suggested for any development when the deeds state the land is water meadow grazing land and is not fit for development, were the parish council aware of the article, who is responsible for the bridge.**
Parish council (PC) advised that they were not made aware of the article. Cllr Plume contacted the PR company(PR) and gave them further information about the land and the fact that it floods in the winter, has no vehicle access or potential parking . PR company apologised for calling the project a Park. PC has asked for a meeting so that PR company can come and see the land and have a full discussion on the future of the land. PC would want to ensure that all parties ie MSDC,PR,PC and planning talk to each about the project and who will take over the maintenance. Cllr Durrant will investigate who is responsible for the bridge . It was suggested that the project be called "Water Meadows ". PC would be keen to keep the land as wild as possible .
 2. **Resident has concerns of proposed Highways Map of two lanes of traffic coming from Sroughton direction towards Claydon merging with the traffic turning left into Bramford Road . It is felt that this will not help the traffic build up but will in fact make it worse.**
4. To approve the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9th March 2023. **Approved. Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting 2nd March were also approved.**
5. To note the Clerk's update from previous Meetings.
Has now received the breakdown costs for the request to donate towards the replacement of the Parish Room doors and back window. MSDC are making a significant donation so it was agreed that PC would donate the shortfall of £6000.00 to the Parish rooms.
6. Planning
 - a. To consider the following planning applications.

SCC/0083/22M S	Masons Landfill, Bramford Road, Great Blakenham, Ipswich, IP6 0JX.	This is a re-consultation following requests from consultees for additional information.
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PC has concerns that solar farm would not be environmentally aligned with the land. Would future development planning for the pits such as Valley Ridge have less scope if the view is less attractive with solar panels. Was aware that a recent poll states that the landowners are against a solar farm.

- b. To note any planning determinations.

DC/23/01177	20 Chequers Rise, Great Blakenham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 0LT	This is a re-consultation following requests from consultees for additional information.
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Noted

- c. Any other planning matters to note – **None received**

7. Growth, Highways, and Infrastructure

- a. Update on replacement of Zebra crossing lights Stowmarket Road. **Cllr Chambers will email to clerk as unable to attend meeting**
- a. Update on faulty crossing flood lights Gipping Road adj. Masons Drive. **Advised that this has now been fixed**
- b. To discuss instalment of bus shelter on Bramford Road. **The shelter has been installed and positioned as to avoid underground services; we have been advised that road markings will be renewed soon.**
- c. To note report on 3rd Party Asset Maintenance and Energy costs. **Suffolk Highways are in procurement stage for a new street lighting contractor who will begin 1st October 2023. Once in place they will have a better idea of the maintenance costs for the forthcoming year. Cost for year 2022-2023 are £2000.64 +VAT**
- d. To discuss Gt Blakenham Riverside Park regeneration. **Discussed in question 3**

8. Governance

- a. To consider new phone contract for Cllrs phone. **Agreed a new contract at no further cost but has better minutes, £15 per month**
- b. To consider cost of Wifi hub for Parish Council meetings. **Agreed as was considered cheaper than requesting to install phone line and paying for Wifi and line on behalf of parish rooms £17 per month**
- c. To note internal audit is booked 2nd May- 5th May 2023. **Noted**
- d. To discuss village engagement survey. **This will be completed by GBVHC and they will provide PC of outcome once completed.**
- e. To discuss communications between clerk and councillors. **Postponed until next meeting**
- f. To review / adopt policies. **Agreed that clerk can update policies if only small change but if there are significant changes will need agreement in council meeting**
- g. To discuss play equipment on Village Hall Playing Field. **Two reps from GBVHC advised that they have agreed to take full control of the Playground project and maintenance. They will be using Playquip as contractors and this includes a yearly inspection of play equipment. Two new multiplay pieces of equipment have been ordered with an upper and lower section, an inclusive roundabout and renovation of remaining equipment to all safety requirements and stainless steel. Looking at July as installment date. Included will be a pathway to give**

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everyone access to equipment. Would appreciate any help with Phase two of the project to see if any further equipment could be added. Advised that they cannot increase the play area too far as this will encroach on the football pitch. Will be applying for funding to help achieve completion of project. Would like to note that working with the two representatives from the PC on this project was very positive.

- h. To note refund cheque from Barham Picnic Site Project has been reissued due to problems with signature mandate. **Noted**
- i. To note that communications with Rialtas are ongoing and looking to go live in June/July 2023. **Noted**

9. Allotments.

- a. To note that we have a waiting list for plots. **Agreed that clerk can contact all plot holders to see if still want to continue with plots and to see if anyone would be interested in halving a plot so that can offer to people on waiting list.**

10. Village Maintenance

- a. To discuss tree maintenance and quotes for Mulberry Gardens. **Awaiting another quote for costs as current quote appears to be too high**

11. Churchyard and Cemetery.

- a. To consider any options for the rebuild and maintenance of the shelter in the Cemetery. **Noted**

12. Training and Development for Councillors and Clerk

- a. To note that Salc provides 2-hour councillor training for new nominees and anyone requiring refresher. **Noted**

13. Finance

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

Shades	B	Removal and replace of tap at allotments - 2307	£73.90	LGA 1972 s111
Shades	B	Hackneys Corner Maintenance as per tender - 2305	£200.60	LGA 1972 s111
Shades	B	Grounds maintenance as per tender -2304	£507.50	LGA 1972 s111
Shades	B	Street cleaning as per tender -2306	£1300.00	LGA 1972 s111
Monthly Payroll	B	Month ending March 31 st 2023	£893.75	LGA 1972 s111
HMRC	B	P30 Employer contributions	£56.19	LGA 1972 s111
ICO	C	ICO/Data protection renewal fee	£40.00	LGA 1972 s111
Parish Rooms	B	Parish Rooms Yearly Hire fee	£200.00	LGA 1972 s111
Salc	B	Payroll services period ending 31 st March 2023- 26783	£54.00	LGA 1972 s111
1 st Claydon Scout Group	B	Contribution towards new "Cosy Corner "	£1000.00	LGA 137

14. Reports

To receive reports from Councillors assigned to the following:

- a. Gt Blakenham Village Hall – Two reps from GBVHC advised that they have instructed a sustainability report for the village hall and once they receive the report will be looking to renovate the hall as their next project. They will be applying for funding and grants and would welcome any help from the Parish Council and MSDC. They are looking to encourage clubs to use the village hall new and old. Advised that they have completed their yearly finances but just need to be submitted. They have had a recent resignation of their secretary and will be looking to replace asap. Note that they are very positive for the future running of the village hall going forward.

15. Correspondence

- b. Email wanting update on the problems concerning the landfill sight. **Cllr Chambers will email to clerk as unable to attend meeting**
- c. Email concerning access to Blue Barn Lane. **This has been reported to Highways and Footpaths as no access for pushchairs or bikes. Awaiting response**

16. Future meetings

- a. To note invitation for items to be considered in the next meeting.
- b. To note the date of the next scheduled Meeting on Thursday 11th May 2023 and any items for the agenda.

Karen Grimwood

Clerk to Great Blakenham Parish Council

Email: pc@greatblakenham.suffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 07508830777

Parish Council website: www.greatblakenham.suffolk.cloud

Date: 14th April 2023

11.5.23

Signature

sf

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'sf' with a flourish underneath.

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Karen Grimwood


Clerk to Great Blakenham Parish Council

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Phone: 07508830777

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Date: 14th April 2023

11.5.23
Signature  SR

98% of pupils receive a place at one of their preferred secondary schools on National Offer Day

98% of children were offered a place on National Offer Day at one of their three preferred schools and 93% were offered a place at their first preference school.

Suffolk County Council received 8,083 applications from parents and carers indicating which secondary school they would prefer their child to transfer to in September 2023. This is approximately 300 more applications than received last year.

Families who applied online can log on to the Admissions Portal from today to see the school their child has been offered. They will also receive an email to confirm this offer. Letters will be sent to parents who made a paper application by second class post today (1 March 2023).

Fees waived for communities to celebrate His Majesty the King's Coronation

To mark the celebration of His Majesty The King's Coronation, Suffolk County Council has waived fees associated with applications to close roads for street parties and other local authority led public events.

Charles III's coronation will take place at Westminster Abbey in London on Saturday 6 May, where the King will be crowned alongside Camilla, the Queen Consort. This is the first coronation of a monarch in the UK since the late Queen's ceremony which was staged on June 2, 1953.

Events will be taking place across the country, between 6 and 8 May 2023. This bank holiday gives communities and people throughout the UK the opportunity to come together and celebrate with their neighbours. Many of Suffolk's residents will also be giving up their time as volunteers to bring people together as part of The Big Help Out. For all events planned over the weekend, which is being referred to as The Coronation Big Lunch, Suffolk County Council will not be charging fees normally associated with road closures for events.

BLAKENHAM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR JOHN FIELD

APRIL 2023

I am rather sad to say that, after some 22 years, this will be my last report to you. I have decided it is time to retire as your District Councillor, having retired from the County two years ago. In these reports I have tried to avoid Council jargon and “blah, blah, blah” and hope I have been reasonably successful and that you have found them informative.

The District Council elections will be on 4th May. Please all go and vote. It is vital for democracy that you make your opinions known by voting for a representative to fight for your wishes, not just their own views and will work hard for you.

In this pre-election time I will just report on items from the last Full Council Meeting. There has been little other action.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The decisions from the latest review of the CIL processes and criteria were reported. A selection of the more significant considerations, extracted from a 170- page plan is:

- The use of District CIL to finance the boreholes needed to prove the feasibility of a parish heating system was considered. Although I considered this a good use of the funds the Member Panel considered that District CIL should not be used in this way.
- The use of District CIL for community led infrastructure projects involving business proposals, for instance a hall to accommodate a fitness business was debated. Members agreed that it would be inappropriate for a private business to benefit from District CIL investment.
- Funding for cycling and footpaths. The pilot scheme will continue for projects in the LCWIP, the local cycling and walking infrastructure plan, IDP, the infrastructure and development plan, and IFS with a community maximum threshold of £100,000.
- The rising costs of building works and difficulty of getting committed prices for CIL bids was recognised. It was decided that the period that quotes must be held be reduced to 1-2 months and updated quotes will be sought, if necessary, before decisions made.

- It was agreed that CIL monies need to be spent. The District Council should adopt a proactive approach to greater spending of all CIL funds.
- Finally, the team should work with the major infrastructure providers including the NHS, Education and Network Rail, to produce capital project workplans for next 5 years.

Local Planning Enforcement Plan

A plan to move planning enforcement to a more active role has been produced. We hope it will be a framework for getting deviations from agreed plans, or actions undertaken without plans, corrected. This would make a pleasant change from explanations as to why no action is possible or it is expedient to do nothing.

Pay Policy Statement

The annual pay policy statement that is required was presented with no great surprises. There were no obvious conclusions to be drawn that would require action. There was no evidence of a tendency for particular groups to hold all the low paid jobs or those with no promotion prospects.