

GREAT FINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th March 2024 in Pettiward Hall

Present: Cllr James Spencer (chair) Cllr Simon Waspe Cllr Lee Morgan
Cllr John Barron Cllr Richard Burton Cllr Ant Mann
Paula Gladwell – Clerk Cllr Penny Otton (part)
Cllr John Matthissen (part)

7 members of public

- 2023/3253 **Apologies for Absence** - Cllr Isabelle Campbell. Council consented to accept the apologies given.
- 2023/3254 **To receive member's declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registerable interests and non-registerable interests in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct for the items on the agenda and to note any request and determination for dispensations relating to those interests** – Cllr Barron declared a pecuniary interest in Item 8b (min no. 2023/3262)
- 2023/3255 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** - It was proposed by Cllr Spencer, sec Cllr Morgan that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved, with all in favour. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 19th February 2024 were signed as a true record.
- 2023/3256 **Public Participation** – It was confirmed that the invoice for batteries for the Buxhall Road VAS had not yet been received.
The reasons behind the resignation of the newsletter editor were questioned by a member of the public. It was confirmed that the editor had resigned with immediate effect and that the production of the newsletter would be carried out by councillors in the short term until a new editor could be found.
It was suggested by a member of the public that the newsletter was not a parish council newsletter. It was confirmed that it is the parish councils belief that they have responsibility for the newsletter and that the last two editors had been given clear guidelines on the responsibilities of the editor position. It was acknowledged that at its conception the first issues of the newsletter were printed and delivered with no costs involved by an independent person on behalf of the village. However, once publication costs were paid for by the parish council's funds and bank account, it has been considered to be a parish council publication. This has been the view of the last two elected councils covering the previous eight years.
It was confirmed that the previous and current parish councillors have acted in good faith and aimed to produce a newsletter that is a positive, informative publication that everyone likes to read and that further consideration of an editorial policy to help protect both the parish council and future editors is being undertaken.
Concerns were expressed regarding the planning application for a new access at Cagmans Farm. It was noted that a current application for an Operators Licence for an HGV business is pending for this address.
Concerns were expressed regarding the damage and disruption to the public footpath caused by the drainage works on the golf course. This path is not passable now due to the rutted tracks, shingle surface and open holes. It was agreed that this will be reported to PROW and questions asked as to why no temporary rerouting of the path was formalised.
Concerns were expressed that work had started on the reservoir at the golf club before any planning application had been approved.
- 2023/3257 **County Councillor Otton's Report** – Cllr Otton gave her report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Concerns were expressed regarding the ongoing management of the SUD's for the new development in Combs Lane.
- Item 16 was brought forward.
- 2023/3258 **Woodpecker Hill Wood** – It was noted that there are some residue funds in an account set up by the previous Woodpecker Hill Volunteer group. It was noted that the current volunteer group did not wish to set themselves up as a constituted group and take over this bank account. It was agreed that a request be made to the signatories of the old bank account that they close the account and transfer the residue funds, thought to be less than £50, to the parish council who would then pass them to the current volunteer group by purchasing equipment or materials.
- 2023/3259 **District Councillor Matthissen's Report** – Cllr Matthissen gave his report a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

- 2023/3260 **Clerks Report** – It was noted that the kerb repairs in Church Road had not yet been completed, this will be chased up with SCC.
It was confirmed that the application for funding to increase the bus service from Hadleigh to Stowmarket had not been successful.
The NALC recommendations regarding .gov.uk emails was noted, it was agreed that consideration of the costs involved in purchasing a .gov.uk domain and servicing email addresses be added to the next agenda.
Following discussion of the various consultations currently open it was agreed that no comments be submitted at this time to Suffolk County Councils proposed new recycling centre in Ipswich, BMSDC Joint Local Validation List revisions and SCC Local transport plan proposals.
It was noted that the Garden Club had requested the use of the Wildflower Meadow and Football Pitch to stage an event on 16th June 2024. This event will replace Open Gardens this year and encourage families to attend with walks and talks and refreshments. It was confirmed that councillors had no objection to this and would request that their insurance company be asked to cover public liability for the event. *(post meeting it was confirmed with regret that the Parish Council Insurance brokers had refused to cover this event as it will be organised by another group and that the Garden Club agreed to arrange their own cover)*
- 2023/3261 **Planning** – It was RESOLVED to submit the following comment to DC/24/00494 Construction of 14000m³ drainage reservoir. Stowmarket Golf Club, Lower Road, Onehouse. *"Great Finborough Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available"* Proposed by Cllr Spencer, sec Cllr Mann with all in favour.
- Cllr Barron left the meeting
- 2023/3262 It was RESOLVED to submit the following comment to DC/24/00652 Construction of vehicular access and hard standing. Cagmans Farm, High Road. *"Great Finborough Parish Council OBJECT to this application based on the information currently available. Concerns are expressed that the purpose of the hard standing and access are not explained in the application. It is understood that there is a pending application for an HGV Operators Licence which intimates that HGV's will be run from the site and parked on the hard standing. The application records a "no" in answer to the question of will parking places be provided which is misleading. There is no visibility splay information and to date no SCC Highways consultation response which reinforces our concerns that the entrance will not be wide enough for regular HGV manoeuvres and the lack of visibility near the bend in this road will result in safety issues for the access and egress of vehicles. There is no Ecology report submitted and no Biodiversity Net Gain information given which raises concerns as the construction of this hard standing has already commenced and any existing biodiversity on this meadow is already severely compromised. There is no information regarding the change of use of this site, the numbers of vehicle movements or the hours of work and concerns are expressed that any commercial activity will have a detrimental effect on the neighbours residential amenity with the inevitable light, fumes and noise pollution this proposal might create."* Proposed Cllr Mann, sec Cllr Waspe with all in favour
- Cllr Barron returned to meeting
- 2023/3263 The following MSDC decisions were noted; DC/23/04767 Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for conversion. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q – conversion of buildings to form 4 No. Dwellings – REFUSED - It was noted that this proposal has now applied for a Lawful Development Certificate and the Parish Council is not a statutory consultee in this process and DC/23/05771 and DC/23/05772 Listed Consent. Erection of single storey side/rear extension. Demolition of porch, conservatory and rear canopy. Replacement windows and render. Bridge Farm, Valley lane. – GRANTED and DC/24/00391 Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/23/05102 – Condition 3 (Dimensions) and 4 (Agreement of Materials) Pettiward hall, High Road - APPROVED
- 2023/3264 **Future publication of the Newsletter and Editorial and content policy** – It was agreed that the status of the Great Finborough Newsletter be confirmed as a Parish Council publication and that all funding from advertisers and payment for printing has been carried out by the Parish Council for many years with no evidence of an independent bank account. Proposed Cllr Mann, sec Cllr Spencer with all in favour. It was confirmed that editorial responsibility will be taken by councillors until a new volunteer editor can be found.
- 2023/3265 It was RESOLVED to approve the Editorial Policy as drafted. Proposed Cllr Spencer, sec Cllr Mann with all in favour.
- 2023/3266 **Finance** – The Finance report for March 2024 was approved. It was noted that the Bank Reconciliation had been checked and verified by Cllr Barron.
- 2023/3267 The following payments were approved. Prop Cllr Morgan, sec Cllr Mann with all in favour, Staff salaries for January and February.

- 2023/3268 Greenscene £620.00
- 2023/3269 Clarkes Fencing £110.80
- 2023/3270 Community Heartbeat Trust £130.74
- 2023/3271 Gipping Press £204.00 & £240.00
- 2023/3272 It was RESOLVED to appoint SALC to carry out the Internal Audit for 2023/24. The Terms of Engagement and Audit Plan were approved. Proposed by Cllr Spencer, with all in favour.
- 2023/3273 It was agreed that no contribution was possible towards the replacement of the City Lane fingerpost as requested by Cllr Otton due to budget constraints. Replacement of this sign would be postponed unless SCC could finance the total cost.
- 2023/3274 It was noted that the application to use the balance of the Lottery funds on the 5 year buffer zone maintenance had been rejected due to this timescale being outside the time for claims. Discussion took place around other possible uses for the funding. It was agreed that application be made again for 3 years for the buffer zone with current maintenance items for the play park added.
- 2023/3275 **Asset of Community Value Application** – It was noted that the current listing for The Chestnut Horse was coming to an end and to keep the pub as a Community Asset would need a new application. It was RESOLVED to lodge a new application to list The Chestnut Horse Public House as a Asset of Community Value. Proposed by Cllr Spencer, with all in favour. It was noted that evidence would be required to prove the community worth.
- 2023/3276 **Councillor Surgery** – It was noted that the next surgery is planned for Saturday 16th March 10am – 12 noon. It was agreed that the format remain the same and that the Community Police Officer be invited to a future surgery. The surgery will be advertised again on the website and Facebook.
- 2023/3277 **Annual Parish Meeting** – It was confirmed that the APM would take place on Tuesday 14th May 2024 commencing at 7pm. It was agreed that all groups and organisations be extended an invitation as usual and that refreshments be served.
- 2023/3278 **Village Maintenance** – The Annual Playground Inspection report from The Play Inspection Company was noted with an overall Low Risk conclusion. The recommendations to provide revised signage, improvements to gates and making up of surfaces will be costed for consideration at the next meeting.
- 2023/3279 Maintenance Work Party – tasks carried out at the January work group were noted, these included a village litter pick and the installation of replacement posts on the green.. The next work group was arranged for 11th May 2024 with a 10am start.
- 2023/3280 Brick plinth for village sign – There was no update for this project.
- 2023/3281 There were no other matters reported.
- Item 21 was brought forward.
- 2023/3282 **D Day 80 celebrations** – Plans for an event to light a bonfire and ring the church bells on Thursday 6th June 2024 were discussed. It was noted that this event will be held at Valley Lane car park and will be open to all. BBQ Refreshments will be served. It was confirmed that this is a parish council self funded event with any profit to be donated to a charity of the working groups' choice.
- 2023/3283 **Flooding Working Group** – The minutes of the meeting of 19th February 2024 were noted.
- 2023/3284 Approval of the draft letter to be sent to Suffolk County Council LLFA was deferred.
- 2023/3285 It was noted that Cllr Jessica Fleming had advised that attendance at the SCC Scrutiny Committee on 12th March 2024 was not a suitable platform to put forward our concerns and that the details of an alternative meeting will be forwarded to Cllr Spencer in due course.
- 2023/3286 Cllr Waspe outlined two projects that landowners had put forward and confirmed that he would liaise with Helen George at the EA to bring the parties together to progress these. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Flood Working Group be arranged once details of these projects were known. The next meeting would focus on landowner input.
- 2023/3287 **Footpaths** – Cllr Campbell had nothing new to report.
- 2023/3288 It was RESOLVED to submit the following comments to the consultation for; Proposed Diversion of Great Finborough Public Footpath no 4 (part) – Highways Act 1980 Section 119 – *"Great Finborough Parish Council has NO OBJECTION to the above proposal"* and
- 2023/3289 Proposed Diversion of Great Finborough Public Footpath no. 5 (part) – Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 257 – *"Great Finborough Parish Council SUPPORTS the above proposal. The creation of a lake, wildflower meadow and orchard at this site is welcomed by the parish council as a positive biodiversity project within the village. The rerouting of the footpath will negate the bird flu spread risk and allow for a better route around the new lake. Once the lake and planting is complete the proposed footpath route will allow for a much improved walker experience"*
- 2023/3290 **Correspondence** – There were no comments to tabled correspondence.

- 2023/3291 **Tree and Hedge Management Working Group** – The minutes of the meeting of 8th February were noted. Consideration of any recommendations was deferred.
- 2023/3292 **Defibrillator and CPR training** – Consideration of the provision of a training event was deferred.
- 2023/3293 **Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – None
- 2023/3294 **Motion to exclude temporarily the Public and Press** - It was resolved to exclude the Public and Press pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed concerning contracts.
- 2023/3295 The quotes received for open space maintenance were considered. It was agreed that the high cost of one quote be queried and that a further quote for the grass cutting be sought. It was RESOLVED to accept the quote from Green Scene for the contract to maintain the open space hedges and gardens. Proposed by Cllr Spencer, with all in favour.

Next meeting will be held in Pettward Hall on Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.30pm