

## LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting of Little Blakenham Parish Council on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30 pm.  
Due to Covid-19 regulations this meeting was held via Zoom.

Present: Cllrs. Wally Binder, Stephen Wright, Linda Keen, John Latham.  
Clerk to the Council – Janet Gobey.  
County and District Councillor John Field  
Five members of the public were present.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30 pm.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Cllr. Palmer presented apologies - work related reasons. Councillors unanimously accepted these apologies.

2. Declarations of any pecuniary and non pecuniary interests.

a. Councillors 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.

3. Open Forum.

a. To receive reports from District and County Councillors, if present.

Cllr. Field presented his report.

b. 15 minute Open Forum during which parishioners may ask questions and raise issues on matters that are not Agenda items. Councillors and parishioners will be able to ask questions and raise issues with District and County Councillors, if present.

Councillors noted that the Chairman had received a complaint about horses churning up footpaths in the recent wet weather.

Members of the public raised concerns about the proposed Somersham to Burstall windfarm

Cllr. Wright informed the Meeting that Somersham Parish Council are holding a public meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (by Zoom) for residents of the area to discuss the allocation.

**ACTION:** Clerk to email link to Councillors and also publicise it on the website.

Councillors agreed to hold an Extraordinary Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to consider the Council's response to the application. **ACTION:** Clerk.

Residents also raised concerns about Planning Application DC/20/05644. These included the impact on the landscape of the building (particularly the height), possible loss of trees, noise and light pollution and development of the site for agricultural purposes.

4. To approve the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and the Draft Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Councillors unanimously approved both sets of Draft Minutes.

5. To receive the update on Action Points.

Councillors noted this.

6. Planning

a. To consider any planning applications.

**DC/20/05644**

**Proposal:** Full Planning Application - Erection of agricultural building for storage of farm machinery and animal feed.

Address: Land Opposite Inghams Farm Nettlestead Road Little Blakenham Suffolk

Councillors thanked residents for their comments and presentation.

Councillors discussed the application and agreed that the proposed building would be too big and too tall (4.5m at the ridgeline) for the site. Standing as it does on higher ground, it would be overpowering in the landscape. They were also concerned about the principle of development on the field, which is in a rural area and outside the village boundary and has traditionally been used for equestrian purposes, rather than agricultural.

Councillors noted with concern that a large extent of unauthorised works have been completed without planning permission and are not detailed within the application. The site is nine acres in size and does not meet the qualifying criteria for agricultural Permitted Development.

The building is proposed to be very near existing trees and hedgerows which could be damaged, resulting in the building being more visible over a wide area. Bats are present in the area and Councillors felt that an ecological survey should be required.

Lighting and noise are also an issue and Councillors noted that lighting has been installed without planning permission.

Councillors felt that the application did not contain enough information on important matters. Cllr, Wright proposed that the application should be refused. This was seconded by Cllr. Keen. Councillors voted three to one in favour of the motion.

b. To note any planning determinations.

**DC/20/04450**

**Proposal:** Householder Planning Application - Erection of single storey side extension.

**Location:** 3 The Common, Little Blakenham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4JX

Granted.

Councillors noted this planning determination.

c. Any other planning matters to note.

To note the Council's request to BMSDC Planning to be included in the consultation for the Flowton-Bramford Solar Farm Planning applications.

Councillors noted that this had been agreed by BMSDC,

d. To note any update on the Valley Ridge development (formerly SnOasis).

Councillors noted that there had been no updates on this.

e. To note any update regarding the EA Windfarm construction work.

Councillors noted that the planned tree and shrub planting due to take place this winter does not seem to be happening.

f. To note any update regarding the Sterling Suffolk greenhouses project.

Councillors noted this.

## 7. Village Hall

a. To note the Village Hall Usage and Financial Report.

Councillors noted this.

b. To receive the Clerk's report on the current state of the Hall.

The Clerk reported that there had been damage to the kitchen area from the water leak and that most of the units would need to be replaced. The kitchen will need redecorating as wallpaper is coming off the walls. Floor tiles are lifting in the kitchen and the hall. The water had also gone into the toilet area, but the walls seemed to have dried out and should only need redecorating. There is now another problem with rainwater coming into the main room down the wall. The gutter immediately outside that area is either broken or blocked.

Councillors unanimously agreed that the Clerk should arrange for repairs as necessary.

**ACTION:** Clerk

c. To consider the Draft Tender document for the refurbishment of the Hall.

Councillors discussed this and agreed that a formal invitation to tender document should be produced. **ACTION:** Chairman.

## 8. Village Maintenance

a. To consider complaints about the condition of roads in the village, including Pound Lane and Valley Road just down from the Village Hall.

Councillors noted there were a number of areas in the village with large potholes and damaged road surface. Cllr. Field recommended that anyone who wanted to report a road problem should use the SCC Highways reporting tool.

The Chairman said that there had been complaints about an overgrown hedge on the road near the Village Hall and that he would speak to the owner about it. **ACTION:** Chairman.

b. To consider cutting back the hedges around the Glebeland play area.

Councillors agreed that the hedge to the left of the entrance to the Glebeland should be cut back and that fallen branches etc. from the other hedges should be removed. **ACTION:** Clerk to organise.

## 9. Finance

a. To receive the Clerk's Financial Report.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT**

**PERIOD 29/10/2020 to 29/12/2020**

**CHEQUES SIGNED SINCE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 17/11/2020**

SALC	Internal audit fee 2019 -2020	£186.00	LGA 1972, s.111
HMRC	Quarterly tax&NI deductions	£19.00	LGA 1972, s.111

**PAYMENTS MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT PERIOD 29/10/2020 to 29/12/2020**

26/11/2020	EON Village Hall electricity	£16.94	LGA 1972, s.133
24/12/2020	EON Village Hall electricity	£20.67	LGA 1972, s.133

**BANK BALANCES (end December 2020)****Treasurers Account**

Payments - £699.61

Receipts

£100.00 - Village Hall (£30 meter money, £70.00 hire fees)

£20.67 – refund from EON of 24/12/2020 payment.

**29/12/2020 - £9535.08**

Minus uncashed cheques of £542.60

**Deposit Account**

**13/5/2020 - £2,935.33 (no new statement received)**

**FINANCIAL RESERVES November 2020****GENERAL RESERVE**

50% of the Annual Precept, plus one month's running costs.

2020/2021 Annual Precept 50% = £3100.

One month's average running costs (2019/20) = £700.

**TOTAL - £3800**

**EARMARKED RESERVES**

Replacement of electricity poles and replacement of light fittings with LED lights.

**£2000** is set aside as an Earmarked Reserve towards these costs.

Contribution towards Village Hall upgrade costs - **£4500**

**TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES - £6500**

**TOTAL RESERVES - £10,300**

Councillors noted the Financial Report and that the bank balance figures shown in the Report match those on the scanned copies of the paper statement from the bank that had been sent to them by the Clerk.

b. To approve the list of payments to be approved and cheques to be signed.

Nick Edrupt	Cleaner's quarterly salary	£90.00	LGA 1972, s.111
Janet Gobey	Clerk's quarterly salary	£553.00	LGA 1972, s.111

Councillors unanimously approved the making of these payments.

c. To review the General and Earmarked Reserves.

Councillors unanimously agreed that the General and Earmarked Reserves should remain unchanged from those approved in November 2020.

d. To approve the Running Costs budget for 2021/2022

Councillor noted the Budget Monitoring Report for December 2020 and unanimously approved the Draft Running Costs budget for 2021/2022.

e. To determine the Precept for 2021/2022

Councillors unanimously approved a Precept of £6500 for 2021/2022.

#### 10. Correspondence

To note and consider any response to the following correspondence:

By email 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 - BMSDC Tax Base and Precepts 2021/2020

By email 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 - Highways England A14 Junction 52 - 55 Concrete Road Repairs – Update

By email 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 - SURVEY: PCC's proposals for the policing element of the council tax

By email 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 – SALC Good Neighbour Schemes

Councillors noted these items of correspondence.

#### 11. To note the date of the next meeting and any items for the Agenda.

Date of next scheduled meeting – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021. No items were put forward for the agenda.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.38pm with thanks to all who attended.