

LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2016 IN LITTLE BLAKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Wally Binder (Chairman), Stephen Wright, Mary Whurr, Barry Palmer.
Janet Gobey (Clerk).
District Cllr. Kevin Welsby. One member of the public.

The Chairman opened the Meeting at 7.30 pm with a welcome to those attending.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Mehra – business trip. Councillors agreed to accept the apologies.

2. DECLARATION OF MEMBER INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Councillors about the need to declare any interests they had in any matter under discussion during the Parish Council Meeting. No interests were declared.

3. Open Forum

There was a question about the replacement of the street lights. The Clerk explained that the revised quote had not been received from Suffolk County Council Street Lighting and she had not chased it at present while the playground and the new noticeboards were live projects, especially as the lights are still functional.

There was a discussion about the condition of the Churchyard and the necessity for the PCC to ensure a risk assessment be in place. The Clerk said that she believed there was a model risk assessment for graveyards and cemeteries.

ACTION : Clerk to find this and forward it to Cllr. Wright.

District Cllr. Welsby reported that the Boundary Commission is reviewing MP constituencies but there are not expected to be any changes in Suffolk. Devolution negotiations continue, but there is no decision as yet.

SnOasis will be coming up before MSDC Planning in the New Year. A large amount of data has been received from the developer, but more is expected. Concerns were expressed about the amount of traffic the development would generate and it was felt that the roads in the immediate vicinity would be completely inadequate and would need considerable investment in upgrading to be able to cope.

It was reported that complaints had been received about the roadside signs advertising the recent jumble sale in the Village Hall still being up two weeks after the event. Cllr. Wright noted this on behalf of the PCC.

4. To approve the Minutes of the last Meeting.

The Minutes of the Meeting on 19th Septemberr 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct record of the Meeting.

5. To note the update on Action Points.

7c. Glebeland lease – no progress.

11. Not done yet while awaiting upgrades from new website hoster.

7b. No progress.

9. The Clerk explained that she and the Chairman had agreed that a bench would be added to the order. Swing refurbishment would be carried out by parishioners and Councillors. The site would be cleared of everything apart from the swing (including concrete footings) by Councillors Wright, Latham and Binder.

10. Cllr. Wright reported that no decision had yet been made by the PCC on whether to assume ownership of the portacabin and apply for a grant to replace it.

It was agreed that the portacabin was beyond cost effective repair.

6. Planning

a. To consider any planning applications.

None.

b. To note any planning decisions.

The Council noted the approval of:

Planning Application 2724/16

Proposal: Erection of detached garage

Location: Leather Bottle Cottage, Leather Bottle Hill, Little Blakenham, IP8 4NG Planning application

c. Any other planning matters.

None.

7. To approve the revised Asset Register.

Councillors reviewed the revised Asset Register. Cllr. Wright explained that there was a possibility that the PCC might take over responsibility for the portacabin, with a view to replacing it, but that was still under discussion by the PCC.

Councillors unanimously approved the Asset Register.

8. To consider the Council's future strategy regarding the rental of the Glebeland.

Councillors noted with concern that there had been no reply from the Diocese about the request to discuss a longer lease for the Glebeland, although it had been nearly a year since this had first been raised.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Bishop to express the Council's dismay and disappointment that there had been no progress at all with this request.

ACTION: Clerk

District Councillor Welsby offered to contact the local MP, Rd. Poulter, and ask him to contact the Diocese as well. Councillors accepted this offer with thanks

9. To note the cost sharing arrangements for equipment, training etc. for the Clerk with Great Blakenham Parish Council.

The Clerk explained that Great Blakenham Parish Council had bought a laser printer/scanner and a widescreen monitor for use with their laptop. The Chairmen of Great Blakenham Parish Council and Little Blakenham Parish Council had agreed that these, as well as Little Blakenham Parish Council's ink jet printer, could be used for business connected with either Councils. New ink cartridges will be paid for by each Council in turn and the Clerk will have separate boxes of printer paper for each Council. The Clerk is requesting that Little Blakenham parish Council pay for the purchase of a reference book "Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration 10th Ed." This system means that it will be clear which Parish owns which assets.

10. Finance

a. To receive the Clerk's Financial Report.

Councillors noted the Clerk's Financial Report.

Current bank balances:

Current account (on 31/10/16 - £9634.27

Deposit account (on 9/9/16) - £2930.02

Councillors noted the following:

CHEQUES SIGNED SINCE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 19/9/16

5/10/16	HMRC	£107.80	LGA 1972, S.111
5/10/16	Nick Edrupt (Salary)	£36.00	LGA 1972, S.111
5/10/16	Janet Gobey (Salary)	£394.98	LGA 1972, S.111

PAYMENTS MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT 1/9/16 to 31/10/16

28/9/16	EON Village Hall electricity	£15.28	LGA 1972, s.133
16/10/16	EON Village Hall electricity	£7.22	LGA 1972, s.133
31/10/16	EON Village Hall electricity	£13.21	LGA 1972, s.133

b. Payments to be approved.

Cllr. Wright proposed that the following payments be approved. Seconded by Cllr. Latham and approved unanimously.

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

19/11/16	Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration 10th Ed.	£73.60	LGA 1972, S.111
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CHEQUES TO BE SIGNED

14/11/16	SALC	£19.20	LGA 1972, S.111
14/11/16	Clarke&Simpson (Glebeland rent)	£75.00	LGA 1972, S.111
14/11/16	Anglian Water	£13.69	LGA 1972, S.111
14/11/16	Community Action Suffolk Website Hosting	£60.00	LGA 1972, S.142
14/11/16	Janet Gobey (Clerk's expenses - toner, accident book, envelopes, folders, postage)	£52.14	LGA 1972, S.111

11. Staff pensions

a. To note the Council's staging date of 1/11/17.

This was noted. As the Council, does not have any employees who are within the group who will be auto enrolled, it was not felt that the legislation would have any financial implications for the Council. The Clerk will complete any necessary actions according to the timetable.

12. To consider a response to the proposal from Bawdsey Parish Council regarding liaison over matters relating to EAW construction work (email of 4/11/16).

Councillors discussed this and agreed that there was no response to this proposal at this stage. It was noted that the presentation in the Village Hall by Scottish Power had been very helpful and contained lots of useful information. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Scottish Power to thank them

ACTION: Clerk.

Councillors noted that further presentations were offered by Scottish Power as the construction work became closer and agreed that further presentations would be arranged.

County and District Councillor John Field arrived at 8.28 pm.

Cllr. Field presented his report. The proposed new housing developments in Barham and Great Blakenham, along with those recently approved and under construction, mean that services in the area are under increasing pressure, particularly early years provision and schools. It is becoming evident that a new primary school will have to be built, as local primaries are at full capacity.

A new Chief Executive has been appointed for MSDC.

The Meeting for Chairs and Clerks of the Parishes being consulted on the SnOasis Reserved Matters planning application is likely to take place on 29th November at 3.00 pm. It is intended that this will give an update on developments so far, an indication of the timetable and processes and allow Parishes to voice their concerns.

Highways have been given a budget for dealing with surface water flooding on roads. Cllr. Field was told that this is happening on the B113 in the Common. The ditch is due to be cleaned out, but there is also a leak from the water main that is making the situation worse.

The issue of the mud on the road by Blood Hill has been raised by Somersham Parish Council and Cllr. Field confirmed that he would be discussing it with Highways.

Further Meeting dates were agreed:

9th January 2017

13th March 2017

8th May 2017

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.47 pm with thanks to all concerned.

