

**LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.30 PM IN LITTLE BLAKENHAM  
VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Wally Binder (Chairman), Stephen Clark, Sanjay Mehra, Stephen Wright  
District Councillor Welsby.  
Janet Gobey (Clerk).  
One member of the public.

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

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr Palmer – holiday. Cllr. Whurr – appointment. Councillors approved these apologies.  
No other apologies were received.

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

District Councillor Welsby outlined the proposals that Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils were putting forward to the Boundary Commission as part of their review of District Council wards. Little Blakenham may be included in a ward with a number of other small rural parishes, who would have similar situations and issues.  
There were no questions from the public.

4. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

Councillors approved the Draft Minutes and the Chairman signed them as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

5. To receive the update on Action Points.

The Clerk presented the update on Action Points, which was noted by Councillors.

6. Planning

a. To consider any planning applications.

i. **APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/17/0448**

**Proposal:** Householder Application. Installation of french doors and juliette balcony to first floor of garage / study. **Location:** 4 The Common, Ipswich, Little Blakenham, IP8 4JX  
Councillors agreed that they had no objection to this application.

ii. **APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/17/04336**

**Proposal:** Planning Application - Change of land use and construction of a hard surfaced tennis court with surround fencing. **Location:** The Elms, Somersham Road, Little Blakenham, Ipswich Suffolk IP8 4NF.

Councillors agreed that they had no objection to this application.

b. To note any planning decisions.

**APPLICATION FOR OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION - 1842/17**

**Proposal:** Outline Planning Application (Access to be considered) - Erection of detached chalet bungalow, formation of parking/turning area and new vehicular access. **Location:** Lakeside Cottage, 1 The Common, Little Blakenham, Ipswich IP8 4JX.

**Decision:** Refused.

The Clerk said informed Councillors that the application had been resubmitted. Councillors noted this.

c. Any other planning matters.

None

d. To note any update on SnOasis Reserved Matters

The Chairman stated that Reserved Matters were now being considered by MSDC Planning and that there was still a considerable amount of information outstanding. He felt that the SnOasis Parish Alliance had put in a robust set of comments on Reserved Matters, after a great deal of hard work by SPA members and some volunteers who had given expert opinions. Until the outstanding information is provided by the developer, there is very little that the SPA or its member Parishes can do.

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

This had been delayed because the archaeological work is behind timetable. It will be November or December before the archaeological survey is completed.

## 7. The Beeches

a. To note the installation of the new equipment in the Beeches Play Area.

Councillors noted this and were pleased that the new equipment is being used.

b. To agree the plan for refurbishing the swing.

Councillors agreed that a volunteer in the village should be approached by the Chairman to see if he was willing to undertake the repainting of the swing. The Council would pay for all materials. Councillors agreed that the paint colour should be British Racing Green.

ACTION: Chairman

c. To consider the content of the sign/s to be placed in the Play Area.

The Clerk confirmed that Suez Trust had provided a plaque to be put up in the play area.

Councillors agreed that the contribution that Councillor Field had made from his County Locality Budget should also be acknowledged on the sign.

Councillors agreed that the sign should also contain contact details for the Clerk in the event of a problem or accident in the play area. It should also state that no dogs are allowed in the play area and that there should be an upper age limit for using the equipment.

ACTION: Clerk to draft out the wording of the sign for consideration at the next Meeting.

d. To determine the arrangements for the annual inspection of the play equipment.

Councillors agreed that the Clerk should find a local organisation to provide the annual play equipment inspection.

ACTION: Clerk

e. To consider possible improvements to the gate.

The Clerk said that the gate is not being closed as people go through it, which means that dogs can get into the play area. It is possible to obtain self-closing gates which can be adjusted to avoid squashing children's fingers, but they are expensive and would need a larger gap in the fence than the present gate. Part of the problem may be that the gate is not easy to shut as it is catching on the ground.

ACTION: Cllr. Wright volunteered to check the gate and see if it would be possible to make it easier to operate.

## 8. Glebeland

To note progress regarding the request for a longer term rental agreement for the Glebeland.

The Clerk reported that there had been no response to this request. Councillors discussed their serious concern at the lack of response and that it will not be possible to begin to plan the work on the Village Hall until the lease issue is resolved.

## 9. Finance

a. To receive the Clerk's Financial Report.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 2017 FINANCIAL REPORT: PERIOD 29/6/17 to 29/8/17  
CHEQUES SIGNED SINCE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 18/7/17

2/9/17	Playquip Leisure	£11,791.98	LGA 1972, s. 111
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**PAYMENTS MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT 29/7/17 to 29/8/17**

31/7/17	EON Village Hall electricity	£10.23	LGA 1972, s.133
29/8/17	EON Village Hall electricity	£15.82	LGA 1972, s.133

**BANK BALANCES**

**Treasurers Account**

Receipts - £9474.00 (SUEZ grant of £9285.00, plus Village Hall lettings and electricity meter receipts of £189.00)

Payments - £1971.16

29/8/17 - £17177.91

**Deposit Account**

Receipts - None

9/6/17 - £2931.10

**RESERVES**

**GENERAL RESERVE**

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

15/16 Annual Precept = £5384. 50% = £2692.

One month's average running costs (14/15) = £306.

**TOTAL - £2998**

**EARMARKED RESERVES**

Playground refurbishment.

**£1100** is left as an Earmarked Reserve to act as a contingency fund while the works are being planned and carried out.

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

Approximate cost of project = £9574.01

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

Glebeland lease legal costs

Approximate cost – unknown

**£1000** to be set aside as an Earmarked Reserve towards the cost of legal fees.

**TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES - £4100**

Councillors noted the report.

b. Payments to be approved and cheques to be signed.

None.

**10. Governance**

a. To approve the Draft Policy on Public Participation and Filming of Parish Council Meetings.

This was approved by Councillors.

b. To approve the costs of using SALC Payroll as the Council's payroll provider.

Councillors approved the transfer of the Parish Council's payroll provision to SALC Payroll.

**11. Correspondence**

To note and consider any response to the following correspondence.

a. LAIS1401 Litter Strategy

Councillors noted this.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.07 pm.