

**TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.30 PM IN LITTLE BLAKENHAM  
VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Wally Binder (Chairman), Stephen Clark, Mary Whurr, John Latham, Barry Palmer, 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 Mehra – family event. Councillors approved this apology.

2. Declarations of any pecuniary and non pecuniary interest.

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. The number of District Councillor seats will be reduced by six across the District.

The move of staff from both Districts to Endeavour House seems to be working well. Local access arrangements have been set up in Stowmarket and Sudbury.

A question was asked about the gas main at the bottom of Pound Lane. It was confirmed that it will be moved from its current location to the cold store path. This work will take several weeks and mean that there will be traffic restrictions on the B1113.

4. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 19<sup>th</sup> September 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.

**APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/17/05113**

**Proposal:** Householder Application. Erection of single storey rear extension, two storey side extension and cart lodge.

**Location:** Lukes Meadow, Valley Road, Little Blakenham, IP8 4LS.

Councillors agreed that they had no objection to this application.

b. To note any planning decisions.

**APPLICATION FOR OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION – DC/17/04149**

**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:** Granted

### **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

**Decision:** Granted

### **APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/17/04485**

**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

**Decision:** Granted.

Councillors noted these determinations.

c. Any other planning matters.

Councillors noted that the Pitstop Farm application was still listed as “registered” on the Planning website.

d. To note any update on SnOasis Reserved Matters

Councillors were told that local farmers who rent land from Onslow Suffolk have been given three months’ notice to quit. There has been no indication that work is about to start and Reserved Matters are still outstanding.

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

This is proceeding. There have been no complaints about noise from residents of the Common.

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

Cllr. Wright reported that the work has been delayed because the EAW cables will be coming through the site.

## **7. Speeding**

a. To consider the Council’s response to complaints about speeding on the B1113 through the Common.

Councillors discussed this and agreed that, as a permanent 40 mph speed limit will be imposed on that stretch of a road as part of the planning agreement for the Sterling Suffolk Greenhouses, it would be prudent to wait for that to take place and then monitor the situation.

**ACTION:** Clerk to write to the member of the public who complained and explain the situation.

## **8. The Beeches**

a. To approve the revised insurance quote for the play equipment.

The Clerk said that she had been informed by the Council’s insurance company that there was no extra premium to pay, as the policy offers cover for assets up to a fixed limit and the Council had not yet reached the limit.

b. To approve the delay in refurbishing the swing until the spring.

Councillors approved this, noting that the cold and damp winter weather would make it difficult for the work to be completed.

c. To approve the draft wording of the sign for the play area.

Councillors discussed the draft wording and agreed some amendments. The SUEZ Trust plaque will also have to be displayed, as part of the funding agreement. It may be possible to have two signs, one making clear the Council’s management of the play area and acknowledging the funding contributions from SUEZ and Cllr. Field. The other would state the rules applying to the play area.

**ACTION:** Clerk to investigate options and costs.

## 9. Glebeland

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

The Clerk said that she had received a reply to the request for a fifteen year lease and that the Diocese had agreed to grant this. The solicitor's fees for the lease work will be approximately £750 + VAT. The Council will have to pay this, as well as their own fees.

The Chairman said that he felt this was now the time to set up a charitable trust to take over responsibility for the Hall, which would make it easier to apply for grants. He had had some initial discussions with a resident of the village who has had experience of such matters and had indicated his willingness to assist with the application etc.

**ACTION:** Chairman to contact the resident again to set up a small working group to take this forward.

## 10. Finance

a. To receive the Clerk's Financial Report.

### CHEQUES SIGNED SINCE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 19/9/17

17/10/17	Janet Gobey	£420.00	LGA 1972, s.111
17/10/17	Cleaner's salary.	£90.00	LGA 1972, s.111
17/10/17	HMRC	£105.00	LGA 1972, s.111

### PAYMENTS MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT 29/7/17 to 29/8/17

27/9/17	EON Village Hall electricity	£17.04	LGA 1972, s.133
30/10/17	EON Village Hall electricity	£18.89	LGA 1972, s.133

## **BANK BALANCES**

### **Treasurers Account**

Receipts – £2750.00 (second half of 17/18 Precept)

Payments - £12,448.11

30/10/17 - £7,479.80

### **Deposit Account**

Receipts - £0.37

29/9/17 - £2931.47

## **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**

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

Community Action Suffolk (website hosting) - £60

Clarke & Simpson (Glebeland rent) - £75.00

Anglian Water Business - £16.21

SALC – Clerk’s Networking - £19.20

Councillors approved these payments.

c. To receive the quarterly Budget Report

The Clerk presented the Budget Report. At present, there are no major areas of concern, although the expenditure on payroll services is higher than predicted. The cost of electricity for the Village Hall has dropped noticeably since the visit to check the meter by EON and most of the monthly bill is now standing charges etc.

Councillors noted the Budget Report.

## 10. Governance

a. To consider the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations for the Parish Council as laid out in the November 2017 Report to Council.

Councillors noted the report.

b. To resolve to follow the recommended actions in the Report.

The Councillors discussed the potential costs of the legislation e.g. outsourced Data Protection Officer service, extra hours for the Clerk, and agreed that it would be necessary to raise the Precept for 2018/19 to cover these costs. The Chairman stated that he felt that there was insufficient firm information to make any decisions at this stage and that he believed that it would be sufficient for now for Councillors to note the report and their awareness of the issue. Once more information is available from SALC or other sources, the Council would be able to make decisions on how to proceed. Councillors agreed this approach.

c. To approve the Council’s Equal Opportunities Policy.

Councillors approved this. The Chairman queried whether the Council should have an Anti Slavery and Anti Human Trafficking Policy.

**ACTION:** Clerk to check with SALC.

## 11. Correspondence

To note and consider any response to the following correspondence.

a. Councillor Disqualification - SALC Response

Councillors noted this.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.37 pm.