

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019 AT 7.30 PM IN LITTLE BLAKENHAM  
VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Wally Binder (Chairman), Barry Palmer, Mary Whurr, Steven Clarke, Sanjay Mehra (arrived at 7.36pm)  
County and District Councillor John Field.  
Janet Gobey (Clerk).  
One member of the public was present.

The Chairman opened the Meeting at 7.30pm.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.  
Cllr. Wright presented apologies – unwell. Councillors unanimously agreed to accept 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.  
Not present.
  - 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 oldest resident of the village had died on Christmas Day, aged 97. The date for the closure of JT Fewes site at Little Blakenham was discussed.
4. To approve the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018.  
The Draft Minutes were approved unanimously, and the Chairman signed them as a true and correct record of the Meeting,
5. To receive the update on Action Points.  
Councillors noted this.
6. Planning
  - a. To consider any planning applications.  
None. Councillors noted this.
  - b. To note any planning determinations.  
None. Councillors noted this.
  - d. To note any update on SnOasis Reserved Matters.  
The Chairman reported to Councillors that BMSDC Planning had sent an email to a member of the SnOasis Parish Alliance indicating that most of the outstanding Reserved Matters have been resolved and that a date for the application to go to committee is being actively considered. The SPA is trying to arrange an urgent meeting with Planning to discuss this.
  - e. To note any update regarding the EA Windfarm construction work.  
Councillors expressed concern about the stability of the new banks on Pound Lane as they are leaking sand and shale on to the road surface. Councillors noted that the layby is wider

now and that cars seemed to be deliberately being driven up on to the banks causing them to collapse. The resident present volunteered to speak to a contact he has in the company responsible and Councillors accepted this offer with gratitude.

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

This was not available as Cllr. Wright was not present.

#### 7. Village Hall

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

The Clerk reported that the Hall has had hardly any bookings in recent months and that income continues not covering the outgoings. Councillors noted this.

b. To receive an update on progress with the new lease.

The Clerk reported that the Council's legal advisor had approached the Diocese to ask for a new lease longer than ten years and that the Diocese had agreed to consider this. The Diocese had asked for a list of the work that the Council intends to carry out and she had sent this to them. No reply has been received yet.

#### 8. Village Maintenance

a. To consider the request to install a rubbish bin at the layby on the B1113 in The Common.

Councillors considered this and unanimously agreed to accept the quote for the bin. Cllr.

Palmer volunteered to arrange installation free of charge.

b. To consider other possible locations for rubbish or dog waste bins.

Councillors agreed that they did not feel that there was any need for extra rubbish or dog waste bins at present.

#### 9. Governance

a. To readopt the Code of Conduct for Suffolk Councillors.

Councillors unanimously adopted this.

b. To note the requirement for all Councillors to annually review their entry in the Online Register of Member Interests.

Councillors noted this. ACTION: Clerk to send out the email links for Councillors to review their entry in the Register

c. To approve the payment of the increased NJC pay rates for 2019/20 to the Clerk.

Councillors unanimously approved this.

d. To consider a one scale point pay increase for the Clerk.

Councillors unanimously approved this.

e. To note the signing of the Payroll Service Level Agreement with SALC.

Councillors noted this.

#### 10. Finance

a. To receive the Clerk's Financial Report.

JANUARY 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT- PERIOD 1/11/2018 to 31/12/2018

CHEQUES SIGNED SINCE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 20/11/2018

None

PAYMENTS MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT 1/11/2018 to 31/12/2018

26/11/2018	EON Village Hall electricity	£21.12	LGA 1972, s.133
27/12/2018	EON Village Hall electricity	£17.50	LGA 1972, s.133

#### **BANK BALANCES (at end of December 2018)**

##### **Treasurers Account**

Receipts – £35.00 (Village Hall lettings and electricity meter)

Payments - £127.07

**31/12/2019 - £7564.19**

##### **Deposit Account**

Receipts - £0

**29/6/2018 - £2932.55**

#### **RESERVES**

##### **GENERAL RESERVE**

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

17/18 Annual Precept = £550 50% = £2750.  
 One month's average running costs (16/17) = £350.

**TOTAL - £3100**

#### **EARMARKED RESERVES**

Replacement of electricity poles and replacement of light fittings with LED lights. Approximate total cost of project = £9574.01

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

Glebeland lease legal costs - **£1500**.

Village Hall charitable trust costs - **£1000**

General Data Protection Regulations costs - **£500**

Contribution towards Village Hall upgrade costs - **£1725**

**TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES - £6225**

Councillors noted the Financial Report.

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

#### **JANUARY 2019 MEETING - PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED & CHEQUES TO BE SIGNED**

N Edrupt	Quarterly salary - cleaner	£90.00	LGA 1972, s.111
Suffolk Cloud	Website hosting – 1/11/2018 to 31/10/2019	£100.00	LGA 1972, s.111
Wave	Village Hall water	£14.81	LGA 1972, s.111
J. Gobey	Quarterly salary - Clerk	£532.24	LGA 1972 s. 111

Councillors unanimously approved these payments.

c. To note the quarterly Budget Report

Councillors noted this. Cllr. Latham checked the bank balances stated in the Report against the paper bank statements and signed the Financial Report to verify that they were correct.

#### 11. Precept 2019/20

a. To review the General and Earmarked Reserves.

Councillors unanimously approved the revised General and Earmarked Reserves.

b. To approve the Running Costs budget for 2019/20.

Councillors unanimously approved the draft Running Costs budget.

c. To determine the Precept for 2019/20.

Councillors unanimously approved an increase of 2% in the Precept for 2019/2020. The Chairman, Cllrs. Mehra and Whurr and the Clerk signed the Precept form.

#### 12. Correspondence

To note and consider any response to the following correspondence.

a. Letter from the Tinkler's Meadow Campaign Group regarding a possible Green Spaces policy (by email).

Councillors agreed to register the support of the Parish Council to this. ACTION: Clerk.

b. Email from BMSDC to announce the launch of the Exacom Public Facing Module (by email).

Councillors noted this

c. BMSDC Tax Bases for Parishes and District Precept 2019/20

Councillors noted this.

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

The date of the next Meeting will be 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

No items were put forward for the Agenda.

ACTION: Clerk to email Councillors with the date of the 2019 Parish Council elections.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.36 pm with thanks to all those attending.