

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7.30 PM IN LITTLE BLAKENHAM  
VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Wally Binder (Chairman), Stephen Wright, Barry Palmer, Mary Whurr.  
County and District Councillor Field (arrived at 7.55pm).

Janet Gobey (Clerk).

No members of the public were present.

The Chairman opened the Meeting at 7.30pm.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

The following apologies were received:

Cllr. Mehra – overseas business trip.

Cllr. Clarke – work meeting.

Councillors unanimously agreed to approve 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.

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

No District or County Councillors were 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.

No members of the public were present.

4. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Councillors unanimously approved both sets of Minutes and the Chairman signed them as a true and correct record of the Meetings.

5. To receive the update on Action Points.

The Clerk presented the report on Action Points.

6. Planning

a. To consider any planning applications.

None

b. To note any planning determinations.

None.

c. Any other planning matters.

None

d. To note any update on SnOasis Reserved Matters.

The Chairman reported that there had been no news on this. Councillors raised their concern that the developer was being allowed such an extended period of time to finalise their application.

- e. To note any update regarding the EA Windfarm construction work. Pound Lane will be closed for four weeks from 8<sup>th</sup> October so that a drill head stuck under the road can be retrieved and the cables can be laid in trenches through the rock underneath Pound Lane.
- f. To note any update regarding the Sterling Suffolk greenhouses project. Heating and irrigation systems are being installed. Plants are ordered for December and the first picking should be in February. Staff recruitment is being done in stages – the last group will be recruited in March, bringing the total workforce to approx. 65.

## 7. Governance

- a. To consider changing the day of the week that Council meetings are held on. Councillors considered whether the day of the week on which Meetings are held should be changed from Tuesdays. After some discussion, Councillors agreed that a change back to Mondays was a possibility, but felt that it was important to find out if some Mondays were better for County and District Councillors before making a decision. ACTION: Clerk to contact Cllr. Field.
- b. To consider making a Section 137 donation to SARS. Councillors agreed that this should be considered, along with any other requests, at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May.
- c. To consider whether the Council should complete and publish the Certificate of Exemption from External Audit within AGAR Part 2 (page 3). After some discussion, Councillors unanimously agreed to complete and publish the Certificate of Exemption. The Certificate was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

Cllr Field arrived at 7.55pm. The Chairman asked Councillors to allow Item 3a to be taken so that Cllr. Field could give his report. Councillors agreed this unanimously.

Cllr. Field gave his report. There have been considerable difficulties with communication from Highways over recent roadworks in the area, particularly those at Hackneys Corner in Great Blakenham. County have reservations about the cumulative effect of all the developments in the area will have on local roads and are suggesting a meeting with BMSDC to discuss it.

Cllr. Field said that he had challenged the new speed limit of 50mph on the B1113 through the Common and had been offered to chance to have it reviewed. Cllr. Wright said that Sterling Suffolk had paid Highways for road improvements to that stretch of the B1113 and had been expecting a 40mph limit. Councillors agreed that they wished to have the case reopened and Cllr Field agreed to do this and pay the costs from his budget. Councillors also expressed their concern to Cllr. Field about the confusing and dangerous set up of the traffic lights on the B1113 at the Great Blakenham turning when coming from Claydon.

## 8. Village Hall

- a. To consider the response to the draft lease. Councillors unanimously agreed to proceed with the preparations to sign the new lease.
- b. To consider appointing a solicitor to act on the Parish Council's behalf over the lease. The Chairman said that a resident who is a legal professional had offered to do the legal work required for the longer lease without any charge to the Council. Councillors agreed to accept this offer and the Chairman said that he would contact the resident to arrange this. ACTION: Chairman. Councillors agreed that it would be useful to set up a subcommittee to enable the process to move more quickly than it would do if everything had to be decided at a full Council Meeting.
- c. To approve the estimate costs for the legal work obtained via SALC. The Clerk reported that SALC had obtained a quote of approx. £840 from Suffolk Legal. Councillors agreed that the offer in paragraph b above should be taken up instead.

## 9. Finance

a. To receive the Clerk's Financial Report.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT  
PERIOD 30/6/2018 to 31/8/2018

CHEQUES SIGNED SINCE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 24/7/2018

None.

PAYMENTS MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT 1/5/2018 to 29/6/2018

20/7/2018	EON Village Hall electricity	£11.37	LGA 1972, s.133
28/8/2018	EON Village Hall electricity	£20.36	LGA 1972, s.133

**BANK BALANCES (at end of August 2018) Treasurers Account**

Receipts – 0

Payments - £1225.27

**31/08/2018 - £5407.65****Deposit Account**

Receipts - £0.13 - interest

**29/6/2018 - £2932.55**

Councillors noted the Financial Report. Cllr. Palmer checked the paper bank statements against the Financial Report and signed to confirm that they agreed.

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

SEPTEMBER 2018 MEETING - PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED & CHEQUES TO BE SIGNED

Wave	Village Hall water	£11.18	LGA 1972, s.111
J Gobey	Clerk's expenses (postage stamps, board pins)	£16.67	LGA 1972, s.111

Councillors unanimously approved these payments.

c. To review the Draft Action Plan resulting from the Internal Audit 2017/18.

Councillors agreed to review this at the next Meeting.

## 10. GDPR

a. To note any updates on the GDPR.

Councillors agreed to review progress on GDPR at the next Meeting.

## 11. Correspondence

To note and consider any response to the following correspondence:

a. SALC "The Local Councillor" e-newsletter (by email 10<sup>th</sup> September)

Councillors noted this.

b. Suffolk County Council Highways - New grit bin process (by email 29<sup>th</sup> August)

Councillors noted this and agreed that they did not wish to purchase any grit bins to replace grit heaps.

12. To note the date of the next meeting (20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall) and any items for the Agenda.

Councillors noted this. No items were put forward for the Agenda.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.38 pm.