

LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
The Annual Meeting of Little Blakenham Parish Council on Tuesday 18th May 2021
at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs. Wally Binder, Stephen Wright, Linda Keen, John Latham, Barry Palmer.
Clerk to the Council – Janet Gobey.
County Councillor Chris Chambers. District Councillor John Field
Six members of the public.

The Chairman opened the Meeting at 8.00pm.

1. To elect the Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllr. Latham proposed Cllr. Binder. This was seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved unanimously.

2. To elect the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllr. Binder proposed Cllr. Wright. This was seconded by Cllr. Keen and approved unanimously.

3. To appoint members to any outside bodies

Viridor – Councillors agreed that Cllr. Wright would continue.

Valley Ridge Liaison Group – Councillors agreed that Cllr. Binder would continue.

4. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

None.

5. Declarations of any pecuniary and non pecuniary interests.

a. Councillors declaration of interest appropriate to any item on the Agenda.

Cllr. Wright declared an interest in Sterling Suffolk.

b. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.

None.

c. To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate.

None.

6. Open Forum.

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

Residents raised concerns about footpaths in the parish:

A number of footpaths are overgrown. Cllr Field advised residents that they should use the SCC reporting tool to report blocked or overgrown rights of way and any other issues, such as missing footpath signs. Cllrs. Latham and Binder agreed to mow the paths that branch off from Valley Road so that it would be easier to use them and residents would be able to avoid walking on the road. Cllr. Latham, on behalf of Blakenham Farms, agreed to produce some laminated maps of footpaths on their land and put them up around the village.

There is a particular problem at the end of the path that comes up from the Beeches to the Inghams Drive. Cllr. Latham, on behalf of Blakenham Farms, undertook to investigate the possibility of putting in an earth ramp with rails to make it easier to get up and down the path there. Councillors also undertook to investigate the possibility of installing a dog waste bin in the vicinity. ACTION: Clerk.

Concerns were expressed about the churchyard as it is now very overgrown. The Community Payback scheme is no longer cutting it. Councillors unanimously agreed that it would be possible to either make a S137 donation to the PCC to buy grass cutting equipment or arrange for a contractor to cut the grass. The PCC will need to decide which option would be preferable and contact the Clerk. ACTION: Clerk to obtain a quote for grass cutting.



Residents expressed their views that a recent S137 donation to Somersham Community Shop was not an appropriate expenditure for the Council to have made.

7. To approve the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th March 2021

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

8. To receive the update on Action Points.
Councillors noted this.

9. Planning

a. To consider any planning applications.

DC/21/02697

Proposal: Full Planning Application - Extension of estate road and construction of part of carpark and service yard, with related landscaping to service unit 3.

Address: Land Adjacent To The Port One Business And Logistics Park, Blackacre Hill, Bramford Road, Great Blakenham.

Councillors unanimously agreed that they had no objection to this application.

APPLICATION FOR SCOPING OPINION - DC/21/02475

Proposal: Request for formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion - Redevelopment of the former quarry and associated land to provide new family leisure resort (Sui Generis), incorporating a snow dome with indoor ski slope, waterpark, indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facilities, waterpark, guest accommodation, restaurant and retail uses, with associated access, parking and landscaping.

Location: 'Valley Ridge', Land At Field Quarry, Great Blakenham, Suffolk.

Councillors unanimously agreed that they had no objection to this application

APPLICATION FOR RESERVED MATTERS - DC/21/02067

Proposal: Submission of details (Reserved Matters) following Permission DC/20/03891 dated

17/02/2021 - Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for Construction of Phase 3 / Unit 3 Class B8 Warehouse building including ancillary office space, with car parking and loading / unloading areas, boundary landscaping and continuation of estate road

Location: Land At Blackacre Hill, Bramford Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk

Councillors unanimously agreed that they had no objection to this application.

b. To note any planning determinations.

DC/20/01175

Application: Outline Planning Permission. (Access to be considered) Extension to Port One Business and Logistics Park (as permitted under ref. 2351/16 and varied by ref. 1755/17), together with associated works including drainage lagoons, ecology mitigation and landscaping.

Address: Land Adj Port One Business And Logistics Park Blackacre Hill Bramford Road Great Blakenham Suffolk IP6 0RL

Granted.

Councillors noted this determination.

c. Any other planning matters to note.

None.

d. To note any update on the Valley Ridge development (formerly SnOasis).

None.

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

This is still behind schedule.

f. To note any update regarding the Sterling Suffolk greenhouses project.
Construction on the new greenhouse is expected to start later in the year. EAW have not yet released the land that they are holding and this is causing delays in landscaping etc in some parts of the site

10. Village Maintenance

a. To note various complaints about footpaths in the parish.

Covered in Public Forum above.

b. To note a complaint about out of control dogs in the parish.

The Chairman reported that he had received a complaint about this and had discussed this with the dog owner.

11. Village Hall

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

The Clerk reported that there was now a regular booking for the Hall and there had been other enquiries about possible bookings.

b. To consider possible options for the future of the Village Hall.

Councillors unanimously agreed that they would proceed with the refurbishment and the application for SITA UK Trust funding. It was agreed that a bill of quantities would be needed as part of the tender process. ACTION: Cllrs. Palmer and Binder to draw this up.

c. To consider a parish survey to judge support for the Village Hall.

Councillors agreed that this could be a useful exercise to demonstrate community support for the Hall which is something that is required in any application to the SITA UK Trust, but that it should be deferred until quotes for the refurbishment have been received so that the information can be included in the survey.

d. To consider replacing the water heater in the Village Hall kitchen.

Councillors unanimously agreed to proceed with this. ACTION: Clerk.

e. To approve the Draft Risk Assessment for using the Village Hall for Parish Council meetings and other events while Covid-19 precautions remain in place.

Councillors unanimously approved this.

12. Governance

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

Councillors unanimously agreed to readopt this.

b. To approve the Council's Financial Regulations.

Councillors unanimously approved this.

c. To approve the Council's Standing Orders.

Councillors unanimously approved this.

d. To approve the Council's Financial Controls procedures.

Councillors unanimously approved this.

e. To approve the Council's Asset Register.

Councillors unanimously approved this.

f. To approve the Council's Risk Assessments.

Councillors unanimously approved this.

g. To approve the Clerk as RFO for 2021/2022.

Councillors unanimously approved this.

13. Finance

a. To receive the Clerk's Financial Report.

Councillors noted the Report and that they had received a scan of the bank statements that match with the figures on the bank statements.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MAY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

PERIOD 1/3/2021 to 30/4/2021

CHEQUES SIGNED SINCE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 16/3/2021

Janet Gobey	Clerk's salary Jan - Mar 2021	£553.20	LGA 1972, s.111
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HMRC	Quarterly tax&NI deductions	£18.80	LGA 1972, s.111
Nick Edrupt	Cleaner's salary Jan- Mar 2021	£90.00	LGA 1972, s.111
SALC	Six month's payroll service.	£27.60	LGA 1972, s.111
BMSDC	Annual play area. inspection	£60.82	LGE 1976 s228
SCC	Street Lighting 2020/2021	£472.12	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3

PAYMENTS MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT PERIOD PERIOD 1/3/2021 to 30/4/2021

1/4/2021	EON Village Hall electricity	£18.33	LGA 1972, s.133
2/3/2021	EON Village Hall electricity	£16.86	LGA 1972, s.133

BANK BALANCES (end April 2021)

Treasurers Account

Payments - £1833.79

Receipts – £3320.00.

30/04/2021 - £9516.41

Minus uncashed cheques – £608.80.

Deposit Account

13/5/2020 - £2,935.33 (no new statement received)

FINANCIAL RESERVES November 2020

GENERAL RESERVE

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

2020/2021 Annual Precept 50% = £3100.

One month's average running costs (2019/20) = £700.

TOTAL - £3800

EARMARKED RESERVES

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

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

Contribution towards Village Hall upgrade costs - **£4500**

TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES - £6500

TOTAL RESERVES - £10,300

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

May 2021 MEETING - PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Janet Gobey	Clerk's expenses – Annual Microsoft subscription £59.99. New light bulb for VH toilet £9.94	£69.93	LGA 1972, s.133
MSDC	Litter and dog bin emptying 2021 to 2022	£245.68	Litter Act 1983 ss56.
SALC	Membership subscription 2021 to 2022	£142.65	LGA 1972. s.143

Councillors unanimously approved the making of these payments.

c. To consider a S137 donation to the Duke of Marlborough Community Pub.

As some residents had stated that they felt this was not an appropriate expenditure for the Council, Councillors unanimously agreed not to make any payment.

14. Correspondence

To note and consider any response to the following correspondence:

13th April 2021 by email – BMSDC Solar developments update Mar 2021

14th April 2021 by email – SALC Period of national mourning and notice of council meetings.

22nd April 2021 by email – Somersham Community Shop letter of thanks for S137 donation.

28th April 2021 by email – East Anglia Three SPR Ground Investigation Works at Bramford

5th May 2021 by email – BMSDC Large-scale energy developments update May 2021

7th May 2021 by email – scan of anonymous letter about the Council's rubbish bin outside the Village Hall.



11th May and 12th May 2021 by email – revised guidance from SALC on returning to face to face Parish Council meetings.

11th May 2021 by email – BMSDC Active Travel Public Consultation.

13th May 2021 by email – BMSDC Notice of Examination of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan.

13th May 2021 by email – BMSDC Tree and hedgerow planting project update.
Councillors noted these items.

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

Date of next Meeting - 20th July 2021. No items were put forward for the Agenda.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.00pm.

Signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wally Binder', with a large circular flourish underneath.

Wally Binder

Chairman – Little Blakenham Parish Council

Date: 22nd July 2021