

# LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of Little Blakenham Parish Council on Tuesday 20th July 2021 at  
7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs. Binder (Chairman), Wright, Keen, Latham.  
District Councillor John Field.  
5 members of the public.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Cllr. Palmer presented his apologies - business commitments. 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.

Cllr. Wright declared a non pecuniary interest in items 6f and 8a.

b. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interest (if any)

c. To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate.

3. Open Forum.

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

Cllr. Field delivered his report.

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.

A resident raised the issue of water hydrants in the village and whether there was a map available showing where they are located. Cllr. Field said that the Fire Service have a map and have a Water Officer who is responsible for checking that the hydrants are ready for use.

Councillors also noted other residents' concerns about rubbish at Pit Stop Farm and the state of Pound Lane with the increasing amount of traffic, particularly large lorries that using it. This will only will increase if local large scale construction projects are approved.

4. To approve the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th May 2021. Councillors unanimously approved the Draft Minutes as a true and correct record of the Meeting and the Chairman signed them.

5. To receive the update on Action Points.

Councillors noted this.

6. Planning

a. To consider any planning applications.

None.

b. To note any planning determinations.

**DC/21/02861**

Householder Application: Erection of single storey side extension; Conversion of garage to additional living accommodation.

Location: 13 The Beeches Little Blakenham Suffolk IP8 4LX.

Granted

Councillors noted this.

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.

1 

EAW Three construction is due to start June 2022. The cables will go through the existing ducting, so there should be minimal disruption.

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

Construction on the next phase starts on 27<sup>th</sup> July and should finish in February 2022.

#### 7. Village Hall

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

The Clerk reported that bookings had increased with one fortnightly regular booking and two other users booking one a monthly basis. Councillors noted this.

b. To consider the Draft Tender document for the refurbishment of the Hall.

Councillors discussed this and agreed that it should be sent Hollands Architects to be turned into a formal tender document. ACTION: Chairman.

#### 8. Village Maintenance

a. To approve the installation of a dog waste bin by the ramp on the footpath from the Beeches to Valley Road.

Councillors approved the installation of a 25lt. bin. After some discussion, they agreed that, if possible, it should be sited on the opposite side of the lane from the ramp.

b. To consider the possibility of commissioning and installing a village sign.

Councillor Linda Keen presented with accompanying literature the idea of a joint project between the Parish Council and the PCC to commission a sign as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration in 2022. This would be a community project including a competition (including children) to produce a design. It was felt by Councillors and residents in attendance that the triangle of land between Somersham Road and Valley Road could be a suitable site. Councillor Field stated that there may be some funds available to assist. ACTION: Clerk to investigate the ownership of the land.

Councillors unanimously agreed that this project was something that the Council could support and would be discussed again at the next meeting,

c. To consider installing a defibrillator.

Councillor Linda Keen presented with accompanying literature the possibility of installing a defibrillator in the village. Councillors discussed with residents present and agreed that the best place for this would be the redundant phone box at Little Box Meadow. The phone box is now owned by the Council, but the electricity supply has been disconnected. ACTION: Cllr Binder to have the phone box pressure washed and Clerk to investigate the costs of getting the supply reconnected. Other ongoing costs would be replacement pads and defibrillators and servicing. Cllr. Field said that there is an MSDC funding for the installation of defibrillators and that there was also the possibility of financial assistance from his Locality Budget.

d. To consider the quote for churchyard grass cutting.

Councillors considered this. The PCC will discuss it at their next meeting and then report back on what they feel would work best.

#### 8. Governance

a. To approve the Council's revised Financial Controls procedures.

Councillors unanimously approved this.

#### 9. Training

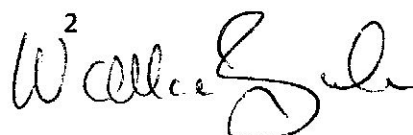
a. To consider any requests for training.

None.

b. To receive Cllr. Keen's feedback from the SALC training courses that she recently attended. Councillors noted this.

#### 10. Village newsletter.

a. To consider producing a village newsletter in conjunction with the PCC.



Cllr. Keen explained that she felt that a joint bi-monthly Parish Council/PCC newsletter would help engage residents with the Parish Council and the PCC and raise interest and involvement in what was happening in the village and church and how they could become involved. A draft newsletter was presented to Councillors The content to be produced jointly by Cllr. Keen and the Churchwarden on behalf of the Parish Council and PCC. Councillors agreed that this could be tried out for a trial period of six months.

b. To consider a bimonthly article in InTouch with the PCC.

Councillors agreed to this and Cllr. Keen volunteered to produce it, using content from the newsletter.

#### 11. Finance

a. To receive the Clerk's Financial Report.

PERIOD 1/5/2021 to 30/6/2021

#### CHEQUES SIGNED SINCE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 18/5/2021

Janet Gobey	Clerk's salary Apr - June 2021	£553.20	LGA 1972, s.111
HMRC	Quarterly tax&NI deductions	£18.80	LGA 1972, s.111
Nick Edrupt	Cleaner's salary Apr-June 2021	£90.00	LGA 1972, s.111
SALC	Councillor training	£90.00	LGA 1972, s.111
PFK Littlejohn	External audit fees	£288.00	LGA 1972, s.111
Clarke&Simpson	Annual Glebeland rent	£200.00	Open Spaces Act 1906,ss.9&10.

#### PAYMENTS MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT PERIOD PERIOD 1/5/2021 to 30/6/2021

5/5/2021	EON Village Hall electricity	£19.38	LGA 1972, s.133
2/6/2021	EON Village Hall electricity	£15.05	LGA 1972, s.133

BANK

#### BALANCES (end June 2021)

##### Treasurers Account

Payments - £1184.37

Receipts -- £100.00 (VH lettings).

30/06/2021 - £8582.62

Minus uncashed cheques -- £0.

##### Deposit Account

Receipts - £0.53 (Interest May 2020 to May 2021)

30/6/2021 - £2935.86

#### 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**

Councillors noted the Financial Report and that the bank balance figures quoted matched the figures in the bank statements that had been scanned and emailed to them.

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

Anglian Water	Village Hall water supply.	£272.97	LGA 1972, s.133
Came & Co	Insurance premium 2021-2022	£1112.48	LGA 1972, s.111.
SALC	Membership subscription 2021 to 2022	£142.65	LGA 1972. s.143

Councillors unanimously approved the making of these payments.

3  
W. S. S.

12. Correspondence

To note and consider any response to the following correspondence:

25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 - SALC Mid Suffolk joint area forum agenda

26<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 - BMSDC updates on large-scale energy developments in the Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts.

26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – correspondence with Suffolk County Council regarding the Roadside Nature Reserve on Valley Road.

14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - information on MSDC's Discovering Suffolk project.

14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 - invitation to SALC AGM.

Councillors noted these items.

13. To note the date of the next scheduled meeting (21<sup>st</sup> September 2021) and any items for the Agenda.

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

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.45pm.

Wallace G. G. G.

4  
Wallace G. G. G.