

DRAFT

LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 21st September 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs. Binder (Chairman), Keen, Latham and Palmer.
Four members of the public.

The Chairman opened the Meeting at 7.30pm.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Cllr. Wright – holiday. Councillors unanimously approved the 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.

The District and County Councillors were 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.

Telephone box – Cllr. Binder will wire brush it to prepare it for painting, as pressure washing would be too messy.

Play area swing - needs to be inspected to see if it would be more economic to replace it with a new swing, rather than refurbishing it.

Newsletter – there has been some positive feedback about it. Councillors discussed the possibility of a suggestion box for residents use.

Councillors to review their Register of Member Interest forms - ACTION: Clerk to send out.

4. To approve the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 22nd July 2021.

Councillors unanimously 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.

Councillors noted this.

6. Planning

a. To consider any planning applications.

DC/21/04711

Planning Application - Change of use from agricultural land to solar farm and construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic ('PV') development with a capacity of up to 49.9MW with associated grid connection cable route, infrastructure and planting (accompanied by an EIA Statement).

Location: Land North Of Tye Lane Bramford Suffolk

DC/20/05895

Full Planning Application (Reconsultation) - Installation of renewable led energy generating station comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with substation, inverter/transformer stations, site accesses,

DRAFT

internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements including Nature Areas
Location: Land To The South Of Church Farm, Somersham, IP8 4PN And Land To The East Of The Channel, Burstall, IP8 4JL In Suffolk

DC/21/00060

Full Planning Application (Reconsultation) - Installation of renewable led energy generating station comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with substation, inverter/transformer stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements including Nature Areas

Location: Land To The East Of The Channel, Burstall Hill.

Councillors unanimously agreed to object to these applications on the following grounds:

The impact on the landscape which will completely change the countryside in the area.

Impact on wildlife.

Impact on footpaths etc.

Loss of valuable farm land and the impact on food security for the country.

Risk of fire, pollution etc from the storage batteries.

The application sites are close to a number of settlements and should be considered along with other current and planned developments in the area, rather than on a one to one basis.

DC/21/04711 will be visible from the village. The screening measures proposed are inadequate.

b. To note any planning determinations.

None.

c. Any other planning matters to note.

None.

d. To note any update on the Valley Ridge development.

None.

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

EAW will be coming back to check the existing cables. Further work will take place in 2022.

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

Work has started on the new greenhouse.

7. Village Hall

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

Councillors noted this and that there is now more use of the Hall.

b. To consider the quotation to draw up a tender document for the refurbishment of the Hall.

Councillors unanimously approved the quotation. ACTION: Cllr. Binder to take forward.

Councillors discussed possible funding for the project – SITA and CIL 123 money are both possibilities.

c. To consider a request to incorporate a small lock up cupboard in the Village Hall for the use of the PCC.

Councillors unanimously agreed not to take this forward.

d. To consider contacting the PCC regarding the future of the dilapidated portacabin beside the Hall.

Councillor unanimously agreed not to take this forward.

e. To approve the revised Covid-19 Risk Assessment for the Village Hall.

Councillor unanimously approved this.

8. Village Maintenance

a. To reconsider the site for a dog waste bin on Valley Road following a complaint about the previously approved site.

Councillors discussed this and agreed that siting the bin at the bottom of the new ramp might be the best option. ACTION: Cllr. Binder to discuss with landowner.

DRAFT

b. To note any updates on commissioning and installing a village sign.

The Clerk reported that there had been no reply from BMSDC to the request to site a sign on the triangle of land between Valley Road and Somersham Road.

Cllr. Keen reported the following plans - felt it was important to involve children and young people (under 11s and over 11s). A launch event for young people to publicise the competition at the Village Hall (possibly with burgers or pizza). Local schools could be approached to see if they would like to be involved. Vouchers as a prize. A theme to be chosen e.g owls, trees.

c. To note any updates on the installation of a defibrillator.

The Clerk reported that there had been no response for UK Power Networks to the query about reconnecting the electricity supply to the box. Councillors agreed that an alternative site might be in the Beeches on one of the lamp posts.

8. Training

a. To consider any requests for training.

None.

9. Finance

a. To receive the Clerk's Financial Report.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT PERIOD 30/6/2021 - 1/9/2021

CHEQUES SIGNED SINCE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 18/7/2021

Came & Co	Insurance premium 2021-2022	£726.43	LGA 1972, s.111
-----------	-----------------------------	---------	-----------------

PAYMENTS MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT PERIOD PERIOD 30/6/2021 to 1/9/2021

1/7/2021	EON Village Hall electricity	£15.88	LGA 1972, s.133
24/8/2021	EON Village Hall electricity	£24.36	LGA 1972, s.133

BANK BALANCES (end August 2021)

Treasurers Account

Payments - £2183.76

Receipts – £446.70 (£396.70 VAT refund, £50.00 VH lettings).

3/06/2021 - £6,694.98

Minus uncashed cheques – £90.00.

Deposit Account

Receipts -

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 they had been emailed to scanned copies of the bank statements to verify the figures in the Report.

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

September 2021 MEETING - PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

BWA Plumbing	Village Hall – new water	£230.00	LGA 1972, s.133
--------------	--------------------------	---------	-----------------

DRAFT

Services	heater		
Glasdons	New dog waste bin	££273.30	LGA 1972. s.143

Councillors unanimously approved the making of these payments.

10. Correspondence

To note and consider any response to the following correspondence:

By email 13/9/2021: MSDC NSIP and large-scale energy developments update September 2021

By email 13/9/2021: Babergh East Police & Parish Forum

By email 26/8/2021 EA3: Further non-material change application consultation for East Angla THREE

By email 12/8/2021 SALC: New event: How to engage with young people in your community

By email: 12/8/2021 BMSDC: resumption date of the Examination Hearing for the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan

By email 16/9/2021 – BMSDC Parking Strategy Consultation.

Councillors noted these items.

11. To note the date of the next scheduled meeting (16th November 2021) and any items for the Agenda.

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