

LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall on
Tuesday, 18th January 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: W Binder (Chairman)
 S Wright
 B Palmer
 J Latham

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk

LB1/21/22 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Keen.

LB2/21/22 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

LB3/21/22 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

LB4/21/22 – APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK

It was AGREED: That Mrs Jennie Blackburn be appointed as Clerk and Responsible Officer to the Parish Council.

LB5/21/22 – PUBLIC FORUM

There were six members of the public present.

A resident asked members if any information had been received in relation to the development taken place near to Great Blakenham. He explained that the area was used for a walkway but the development had used up that space and had also taken out mature trees. He had been in contact with the District Council and other various bodies but had been unsuccessful in receiving any further information.

Cllr Latham explained that the footpath had been closed off with a temporary path added in. He stated that the development would not stretch as far as the footpath which should therefore stay in place.

Another member of the public expressed concern that the development was becoming closer to The Beeches which would create noise pollution for the residential properties there.

Cllr Latham explained that a bund would be installed to block any noise for surrounding housing.

Another member of the public stated that free trees were available to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee if needed.

She also reported that vandalism had not occurred at the Play Area in relation to missing gate signs. They had been removed intentionally.

It was noted that the play area's paintwork needed attention in some areas.

LB6/21/22 - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th NOVEMBER 2021

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 16th November be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

LB7/21/22 - TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR CHRIS CHAMBERS

Cllr Chambers was not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

LB8/21/22 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR JOHN FIELD

Cllr Field was not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

LB9/21/22 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that she had received the Annual Agreement from Mid Suffolk District Council for the grass cutting contract for the forthcoming year.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council approved the contract for Grass Cutting. **Clerk to action.**

b) **TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk reported on the Council's current financial position and movements since the last meeting. She reported that until she had access to the bank accounts she was uncertain of the current balance.

c) **TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS**

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

N Edrupt	Cleaner's Pay (ending 31st Dec 2021)	£90.00
J Gobey	Clerk's Pay (ending 31st Dec 2021)	£553.00
HMRC	PAYE (ending 5th Jan 2022)	£19.00
Shades Maintenance	Churchyard Clearance	£200.00
Wave	Water - Village Hall	£89.82
MSDC	Grass Cutting 2021	£450.37

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £1,402.19 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

d) **TO RECEIVE THE DRAFT BUDGET 2022/23**

It was AGREED: That the Draft Budget for 2022/23 be approved.

e) **TO APPROVE THE PRECEPT FOR 2022/23**

It was AGREED: That the Precept for 2022/23 of £6,828 be approved. **Clerk to action.**

f) **TO RECEIVE THE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT**

It was AGREED: That as the report had not yet been received this item would be deferred to a future meeting.

LB10/21/22 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

LB10a/21/22 – PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

LB11/21/22 – UPDATE ON VILLAGE HALL AND ITS PROPOSED REFURBIHSMENT

Cllr Binder reported that a criteria had to be met in order to apply for grant funding from Suez Community Trust for the refurbishment of the Village Hall. The criteria included the following:

- The Lease for the property had to be for more than 5 years
- The property had to be more than 2.5 kilometers from the Incinerator
- The project would be favourable if it included environmental products

He explained that the next meeting of the Suez Communities Trust was due to take place in March. Once grant funding had been approved the Parish Council would need to go to Tender for the proposed works.

LB12/21/22 – APPOINTMENT ARCHIECT FOR VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

Cllr Binder reported that Hollins Architects were prepared to provide their services for the refurbishment works of the Village Hall and would charge 10% of the total cost of the project.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk write to Hollins Architects to instruct them for the works.

LB13/21/22 – UPDATE ON PROPOSED PURCHASE OF DEFIBRILLATOR

It was AGREED: That this proposal be put on hold at the current time.

LB14/21/22 – UPDATE ON PROPOSED PURCHASE OF VILLAGE SIGN

Michelle Kenningale, PCC, reported on the Village Sign as she had researched possible contractors and costs for the project.

She shared pictures of possible designs and explained that there were three different price ranges available. Two pencil drawings were available free of charge.

It was AGREED: That costs and drawings be brought to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

LB15/21/22 – UPDATE ON PURCHASE OF DOG BIN (VALLEY ROAD)

It was noted that the dog bin had been purchased and installed.

LB16/21/22 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- The Parish Council wished to thank Janet Gobey for her time as Parish Clerk. Clerk to send letter.
- The Parish Council wished to thank a resident of The Beeches for painting the telephone box.
- Cottage Farm – Solar panels in field have been applied for.

LB17/21/22 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 15th March 2022 at 7pm.

The meeting finished at 8.20pm.

Chairman: Dated: