

LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall on
Tuesday, 11th October 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present:

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

In Attendance J Fields – District Councillor
 J Blackburn - Clerk

LB56/22/23 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from County Cllr Chambers.

LB57/22/23 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

LB58/22/23 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

LB59/22/23 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 19TH JULY 2022

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 19th July 2022 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

LB60/22/23 – PUBLIC FORUM

There were four members of the public present. No issues were raised.

LB61/22/23 - TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR CHRIS CHAMBERS

Cllr Chambers' report was circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

LB62/22/23 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR JOHN FIELD

Cllr Field's report was circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

He briefly went through his report and noted the following items:

- Household Support Fund - £50,000 had been allocated to support the most vulnerable families
- Council Rent Cap
- Parking Strategy
- Car Charging – Mid Suffolk had four charging points in the area with two in Eye and two in Stowmarket – more were needed.
- Planning – had 10 year land supply for housing

Cllr Field also reported that the Government were looking to move 3b land over to 'better' land for growing crops, which could have an impact on solar farm applications.

Cllr Wright asked Cllr Field whether there would be any likelihood of 'warm hubs' in rural areas to which Cllr Field stated that he would look into it further and report back.

LB63/22/23 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that the Water account for the Village Hall was currently in credit by £65.54.

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

The Clerk's Financial Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It showed the Council's current financial position and movements since the last meeting with the balance in the accounts on 4th October 2022 being £12,447.99.

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

The Finance Report showed the following payments to be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Sept)	£240.27
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Sept)	£45.63
N Edrupt	Cleaner's Pay (Qtr ending 30th Sept)	£72.00
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th Oct	£40.80
SALC	Payroll for 6 months	£33.60
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit - 2021/22	£240.00
EON	VH Electricity	£33.17
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Oct)	£240.27
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Oct)	£40.40

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £700.24 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

It was noted that the following receipts had been received:

The Charity Gaming	Hall Hire - June/July	40.00
M Whitton	Hall Hire	10.00
D Heffer	Hall Hire	10.00
Miss A C Gibson	Hall Hire	10.00
M Whitton	Hall Hire	£10.00
MSDC	Precept 2nd instalment	£3,414.00

d) **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

It was AGREED: That the Budget Monitoring report be approved.

e) **BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was AGREED: That this be deferred to the next meeting.

f) **EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT 2021/22**

It was AGREED: That the External Auditor's report be noted.

LB64/22/23 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/22/04509 - Householder Application - Erection of two storey side extension; Raise roof and alterations to existing rear garden room - 5 Little Box Meadow, Little Blakenham

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council had no objections to the application. **Clerk to action.**

Ref: DC/22/04731 - Householder Application - Erection of two storey extension, new parking and turning surface, and render brickwork to rear of dwelling - 3 The Common, Little Blakenham

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council had no objections to the application. **Clerk to action.**

LB65/22/23 – PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decision was noted:

Ref: DC/22/03301 - Application under S73a for Removal or Variation of Conditions following approval of DC/21/06472 dated 08/04/2022 Town and Country Planning 1990. Change of use and conversion of curtilage listed barn from agricultural to 1no residential dwelling. To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) Amendments as per revised drawings and Planning Statement - Elm Farm, Somersham Road, Little Blakenham – **Granted**

LB66/22/23 – BOTTLE HILL STREET LIGHT

Following correspondence from residents at Leather Bottle Hill the Parish Council reconsidered funding for the replacement of the street light which had been broken.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk liaise with Highways and ask for a revised quote and that the works be undertaken.

LB67/22/23 – EVERYONE ACTIVE INITIATIVE FOR VILLAGE HALLS

Cllr Keen reported that she had been contacted about the Village Hall being part of an Everyone Active initiative where the hall could be promoted for the use of the community.

It was AGREED: That the Village Hall 'sign up' for help with promotion.

LB68/22/23 - VILLAGE SIGN

It was noted that Cllr John Fields had provided locality funding for this project to the value of £2,500 which all present thanked him for.

Cllr Keen reported that other fund applications were being looked into and she would pass on those details to the Clerk.

It was also suggested that the Clerk should apply for the County Councillor's locality funding pot.

Michele Kenningale stated that she had received the necessary forms to be signed from the Village Sign Company to reserve the sign's position in the 'production queue'. The form needed to be signed by a member of the Parish Council, which could be done following the meeting.

LB69/22/23 – PLAY AREA

It was confirmed that the grass had been cut and the Clerk was asked to chase the locality funding application for the replacement of the swing.

LB70/22/23 - VILLAGE HALL BOOKING SYSTEMS

Cllr Keen reported that she had designed a sheet for Hirers to complete when making a booking.

She stated that items such as the kettle and urn were due to be pat tested. Also, hirers had reported to her that the vacuum cleaner did not work and a dustpan and brush would be useful to help tidy up after a booking.

The emptying of the litter bins were also questioned.

LB71/22/23 – VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

Cllr Binder informed members that he, Cllr Wright and the Clerk met with an Officer from the Community Infrastructure Levi (CiL) department at the District Council at the village hall to discuss funding for the refurbishment.

He was positive that the funds would be available following receipt of a revised specification. **Clerk to action.**

LB72/22/23 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Overgrown hedging on Valley Road had been cut.
- Overgrow hedging on the entrance to The Beeches

LB73/22/23 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 15TH November 2022 at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.20pm.

Chairman: Dated: