

LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall on
Tuesday, 16th May 2023 at 7.40pm.

Present:

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

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
Cllr A Marriott

LB06/23/24 – ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Binder declared the meeting open.

Cllr Latham proposed that Cllr Binder be elected as Chair, which was seconded by Cllr Wright. **Decision** – Cllr Binder was duly elected Chair.

Cllr Binder signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and then took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

LB07/23/24 – ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Cllr Palmer proposed that Cllr Wright be elected as Vice-Chair, which was seconded by Cllr Latham. **Decision** – Cllr Wright was duly elected Vice-Chair.

LB08/23/24 - TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

None had been received.

LB09/23/24 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

LB10/23/24 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

LB11/23/24 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 21st MARCH 2023

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 21st March 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

LB12/23/24 – APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) – All

LB13/23/24 – ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

It was AGREED: That the annual subscription be continued for SALC and £158.16 paid.

LB14/23/24 – PUBLIC FORUM

Four members of the public were present and the following issues were raised:

- Port One was now within the boundary of Little Blakenham. A public footpath had become blocked and also some fly-tipping had been reported. A resident had had a discussion with someone from the site and had been informed that funding was available for community projects and infrastructure. Also, on the border between Little Blakenham and Great Blakenham cement from the site was moving towards the road.

Cllr Wright confirmed that a funding meeting was due to be held with some Parish Councillors and a representative from Mid Suffolk District Council on 24th May 2023 at the Village Hall.

- Signage at the bottom of Valley Road had become twisted and was pointing the wrong way, which needed to be looked at.
- Village Hall sign was needed on the main road, to enable visitors to know where to turn to reach the Village Hall. **Clerk to speak with County Councillor.**
- Street light at Red house – Light shining red and not white, which was believed to be the filament of an old bulb - **Clerk to check it is the Parish Council's**

LB15/23/24 - TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR CHRIS CHAMBERS

It was NOTED: That the County Councillor submitted a report to the Annual Parish Meeting that was held prior to this meeting.

LB16/23/24 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR ADRIENNE MARRIOTT

It was NOTED: That the District Councillor submitted a report to the Annual Parish Meeting that was held prior to this meeting.

LB17/23/24 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk had nothing to report other than what was already on the Agenda.

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

The Clerk reported on the Council's current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance in the accounts on 11th May 2023 was £12,103.59.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Apr)	254.20
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Apr)	26.00
ICO	Data Protection Renewal	35.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (May)	254.20
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (May)	£45.06
SALC	Renewal of Subscription	£158.16
Great Bricett PC	Contribution to ink cartridges (Clerk's printer)	£117.24
CFB IT Solutions	Domain purchase & setup of mailbox	£116.40
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (May)	£6.00
MSDC	Bin Emptying	£318.70

Trevor Brown	Internal Audit 2022/23	£160.00
EON	Hall Electricity	£33.80

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £752.14 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

d) **TO APPROVE THE ASSET REGISTER**

It was AGREED: That the Asset Register be approved.

e) **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

The Annual Governance Statement was completed by the Council and signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

f) **END OF YEAR 31ST MARCH 2023 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Statement of Accounts was presented for approval. **Decision** – approved and signed by the Chair and the Clerk

g) **EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE**

The Exemption Certificate was approved and signed by the Chair and Clerk.

h) **INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The Internal Auditor's Report was received and it was noted that policies needed to be reviewed and amended accordingly. **Clerk to action.**

LB18/23/24 – GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council met the conditions of eligibility set out in the Schedule to the Parish Council (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, thereby enabling it to use the General Power of Competence. This would remain valid until the Annual Meeting following the next Ordinary Election in May 2027.

LB19/23/24 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/23/01426 - Full Planning Application - Creation of 1 no. new dwelling house by way of: conversion and extension of existing domestic annexe, and erection of detached garage - Leather Bottle Cottage, Leather Bottle Hill, Little Blakenham

Members discussed the application and felt that it was overdevelopment of the site. The original planning application was for a garage. To make that into a dwelling would be overdevelopment.

The visibility splays would not be able to meet the expected measurements due to lack of room therefore making the access dangerous.

The extra traffic the application would create would add to an already dangerous accident spot.

There was currently a footpath that went across the site.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council object to the application for the reasons stated above.
Clerk to action.

Ref: DC/23/02118 - Planning Application - 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 ('Free Go' application following refusal of MSDC Ref: DC/20/05895) - Land To The South Of Church Farm, Somersham IP8 4PN And Land To The East Of The Channel, Burstall

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council object to this application as Grade 2 Agricultural Land should not be used for electricity. **Clerk to action.**

LB20/23/24 – PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received

LB21/23/24 – BOOKING FORMS FOR HALL HIRERS

Cllr Keen presented updated booking forms to be used for all Village Hall hirers.

It was AGREED: That the forms be approved and used.

LB22/23/24 – LORRY USE OF POUND LANE

As stated in the July 2022 Minutes, Cllr Chambers talked about a Traffic Regulation Order to stop HGVs using Pound Road, which would cost in the region of £5,000 - £10,000.

Members discussed this again and stated that the verges are in a very poor state following larger vehicles using the road.

It was suggested that Cllr Chambers be approached to see if he could change the signage from 'Unsuitable for HGVs' to 'Alternative route for HGVs' – **Clerk to action.**

LB23/23/24 - SPEEDING

The Clerk reported that the Speed Management Team would be monitoring the speed through the parish and she would request the data throughout the year.

LB24/23/24 - VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

Cllr Binder reported that a funding meeting in relation to Port One was due to be held on 24th May.

LB25/23/24 - VILLAGE SIGN UPDATE

It was noted that the Village Sign was due to be ready in October.

LB26/23/24 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Concrete bollards had been installed to stop motor bikes entering the footpath to go to the quarry.

LB27/23/24 – MEETING DATES FOR 2023/24

Tuesday, 18th July 2023
Tuesday, 19th September 2023
Tuesday, 21st November 2023
Tuesday, 23rd January 2024
Tuesday, 19th March 2024

LB28/23/24 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 18th July 2023 at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.31pm

Chairman: Dated: