



## **LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall on  
**Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 at 7.40pm.**

### **Present:**

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

In Attendance         J Blackburn – Clerk  
                              County Cllr C Chambers  
                              District Cllr A Marriott  
                              Two members of the public

### **LB57/23/24 - TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE**

None had been received.

### **LB58/23/24 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None had been received.

### **LB59/23/24 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **LB60/23/24 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 19<sup>th</sup> SEPT 2023**

**It was AGREED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **LB61/23/24 – PUBLIC FORUM**

Member of the public reported that the 30mph sign at The Beeches remained broken. Clerk to report.

### **LB62/23/24 - TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR ADRIENNE MARRIOTT**

Cllr Marriott's report was circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website. She reported on the following subjects:

- Recent flooding – funding available for those affected.
- Flood Action week – 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November
- CiL Boost for Communities
- Community Climate Action Roadshows
- Pride in your Place
- Council's set out commitment to increase EV chargers
- Have your say on Polling Arrangements

## **LB63/23/24 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **a) CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk had nothing to report other than what was 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 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 was £12,521.17.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

N Edrupt	Cleaners Pay	90.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Pay (Sept)	254.20
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Office Allowance/Exp (Sept)	40.40
HMRC	PAYE (to end 5th Oct 23)	33.20
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Pay (Oct)	254.20
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Office Allowance/Exp (Oct)	26.00
EON	VH Electricity (Oct)	36.91
EON	VH Electricity (Nov)	39.53
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Pay (Nov)	£365.04
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Office Allowance/Exp (Nov)	40.40
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Oct)	£6.00
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Nov)	£6.00
SALC	Payroll - 6 months	£76.80
SCC	Replacement Streetlight - Leather Bottle Hill	£1,051.20
Suffolk Cloud	Website Hosting	£120.00

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £2,439.88 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

### **d) BANK RECONCILIATION**

**It was AGREED:** That the Bank Reconciliation be approved.

### **e) DRAFT BUDGET 2024/25**

Cllr Binder proposed and Cllr Wright seconded the approval of the Draft Budget for 2024/25 – **all agreed.**

## **LB64/23/24 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

None had been received.

## **LB65/23/24 – PLANNING DECISIONS**

The following decision was noted:

**Ref: DC/23/03605** - Planning Application - Completion and alteration of approved garage/workshop building to form 1No detached dwelling - Broomvale Farmhouse, Bramford Road, Little Blakenham - **Granted**

## **LB66/23/24 – SPEEDING – VALLEY ROAD**

Cllr Brown reported on the speed of vehicles along Valley Road particularly when Somersham Road is closed.

Cllr Palmer explained that surveys had been carried out along the road of which speeding was noted, but nothing was put in place to help with the problem.

It was felt that more signage, such as 'Pedestrians' should be used along Valley Road and also further monitoring by the Speed Management Department be undertaken. **Clerk to action.**

#### **LB67/23/24 – STREETLIGHT – THE BEECHES**

The Clerk reported that a resident had stated an issue with one of the streetlights on The Beeches. Members and members of the public present reported that all lights on The Beeches were working.

The Clerk stated that she would liaise with the resident to check the light had been repaired. **Clerk to action.**

#### **LB68/23/24 - VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT UPDATE**

Cllr Binder reported that he had spoken with representatives from Port One about the proposed Village Hall refurbishment, which had been very positive. He confirmed that the next meeting to discuss the proposal would be held in January 2024.

The Clerk reported that she had liaised with Birketts Solicitors, who work on behalf of the Diocese, and was awaiting approval for the works and extension of the Lease. A quote would also be provided for the legal side of the proposed works.

#### **LB69/23/24 – VILLAGE SIGN**

Michele Kenningale reported that the sign was ready for installation.

#### **LB70/23/24 - PLAY AREA**

It was noted that the replacement swing was ready to be installed.

#### **LB71/23/24 - TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR CHRIS CHAMBERS**

Cllr Chambers reported on the following:

- Budget Consultation
- Flooding – Funding Available, 1,000 people affected in Suffolk
- Suffolk Library Service
- Solar Farms

#### **LB72/23/24 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

- Reclaim the Rain – mapping, measuring and the flying of drones had been carried out

#### **LB73/23/24 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was AGREED:** That the next meeting be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm.

#### **Confidential Item**

**LB74/23/24 – It was AGREED:** That the Cleaner's pay be raised to the National Minimum Wage with back pay to April 2023.  
That time sheets be requested.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm.

Chairman: ..... Dated: .....