



LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Church Hall on
Tuesday, 23rd January 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: S Wright (Chairman)
B Palmer
J Latham
A Brown

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
County Cllr C Chambers
District Cllr A Marriott

LB75/23/24 - TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Binder and Cllr Keen.

LB76/23/24 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

LB77/23/24 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

LB78/23/24 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 21ST NOVEMBER 2023

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

LB79/23/24 – PUBLIC FORUM

There were two members of the public present. They raised the following issues:

- Outstanding repair of 30mph signage at entrance to The Beeches. **Clerk to chase.**
- Roadside Nature Reserve (No. 119) – reflective posts fallen which has resulted in verge being driven over. **Clerk to report.**

LB80/23/24 - 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. He briefly reported the position with the County Council's budget, which was within his report.

LB81/23/24 - 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 briefly went through her report on the following topics:

- Storm Babet – Flood Recovery Framework schemes
- Flu and Covid 19 surveillance reports updated
- Support for children with special educational needs and disabilities
- Great British Rail Sale returns
- Community Ownership Fund
- Suffolk Recycling
- Skills and Innovation Centre at Gateway 14
- Levies on Second Home Owners and Owners of Empty Properties

LB82/23/24 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) **CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) had informed Clerks of the annual increase in salary, which this year was a flat sum of £1,925 pro rata. The Clerk informed Members that the increase would be backdated to April 2023. **All Agreed.**

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 16th January 2024 was £13,263.13.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Pay (Dec)	267.93
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Office Allowance/Exp (Dec)	26.00
N Edrupt	Cleaners Pay	100.54
HMRC	PAYE (to end 5th Jan)	11.00
EON	VH Electricity (Nov)	40.17
EON	VH Electricity (Dec)	39.60
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Dec 2023)	6.00
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Jan 2024)	6.00
CFB IT Solutions	Domain renewal	31.20
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Pay (Jan)	267.93
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Office Allowance/Exp (Jan)	39.50
The Village Sign People	New Village Sign	5326.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £6,161.87 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

The following receipts were noted:

Matt Whitton	Hall Hire	£20.00
Mark Woods	Hall Hire	£10.00
P Eden	Hall Hire	£10.00
Kerrie Roberts	Hall Hire	£10.00
Matt Whitton	Hall Hire	£10.00
Mark Woods	Hall Hire	£10.00
P Eden	Hall Hire	£10.00

d) **BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was AGREED: That the Bank Reconciliation be approved.

e) **FINAL BUDGET 2024/25**

The Clerk reported that she had amended the Budget slightly to reflect the confirmed cost of Bin Emptying for 2024/25 received from the District Council.

It was AGREED: That the Final Budget for 2024/25 be approved.

f) **PRECEPT 2024/25**

It was AGREED: That the Precept of £7,660 be approved. **Clerk to action.**

LB83/23/24 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

LB84/23/24 – PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

LB85/23/24 – REPAIR OF STREETLIGHT – THE BEECHES

The Clerk reported that she had spoken with Carl Lockwood at the Highways Street Lighting Department who had explained that whilst the new contractor had taken over duties at the County Council on 1st October 2023, they had not agreed to complete any unfinished works from the previous contractor.

In this case, the contractor had agreed to assess the streetlight and advise whether it could be repaired. If it could be repaired it would be paid under the maintenance contract between the Parish Council and Suffolk County Council and would be no cost to the Parish Council. If the light did need to be replaced then the Parish Clerk would be notified and also what costs would be involved.

Cllr Chambers informed the Clerk that he would be happy to contribute towards costs if required.

LB86/23/24 - VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

Cllr Wright reported that Cllr Binder had attended the recent Planning Meeting in relation to Port One and would report back to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

It was asked whether the planning application for Port One would encroach onto the copse of woodland adjacent to the site where rare orchids and rare snails had been observed.

Cllr Wright explained that the application stopped before the copse and therefore the wildlife should not be affected.

LB87/23/24 – VILLAGE SIGN

Cllr Palmer reported that he had spoken with the company who had made the village sign and had been informed that it was nearing completion and a delivery date would soon be arranged.

LB88/23/24 - PLAY AREA

It was reported that the new swing seat had been installed.

LB89/23/24 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

No matters were raised.

LB90/23/24 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 19th March 2024 at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.08pm.

Chairman: Dated: