



## **LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Church Hall on  
**Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present:**

Councillors: S Wright (Chairman)  
A Brown  
J Latham  
L Keen

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

### **LB45/24/25 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received and approved from Cllr Palmer and Cllr Binder.

### **LB46/24/25 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None had been received.

### **LB47/24/25 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **LB48/24/25 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024**

**It was AGREED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **LB49/24/25 – PUBLIC FORUM**

Five members of the public were present. The following issues were raised:

- Public FPs overgrown – footpath from Valley Road to Leather Bottle Hill needed work to be carried out as concrete and metal pieces litter the footpath making it dangerous to use – County Cllr Chambers asked for the details to be sent to him and he would look into the issues.
- Bus stop – graffiti – in the past it had been painted
- Streetlight opposite 37/38 The Beeches had been repaired
- Footpath bridge broken and steps to the main Somersham Road needed attention
- Speed limits in village – concerns over the level of speeding motorists along Valley Road with horse riders and pedestrians having near misses in recent months. During closure of Somersham Road vehicles drive along Valley Road which included large Lorries.

- Man Orchids – it appeared that these had been cut along the Roadside Verge 119. The verge markers were missing and had been reported to the Roadside Verge Reserves Department but nothing had yet been done. County Cllr Chambers asked for more information so he could investigate further.

**LB50/24/25 - TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR CHRIS CHAMBERS**

Cllr Chambers briefly went through his report, which would be published on the village website. The main subjects included in the report were as follows:

- New Europa Way link road in Ipswich gets start date
- Major Scrapyard fire most likely sparked by discarded battery
- Solar Together launches in Suffolk
- Small improvements needed as Children's Services Ofsted report published

**LB51/24/25 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR ADRIENNE MARRIOTT**

Cllr Marriott briefly went through her report, which would be published on the village website. The main subjects included in the report were as follows:

- Councils to host call for land summit in September
- Additional funding approved to allow vulnerable residents to stay in their own homes
- Remediating unsafe buildings
- Household Support Fund extended six months
- Reminder – Flu vaccination programme
- Reminder – Respiratory syncytial virus vaccine toolkits
- Whooping Cough infections continued to rise
- Fuel Poverty in England report published
- Water Bill compensation
- MSDC Suffolk Recycles campaign
- Batteries and Electrical Fires

**LB52/24/25 – SPEEDING – VALLEY ROAD**

As mentioned earlier in the meeting, residents raised concerns in relation to the speed of vehicles along Valley Road.

Cllr Browne agreed with the concerns and stated that the road should not be 60mph due to its blind corners, hedgerows and pedestrians that used the road.

Cllr Chambers informed the meeting that whilst Valley Road was 60 mph, it did not mean that that was the speed motorists should drive and it would be down the driver to drive according to the road and surroundings.

He added that he noted the concerns raised and would fund a traffic monitoring survey, which would entail cables being placed across the road. These would track the speed of motorists for a certain period of time. He would arrange for this to be carried out as soon as possible.

He explained that there was a lot of criteria that needed to be met in order for the speed limit to be changed but the traffic monitoring survey would be the first step.

**LB53/24/25 - 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 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 was £6,732.14.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Sept)	226.13
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Sept)	32.75
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Aug)	6.00
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Sept)	6.00
EON	Electricity for Village Hall	36.84
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Oct)	226.13
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Oct)	26.00
EON	Electricity for Village Hall (Aug)	36.79

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £596.64 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

**LB54/24/25 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Ref: DC/24/03787 - APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S)** - Application under S73a for the Removal or variation of a Condition following grant of DC/23/00639 dated 28/07/2024 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Erection of 3No dwellings and new vehicular access (following demolition of barns previously approved under Class Q DC/22/01800). To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) as per application form and revised plans - Elm Farm, Somersham Road, Little Blakenham

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

**LB55/24/25 – PLANNING DECISIONS**

None had been received.

**LB56/24/25 – PLAY AREA**

Cllr Brown suggested that new play equipment needed to be purchased for the play area and different bits of equipment suggested, such as a slide.

The Clerk suggested that quotes be sought and an application for the District Council's CiL pot be considered.

Following a brief discussion members agreed that Cllr Brown would research new equipment and in October when the next CiL round took place would apply for funding.

The Clerk reported that the Play Area Inspection had taken place and all equipment had been noted as low risk, apart from the wooden stepping stones, which were moderate risk. These needed to be monitored

**It was AGREED:** That Cllr Brown seek quotes for new equipment and apply for CiL money.

**LB57/24/25 - VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT UPDATE**

Cllr Keen reported that a meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 by Port One – Solar Panel offer and Port One Legacy Biodiversity Enhancement Fund (POLBEF). The minutes of which would be published on the village website. The meetings were due to be held every three months.

The Clerk reported that the completion of the extended Lease was ongoing.

**LB58/24/25 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

No matters were raised.

**LB59/24/25 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was AGREED:** That the next meeting be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.55pm

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