



LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Church Hall on
Tuesday, 21st January 2025 at 7.30pm.

Present:

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

In Attendance Mrs J Blackburn - Clerk
District Cllr A Marriott

LB80/24/25 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Wright, Cllr Brown and County Cllr Chambers.

LB81/24/25 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

LB82/24/25 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

LB83/24/25 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 19TH NOVEMBER 2024

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 19th November 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

LB84/24/25 – PUBLIC FORUM

13 members of the public were present.

The following points were raised and actions noted:

- Surface Water Drains – Little Box Meadow – **Clerk to report to Highways**
- Proposed Play Area Refurbishment/Replacement – Suez application could be made – **Clerk to pass information on to Cllr Brown**
- Extra parking needed at Little Box Meadow – not enough spaces – **District Cllr Marriott would investigate**
- Speeding on Somersham Road / Valley Road – Speed Signs suggested – **Parish Council investigating**
- 30mph sign at The Beeches remained in a poor state – **Parish Clerk to chase County Cllr**
- Graffiti – Bus Stop – needed to be cleaned – member of public had cleaned the timetable – **Parish Council to look into**
- Iron posts holding the fencing up at the Play Area (2nd and 3rd to the left of the gate) needed attention – **Cllr Binder would attend to**
- Re-routed traffic to Nettlestead – extension of 30mph needed

- Soil needed to be reduced from The Beeches to the Bus Stop to enable safe walking along the verge to the Bus Stop
- Blocked ditches which had caused a rise in water levels and could cause serious flooding if landowners don't clear their parts of the ditch – **Cllr Latham stated that The Beeches ditch would be cleared out by the farm contractor by the Spring.**

LB85/24/25 - TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR CHRIS CHAMBERS

Cllr Chambers was not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

LB86/24/25 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR ADRIENNE MARRIOTT

Cllr Marriott's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

She spoke briefly on the following items:

- Amber Cold Weather Alert
- Devolution / the role of the District Council
- New Government Housing targets / Joint Local Plan
- Changes to fast track planning approval process
- New Council powers to increase housebuilding and infrastructure
- Funding to prevent homelessness and help rough sleeps off the streets

LB88/24/25 - 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 14th January 2025 was £8,742.75.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Dec)	304.84
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Dec)	26.00
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th Jan	190.40
EON	Electricity for VH (Dec)	38.16
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Dec)	6.00
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Jan)	6.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jan)	234.85
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jan)	57.29

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £863.54 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

The following receipts were noted:

Kenneth Friars	Hall Hire	£30.00
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d) **BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was AGREED: That the Bank Reconciliation be approved.

e) **FINAL BUDGET – 2025/26**

It was AGREED: That the Final Budget for 2025/26 be approved.

f) **PRECEPT FOR 2025/26**

It was AGREED: That the Precept of £8,425 for 2025/26 be approved. **Clerk to action.**

LB89/24/25 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

LB90/24/25 – PLANNING DECISIONS

Members noted the following planning decision:

Ref: DC/24/05422 - Planning Application - Replacement village hall - Little Blakenham Village Hall, Valley Road, Little Blakenham - **Granted**

LB91/24/25 – DONATION - CAB

Members felt that their current financial position was such that a donation to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) was not possible this for this financial year, but would be considered next year.

LB92/24/25 – CARE TAKING – VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Keen stated that she had been purchasing sundries for the village hall and asked if it was something that the Cleaner should do.

The Clerk confirmed that the Cleaner should make the purchases and give receipts for any sundries for reimbursement.

The role of the Cleaner at the Village Hall was briefly discussed and that time sheets had not been received lately – **Clerk to email the Cleaner.**

LB93/24/25 – JOB DESCRIPTION FOR CARETAKER

It was confirmed that a job description for the Cleaner did not exist but would be attended to once the new hall had been built.

LB93/24/25 – CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

Michele Kenningale confirmed that she had tried to bring in volunteers to help with the maintenance of the churchyard, without success.

Members confirmed that they would be happy to contribute towards the cost for a contractor to undertake the work.

LB94/24/25 - SPEEDING – VALLEY ROAD

There was nothing to report other than the setting up of a Community Speedwatch Group was ongoing.

LB95/24/25 – PLAY AREA

There was nothing to report other than funding for a new Play Area continued to be sought.

LB96/24/25 - VILLAGE HALL REBUILD

Cllr Binder reported that the planning application for the rebuild of the hall had been granted and the extended Lease finalised.

LB97/24/25 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

No matters were raised.

LB98/24/25 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 18th March 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.25pm

Chairman: Dated:

DRAFT