

Minutes of the 210th meeting of Great Glemham Parish Council held in Great Glemham Village Hall on 6 December 2013

1. **PRESENT:** Jennifer Beaumont; John Cross; Karen Debenham; Julian Duggan; Elaine Lewis (Chairman); Peter Lincoln; Diane Minns; Duncan McIver; Nicholas Redman (Honorary Clerk); Mark Runnacles. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Tony Eaves of NGA Connect; Argus Gathorne-Hardy and Jason Gathorne-Hardy representing Great Glemham Farms; and around six electors and members of the public. **APOLOGIES:** Damian Ferrar (work commitment); PCSO Mann (policing commitments); Councillor Stephen Burroughes (work commitment). **MINUTES OF THE 209TH MEETING HELD ON THE 4 OCTOBER 2013:** These were approved and the Chairman signed the copy in the minute book as a true record. **INTERESTS:** No interests were declared.
2. **BROADBAND:** The Chairman welcomed Tony Eaves of NGA Connect, who explained that he was working with the Benefice (which included Great Glemham and six other parishes) on a project which should make wireless broadband available by using transmitters installed on church towers and elsewhere. What he needed was a "base" of clients who were willing to commit to join the project. He had proceeded similarly in Framlingham, Brundish and Laxfield and on Parham Airfield. Customers paid a £200 installation fee and thereafter residential customers paid £20 per month for 5Mbps download and upload or £30 for 10Mbps (the monthly fees for businesses were higher £30 for the 5Mbps service and £45 for the 10Mbps service). In return for the £200 installation fee Bayfields would fix an aerial to the building in question (along with as many other transmitters were required). All customers were given a statement of downloading and uploading speeds before they made their commitment to join. Contracts could be concluded on a rolling basis (requiring 30 days' notice to terminate) or for an agreed period. For rolling contracts, the installation fee had to be made up-front. For fixed term contracts the installation fee would be spread over the period. The monthly fees were likely to include a £1 per month (£2 for businesses) levy paid to the Benefice.

Mr Eaves had liaised with the various parochial church councils in the Benefice and with key figures in the St Edmondsbury diocese including James Halsall who had given consent in principle to the installation of the necessary equipment on churches; however, a formal "faculty" (or consent) would be required in each case. Mr Eaves was aiming to use Great Glemham as template for all the necessary consents from the diocese. In addition, listed building consents were likely to be required for the installation of equipment.

Except in the case of Benhall the churches would form a spine to the network. However, some other buildings would have to be used for siting equipment. Mr Eaves thanked Argus Gathorne-Hardy for consenting to the surveying of Great Glemham Farms' grain store on Parham Airfield. However, between the grain store and the church in Great Glemham was a large group of trees and the various transmitters had to be installed in sight of each other. Mr Eaves had approached Kindred Farms for consent to survey a tall building at Runway Farm which looked a better prospect.

In response to questions from electors and others, Mr Eaves said that:

- trees certainly depleted the signals and one had to take account of the likely effect of trees in full leaf;
- the connection from the receiver on the outside of a building to the router (which was supplied) was by means of "cat 5" cabling and the aerial itself needed no additional power cable as the power is provided over the Ethernet cable;
- the Anglican church authorities had investigated the radiation caused by wireless Broadband and found it safe;
- NGA Connect could extend capacity if required;
- there was a 50GB monthly limit and a "fair usage" clause in the contract;
- the £200 fee covered a survey, the installation and the router but the aerials remained NGA Connect property;
- no line rental fee was payable and this saving should be factored in by those considering whether to join;

- the project would not improve mobile reception, though the use of "Femto" cells could make mobiles more effective indoors;
- coverage within a connected property depended on the method of construction (for example, Selotex insulation contained metal which obstructed the wireless signals);
- the full reach of the signal was 20km in perfect conditions;
- for those joining the scheme, NGA Connect would become their ISP;
- NGA Connect took a personal and dedicated approach to customer support;
- more details were available from www.NGA.Connect.com.

ACTION: The Chairman and the Honorary Clerk to compile a note to all electors outlining the proposal and asking electors to give an indication of whether they would sign up to NGA Connect's offering. This would give NGA Connect an idea of whether its plans for Great Glemham were sustainable. The Chairman to approach the planning authority to check the position as to planning consents.

[Post-meeting note: Mr Eaves confirmed by email dated 23 December 2013 that NGA Connect had reviewed the comments that came from the meeting about the cost of the installation and had decided that, in order to bring the price down, it could offer a rate of £149 to those customers that sign up for a 12 month contract at the beginning of the installation phase. Thereafter, the price will revert to £200. Also, whilst VAT was not presently payable, if it were to become so, it would be added to prices.]

3. REPORTS

- 3.1 **SCC/SCDC:** The Honorary Clerk summarised a written report that he had received from Councillor Burroughes. He would circulate copies to members.
- 3.2 **Police:** The Honorary Clerk reported that he had received a report from PSCO Mann that one crime had been reported in Great Glemham during the months of September, October and December, namely the theft of a car.
- 3.3 **Great Glemham Farms:** Jason Gathorne-Hardy reported that, after receiving complaints about spraying on School Field, he had: (1) met with the Watts brothers, the Farms' contractors, and agreed that the parish council would be provided with information regarding what crops were likely to be sprayed giving likely times and details of the chemicals to be used; (2) planned wider headlands for the easterly end and protective measures around Low Road Cottages; (3) committed to follow the NFU's best practice in addition to compliance with official guidance. Many sprays applied "mild nutrients" but the spray that had led to the complaints was a growth retardant, "Stomp", which contained pentamethalene. Argus Gathorne-Hardy reported that the planting plan relating to the solar farm was now being implemented. No tree guards were being used on the advice of experts, including Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The sward establishment programme had had to be delayed due to adverse weather conditions - it would be implemented in the Spring of 2014. The solar farm had been switched on on 20 November and the first payment of the community benefit would be due one year from that date.
4. **HIGHWAYS:** Jennifer Beaumont reported that, following a number of telephone calls to SCDC, the light on Crown corner had been repaired and was now working. She was liaising with SCC as to a light in Chapel Lane with a faulty sensor (which meant it was lit all the time). Grit stocks had been topped up. The tree root which had disrupted the surface of Chapel Lane had been removed by SCC (though the contractors felt that, in due course, the problem would recur).

5. PLANNING

- 5.1 **Minor applications:** John Cross had approached SALC for advice as to whether the parish council could meet electronically to deal with minor planning applications. He was informed that the parish council could not do this but it could draw up a standing order allowing delegated councillors to consider defined types of application and to respond on behalf the parish council. The Honorary Clerk read out a draft of such an order which was agreed. The order is annexed to these minutes. **ACTION: Chairman and Honorary Clerk to sign the standing order at the parish council's next meeting.**
- 5.2 **Sizewell:** John Cross reported that he attended the last meeting of the Sizewell Forum on 21 November. He had concluded that the biggest issue facing Great Glemham was access to the A12

(especially turning right) whilst it was being used by contractors and those delivering personnel and materials to the site. The Honorary Clerk added that those seeking to cross the A12 on foot or on a bicycle faced even graver risks. **ACTION: JC to make the relevant representations at the appropriate time (it being noted that commercial negotiations with the proposed operators were not yet complete).**

- 5.3 **Framlingham expansion:** The Honorary Clerk noted that further houses were to be built in Framlingham, this time off Fairfield Road. Whilst it would not normally be appropriate for the parish council to comment on issues relating to another settlement, many electors visited Framlingham for work, for shopping, for access to medical and financial services and the local library. In addition, many children of electors were educated there. The surgery was already very busy and the schools were working close to full capacity and already applying criteria giving priority to those living closest. For all these reasons, it was appropriate for the parish council to lobby for improved infrastructure in Framlingham. This was agreed. The Honorary Clerk would liaise with the Town Clerk in Framlingham as to how to make the relevant representations. **ACTION: Honorary Clerk.**
- 5.4 **High Grove Farm Woods:** The Honorary Clerk reported that he had heard from Danielle Miller of the Planning team at SCDC who confirmed that the team was "currently in the process of issuing a planning contravention notice" and that she would keep the Honorary Clerk updated as to developments.
6. **SUSTAINABILITY:** Julian Duggan commented on the availability of free tree plants from the Woodland Trust and the local Tree Council. It was agreed he and Mark Runnacles would liaise with the Friends of Butchers Field to see if it was worth seeking more trees to replace those in Butchers Field that had died (noting that the Woodland Trust's offer was for at least 30 plants). **ACTION: Julian Duggan and Mark Runnacles.**
7. **PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** The Sweffling parish clerk had sent the questionnaire that she and the Honorary Clerk had agreed to Councillor Burroughes apparently without response. The Honorary Clerk had agreed to contact the SCC portfolio holder for transport, Councillor Newman, as his view was likely to be important. **ACTION: Honorary Clerk.**
8. **SAFEGUARDING:** The plan drawn up by Duncan McIver and Peter Lincoln and presented to the 209th meeting was formally adopted by the parish council which agreed to review the plan in two years. **ACTION: Honorary Clerk to make diary note.**
9. **SACRE/SALC:** John Cross reported that the next SALC meeting was on the 9th December.
10. **BUTCHERS FIELD:** The Honorary Clerk reported that John Meadows (who worked on the Framlingham College groundstaff) had kindly agreed to service the mower acquired by the Friends on an "expenses only" basis. Julian Duggan confirmed that he and Mark Runnacles would take steps to immobilise the mower over the winter and to take steps advised by the manufacturer (these included draining the fuel tank and disconnecting the battery). **ACTION: Julian Duggan and Mark Runnacles.**
11. **COMMEMORATION OF WW1 CENTENARY IN 2014:** The Honorary Clerk pondered if the parish council help in any way - such as paying for hire of the village hall for an exhibition. The Church Warden of All Saints Church, who was present, commented that there would be a commemorative service. *[Post-meeting note: the Village Archive Group has recently sought contributions from residents.]*
12. **2014 MEETINGS:** The following dates were agreed: 28 February; 16 May; 19 September; 28 November.
13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Non-Ecclesiastical Trust:** The Honorary Clerk reported that the Charity Commission was willing in principle to permit the alteration of the constitution allowing payments to more public projects and causes in the village. **Retirement of the Reverend Barrie Slatter:** There was to be a farewell party at the Riverside Centre in Stratford St Andrew in the afternoon of 25 January. **Composting plant:** Julian Duggan reported that his working commitments made it difficult for him to attend forum meetings for local residents relating to the operation of the plant. Mr Patrick Wilson, an elector who is a member of the forum in his own right, kindly agreed to be the parish council's representative of the forum.

Meeting closed at 9:55pm NA Redman, Honorary Clerk

Standing order

To remain in effect until the parish council resolves otherwise

The parish council is generally supportive of electors making adjustments and extensions to their homes. The process normally has no material impact on the community. Commonly, it will benefit the community by encouraging electors to settle here and by providing work for local contractors and professionals. As the parish council presently finds it necessary to convene around four meetings a year, many applications by electors for such adjustments or extensions are not considered by the parish council.

So that the parish council can consider and comment on such applications, the parish council resolves as a standing order that, if it is not feasible to discuss a planning application for the adjustment or extension of a pre-existing home in Great Glemham at a convened meeting, the Chairman and Clerk for the time being may consider the application and make representations about it to the planning authority on the parish council's behalf.

This resolution does not apply to the proposed construction of a new home or to any change of use.

This standing order is signed by:

..... Elaine Lewis, Chairman

..... Nicholas Redman, Honorary Clerk

.....February 2014