

## MINUTES of the 214th meeting of Great Glemham Parish Council held in the village hall on 28 November

**PRESENT:** Jennifer Beaumont, John Cross, Karen Debenham, Julian Duggan, Elaine Lewis (Chairman), Peter Lincoln, Duncan McIver, Nicholas Redman (Honorary Clerk), Mark Runnacles. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Stephen Burroughes, Mr and Mrs Sharpe of Framlingham Residents Association and four electors. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Diane Minns (prior commitment), Argus Gathorne-Hardy and Damian Ferrar (both work commitments). **INTERESTS:** No interests were declared. **MINUTES:** The minutes of the 213th meeting held on 12 September 2014 were (subject to three minor errors) approved and the Chairman signed the copy in the minute book.

### REPORTS:

- **SCC:** Councillor Burroughes reported on: improvements on the achievements of pupils at key stage 1; the rollout of better Broadband services in many parts of the county (see further below); the opening of the UK's first youth employment centre in Ipswich; a pledge to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination; key improvements in safeguarding children; Suffolk's first skills show aimed at those aged between 11 and 24; and additional funding for Suffolk's Blue Light Partnership which supports the emergency services operating in the county. The full report has been filed by the Honorary Clerk. In addition, the first divisional meeting had been arranged but had had to be cancelled because of lack of interest. Councillor Burroughes also reported that locality grants for parishes were soon to become available. Between £2,000 and £3,000 was available for suitable projects in Great Glemham.
- **Crime:** The Hon Clerk had obtained a report from PCSO Mann 3051 that there were no reported crimes in the parish between 1 September and 1 November.
- **Great Glemham Farms:** Jason Gathorne-Hardy reported that some grips (allowing water to drain away from roads) were not effective: during recent rainy periods water had spilled onto a number of roads. Though traditionally the farm had dug the grips, today there was a need to obtain permission to dig from the Environment Agency and roads being served by the grips had to be formally closed before work could be started. Closure orders cost around £750 each.

The farm contractors would be instructed to remove a tree root that had been ploughed up near footpath by the access from Church Field into School Field and to level the path. Headlands of 2 metres and 5 metres were in the course of being respectively established along footpaths in Church Field and School Field.

Compost from the Parham plant had been spread on the fields post-harvest as JG-H felt that the quality had improved considerably.

The agricultural part of Butchers Field along with Kettleburgh Hill Field and 16 Acres were to be planted with peas and JG-H was contemplating holding a pea festival after the harvest in the summer of 2015.

**ACTION:** (1) Honorary Clerk to liaise with the Environment Agency with a view to establishing a programme for keeping grips dug and cleared. (2) JG-H to instruct the farm contractors accordingly.

- **Broadband:** Councillor Burroughes reported plans to extend the roll-out of super-fast broadband to more households and business were signed and sealed last week. SCC and BT signed a contract, under the Government's Broadband Delivery UK programme to continue working together on the provision of a fibre network for Suffolk. However, this does not (as yet) include Great Glemham although FramBroadband's service is now providing fast wi-fi to several households in the village. **ACTION:** Peter Lincoln to liaise with FramBroadband with regards to its offer to bring wi-fi to the village hall.
- **Butchers Field:** The Honorary Clerk reported that John Meadows of the Framlingham College ground staff, who had lived in Great Glemham, had kindly agreed to service the mower on an expenses-only basis.

In addition, a RoSPA survey had been carried out: this did not recommend any remedial action. The survey was effected by a local, RoSPA-approved contractor, Norse, which offered to do surveys in local areas on the same day. This reduced the cost considerably even if it was sometimes necessary to have a survey carried out more often than annually: the alternative of a bespoke survey by RoSPA was considerably more expensive. In addition, the Honorary Clerk expressed gratitude on behalf of all electors and their families to Simon Beaumont who was routinely carrying out inspections of Butchers Field, recording minor issues and clearing up what little litter there was.

Some high-spiritedness around Halloween had damaged the anti-fouling spikes on the cross-member over the swings. Installing replacement spikes was in hand.

Simon Beaumont had wondered whether it would be worth switching the swings around as the matting beneath some was wearing out faster than that beneath others.

**Solar Park:** The Honorary Clerk reported that, as the solar farm on Parham Airfield had been generating power for a year, the first payment of community benefit was due to be made to the parish council. The sum mentioned in the documents was £5,000 index-linked (which came to approximately £5,140), though Argus Gathorne-Hardy felt that the basic figure had been increased by £1,000 late on in the negotiations. The Honorary Clerk advised that, as the amount was significant, the parish council should see that every household got a letter setting out what was due to arrive and inviting all residents to contribute ideas either before or at the next meeting. Distribution could be effected with the next edition of *Ebb & Flow*. **ACTION:** Honorary Clerk to prepare a letter to be approved by the Chairman and to liaise with those tasked with the distribution of *Ebb & Flow* regarding the inclusion of the letter. The Chairman kindly agreed to disseminate the letter via the village information list.

**SIZEWELL:** The Chairman reported that she had had further discussions with Lord Marlesford regarding road transport issues arising from the proposed construction of Sizewell C. He had said that he had met the SCC portfolio holder for transport, Councillor Newman, who contended that he had not abandoned the 4 Village Bypass but admitted that it was not likely to form part of the transport plan. Apparently, a 2 Village Bypass had been proposed but Lord Marlesford regarded this as unacceptable. SCC had considered that the only other solution would be to use traffic lights. Lord Marlesford had obtained cost figures: 2-village dual carriageway bypass - £27m; 4-village dual carriageway bypass - £105m; 4-village single carriageway bypass - £45m (this figure was from late 2013). Apparently, the consultation stage on the transport issue is likely to be in the New Year, not this autumn as originally proposed.

**FINANCE:** The Hon Clerk sought and obtained approval or ratification of the following expenses: village hall hire at going rates for this meeting and a Butchers Field friends meeting last month, the service of the mower on the basis described above, £6.31 for fuel for the mower and £88.80 for the last RoSPA survey. After discussion, the draft budget for 2015/16 prepared by the Honorary Clerk was approved. **ACTION:** Hon Clerk to request a precept of £1,550 from SCDC.

#### **PLANNING:**

- **High Grove Woods:** The Hon Clerk reported that he had not heard from the planning officer handling the enforcement action relating to High Grove Woods. [*Post-meeting note:* The Hon Clerk has since been contacted by Cate Buck of the SCDC planning enforcement team. Ms Buck confirmed that the Enforcement Notice was served in September and took effect on 24 October 2014 with a four month compliance period. As there have been no appeals against the notice, the notice is to be complied with by the 24 February 2015. If the notice is not complied with, SCDC will pursue the matter in the courts.]
- **Framlingham expansion:** The Chairman introduced Mr Chris Sharpe. He reported the widespread concern in the town about that expansion. He had, with many others, formed the Framlingham Residents Association which was now a formal body. Presently, there were plans for 438 houses to be built in Framlingham: 140 in Station Road, 163 in Fairfield Road, 107 in Mount Pleasant, 18 in New Road and 10 in Saxtead Road. FRA estimated that the population of Framlingham would, if all these houses were built increase by around 30 per cent and that the number of cars based in the town would go up by around 600. The developers' assumption was that new residents would be able to reach all the town's facilities on foot but a traffic analysis which had been part funded by Councillor Burroughes showed that such assumption was highly optimistic.

FRA was concerned about the effect of these changes on the town's infrastructure: the surgery and the primary school were already operating close to capacity; there was no sign of a significant growth in employment opportunities; and the local road network was poor. FRA feared that the planned changes could be effected in less than five years. Indeed, there was now a window of opportunity for developers: SCDC had not managed to establish the location of land that might become available and so meet SCDC's statutory target for five years' worth of housing growth; SCDC's local plan was being challenged; and Framlingham's neighbourhood plan was not complete. The planned developments other than the one in Station Road were likely to be subject to a "Community Infrastructure Levy" under which the developers would need to make payments of £150 per square metre to fund improvements in infrastructure but the CIL was not to be introduced by SCDC till 1 April 2015 and there was, as yet, no indication of the nature and location of those improvements. Further information was available from [framresidents@gmail](mailto:framresidents@gmail.com) and [www.befairtofram.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.befairtofram.blogspot.co.uk).

Discussion showed that there were fears that the proposed expansion could impair electors' access to key services in the town and uncertainties over what (if any) infrastructure works would be carried out and

when they would be carried out. It was agreed that the Honorary Clerk should express those fears and uncertainties to SCDC. Councillor Burroughes and Mr Clarke felt that the Honorary Clerk should write to the SCDC leader (Councillor Ray Herring), the Portfolio Holder for Planning (Councillor Jeff Holcroft) and the Head of Planning Services (Mr Philip Ridley). **ACTION:** Honorary Clerk to work up a letter for the Chairman to approve.

- **Parham composting plant:** Patrick Wilson is the vice-chairman of a group which liaised with the operators of the plant. He reported that the issues reported in November 2011 had largely been resolved though recently there had been some slippage in standards. He contended that the product from the plant was not strictly compost but remained waste. He was concerned that the plant operators were storing that product on the perimeter track in breach of an undertaking given by local Environment Agency personnel at the 202nd meeting on 25 November 2011 but apparently personnel at the Agency's head office had allowed this practice to resume. He would raise this matter at the next liaison meeting (which was to be held on 3 December).

**HIGHWAYS:** Jennifer Beaumont reported that she was methodically working with SCC on potholes to see that, when the potholes were significant enough to justify being repaired by SCC, they were repaired. She was also in touch with SCC with regard to the street light in Chapel Lane (which, once again, was on all the time) and fallen footpath markers (which SCC re-erected in batches). She was also monitoring grit stocks. The Honorary Clerk reminded all those present of the scheme under which residents could spread grit on those roads and paths maintained by SCC with the benefit of SCC's public liability and third party liability cover: the key requirement was to give him one's name and address.

**CROWN INN:** The Hon Clerk reported that he had passed on the leads provided by residents to the former licensee.

**NOISE:** Jennifer Beaumont reported her logging of noise emitted by some of her neighbours. Levels had subsided as the neighbours had recently been away for fairly long periods.

**WEBSITE:** Karen Debenham reported that her neighbour Mr Carter was not willing to take over the village website. Peter Lincoln said that he and his wife would to carry on dealing with the site for a while but also that new items were especially welcome. **ACTION:** The Chairman agreed to put a note out via the Village Information list, asking people to contact Peter or Rosemary Lincoln if they have items for the website. Peter Lincoln would also try to boost interest by putting a piece in *Ebb & Flow*.

**MEETINGS FOR 2015:** The following dates were agreed: 6 February for a special meeting to deal with the revenue from the solar park; 6 March for the 215th meeting; 22 May for the annual meeting and the 216th meeting; 18 September for the 217th meeting and 27 November for the 218th meeting. **ACTION:** Honorary Clerk to book these dates with the village hall.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- The Honorary Clerk reported that the last visit of the mobile library to the village had taken place.
- The Chairman reported two concerns raised by an elector: the need for bins to be installed for dog waste; and the need for parking control outside the village hall.
  - As to dog waste, the Honorary Clerk recalled that the relevant authority, SCDC, had previously proved reluctant to instal bins and had put up obstacles such as requiring financial contributions and other formalities. In any event, those people who did not clean up after their dogs were unlikely to take any extra steps. He believed he had some SCDC stickers and suggested that these could be put up in the messiest places. This course of action was agreed. **ACTION:** Honorary Clerk to deal with stickers and also to put a short piece in *Ebb & Flow*.
  - As to parking control, marking the road near the village hall with lines and the use of signs was felt to be a disproportionate response. The Honorary Clerk suggested that maybe those hiring the village hall could be encouraged to see that their guests parked sensibly. Perhaps it could be made into a term of village hall bookings?
- Apparently, Vodafone had some sort of booster to its signals in rural areas. **ACTION:** Honorary Clerk to investigate.

NA Redman, Honorary Clerk

2 December 2014