

GREAT GLEMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE 236th MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL Held by Video Conferencing on Wednesday 9 December 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present: The Chair Cllr Gathorne-Hardy and Cllrs Beaumont, Benson, Cross, Debenham, French, Lissaman, and Mercer. Also in attendance: District Cllr Cook for some of the meeting, 1 prospective new Councillor, 1 member of the public and a team from the Low Carbon solar company for the first hour of the meeting.

Note some agenda items were moved forward in order to meet people's needs to attend further remote meetings the same night but the minutes will be presented in the agenda order for the sake of uniformity.

1. **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 236th meeting of the Parish Council. The Virtual Meeting Protocol was briefly summarised whereby hands are shown for voting purposes or if a person wishes to speak.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies required as all present. County Cllr Burroughes was unable to make the meeting as he was double-booked.

3. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

Members were reminded of their obligations under the Suffolk Code of Conduct including the Nolan Principles of Public Office. There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests and no requests for dispensations.

4. **To note resignation and co-option of Parish Councillors and Declaration of Office**

Cllr Runnacles has resigned. He felt he had made his contribution to the village as a Councillor and it was time to step down. The Chair expressed his thanks to Cllr Runnacles for his input over the many years of service. Lindsay Wright put herself forward and was duly co-opted as a Parish Councillor having completed her Declaration of Office previously to the clerk. She briefly introduced herself to everyone present and said she would like to get a Youth Council active in the village. This was welcomed by everyone present. This still leaves 3 vacancies on the Parish Council which will be advertised in due course.

5. **To welcome the team in regard to the B-17 Solar Farm – presentation followed by a Q&A**

The team reviewed their presentation, providing the following information: They are a British owned company having been in operation for approx. 10 years; the proposed site is on 77 hectares of agricultural grade 3B land currently used to grow animal feed; the site is approximately 1.2 km west of Great Glemham and 1.5km east of Parham; the pre-application planning request has only just been submitted to East Suffolk Council alongside the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); they are keen on biodiversity and maintaining wildflowers and wildlife at the site; their preference is for sheep grazing in-between the panels; they intend to keep all Public Rights of Way (PROW) open and to enhance them; all documentation is available on their website and is fully open and transparent; the consultation area is a 1-2 km radius from the proposed site whereby all affected residents will receive a consultation pack for the 3-week consultation.

There followed a Q&A session. Questions included:

Q: What are the key benefits to the community? A: Educational facilities, school trips, opportunities for local companies to supply fencing etc., local hostleries for the workers during construction of the site.

Q: How many wind farms would provide the same amount of power? A: Approx. 20 wind turbines for the equivalent output.

Q: Have the other parishes affected been contacted? A: Parham PC were met last night, Marlesford and Little Glemham have been approached. East Suffolk have only just been contacted a week or so ago.

Q: What about construction traffic? A: A construction management plan will be part of the planning process. HGVs will bring in the main components, 6-8 a day at approx. 1 per hour. There will be 40-60 workers at the peak 3-month construction period, reducing drastically as the site nears completion.

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Q: What is the timescale? A: Planning applications take 6 months or longer to progress, so decision not expected until end summer or autumn of 2021. Hope to start construction in the spring of 2022. Construction takes 4-5 months to complete.

Q: Are there any similar projects we can refer to? A: No sites have been completed since 2015 because subsidies stopped. We have 3 projects due to start, but nothing complete newer than 6 years old.

Q: What is the lifecycle of the plant? A: Approximately 40 years. Previous projects (like the Parham plant) are 25 years because this is the subsidy period. Even after 40 years we anticipate 80% efficiency. We try and lease the land for 40 – 41 years to allow time to restore it to its previous state.

Q: What about footpaths? A: We do not intend to move or change any PROW even during construction. There will be a wide grassed track, approximately a 15 metre wide corridor, for the footpath that runs through the site, with hedging either side to improve the walker's experience.

Q: What about perimeter fencing? A: There will be stock fencing inside an added hedge line.

Q: In terms of viability is it all or nothing? A: There is an economy of scale in these projects with very tight margins, so it needs to be this size to be viable.

That concluded the session. The team from Low Carbon were thanked by the Chair for their time and left the meeting. The Chair concluded this was for information only at this stage and we will await the formal planning application before commenting as a Parish Council. The Consultation is live so residents need to be encouraged to take part in it. Residents have received information in the post and we have information on both the notice board and website.

6. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 15 October 2020 were unanimously approved for signing remotely by the Chair and scanning back to the clerk. There were no matters arising from those minutes and the minutes of 9 September apart from listing the triangular piece of land as an asset of Community Value. This has been due to lack of time. However, the clerk has been chasing a response from Highways as to whether they will approve it once the application is submitted and has done this at least 3 times with no reply to date.

Action: Clerk to ask County Cllr Burroughes to intervene for a response on our behalf

7. Public Forum

Reports received for information as follows:

- District Cllr Cook's report had been issued prior to the meeting and is available as a separate report. He highlighted that Councils are facing significant financial problems due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and applauded the Government for their monetary assistance. Over £66M had been paid out locally in the first lockdown with over £1M in lockdown 2. He confirmed that it was the hope to be able to freeze the District Council portion of Council Tax for the coming financial year, with no reduction in services. The Council have a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030 and therefore supports renewable energy. He is available alongside District Councillor Poulter to take our views to the planning committee regarding the solar farm application, if necessary.
- County Cllr Burroughes' report had been issued prior to the meeting and is available as a separate report.
- The Chair reported on behalf of Great Glemham Farms that the autumn and Christmas Shows were open at the farm if people want to come along. Visits need to be booked in advance.
- The Chair reported on behalf of the Solar Farm that the fund was developed from S106 contributions and not from subsidies as hinted at by the Low Carbon presentation earlier. There was nothing further to report.
- Village Hall report – Nothing to report.
- Biogen Composting Plant report – Little to report from the meeting held recently in October. The Environment Agency expressed satisfaction with the conduct of operations - only minor complaints had been received. Biogen staff had not been adversely affected by the devastating fire at the nearby Hatcher Components factory (the direction of the wind blew the plume of smoke clear of their site) nor had any of

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their staff been affected by the COVID19 pandemic. The next meeting of the is provisionally planned for April or May 2021, depending upon circumstances prevailing at the time.

- Parochial Church Council - We would like to apply for a grant from the Solar Panel Fund which we hope you can consider at your February meeting. This is to assist in the cost of the above and below ground Drainage Project for the village church started in early October 2020. Rising damp has been giving cause for concern for the last few years. An investigative report from the church's architect in December 2019 recommended complete renewal of above and below surface drainage. The estimated cost of the project is between £30,000 and £45,500. This is a daunting sum for a small community of worshipers and villagers alike – but after much discussion it was felt this was urgent and critical work and we had to try to raise the money for this project. We had £3,000 in the Fabric Fund and after our request for support we have had £5,030 donated to the project from the villagers of Great Glemham - for which we are extremely grateful. You will see from our Projected Budget below that we have recently received and paid the Architect's interim account of £2,900 (plus VAT of £588.10). Further details will be provided in February when the application is considered.
- Members of the public present – there were no questions by the member of the public present. Members of the public questions received from those not present – A complaint had been received re the flooding at the bottom of Chapel Lane towards Crown Corner. There has been a lot of building activity nearby which could have caused dirt to flow into the drain. Additionally, the bank is being eroded by cars parking on it, and eroding the grips.

8. To consider matters relating to planning for Great Glemham

- a) There were no planning applications to consider.
- b) The following applications were approved under delegated powers since the last meeting:
DC/20/3922/FUL - Permission to use the existing habitable space above the garage (on FP/10/0998/0) as a holiday let/ residential let@ Harvest Cottage Chapel Lane
- c) There were no other planning determinations to note.
- d) The following information was noted: Emergency tree Work was notified - Removal of a dead tree by East Suffolk at The Old Forge, and trimming of an oak tree next to the road. Even though the area is in the Conservation Area, East Suffolk approved the works as emergency works due to the Silver Birch being dead and the Oak needing hanging / broken branches removing and the proximity of these trees to the road.

9. Suffolk Highways, Speeding and Road Related Issues

Cllr Debenham's report, previously circulated, was reviewed. The 3 proposed Speed Indicator Device sites by Highways were reviewed and approved. **Action:** Cllr Debenham to proceed

Entrance Gates: Awaiting submission for planning permission by GGF on behalf of the PC.

Action: The Chair to submit the necessary planning application

Cllr Beaumont is to report the constant flooding issues from the B1119 off the Low Road and Cransford Road where lorries are eroding the corner and pushing the dirt into the ditch.

Action: Clerk to send Cllr Beaumont contact details re Highways drainage

10. Sizewell C Update and Scottish Renewables Projects - reports submitted by Cllr Cross:

Sizewell C - The council responded to the stage 4 consultation and is registered to speak at the Planning Inspectorate's (PINS) public enquiry into whether EDF should be granted its Development Consent Order (DCO). EDF, subsequently, took the unusual step of introducing a further consultation in an attempt to allay the community's fears around a number of issues. Most of these relate to the development site itself (which this council has rarely commented upon due to remoteness) but includes an undertaking to increase the volumes of building materials brought to the site by sea and rail.

There is now a proposed jetty to be sited on Sizewell Beach and train numbers are expected to increase from 3 to 4 per day and may run 6 days per week. Both have been broadly welcomed although there will be claims for additional compensation from owners of properties abutting the East Suffolk Rail Line and there

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remains some doubt re the viability of the beach landing proposals for environmental reasons.

In terms of the issues GGPC has long championed, traffic management is not mentioned and will be dealt with in agreement with Suffolk County and East Suffolk Councils once the DCO has been granted. The only practical issue I see we may wish to opine about is whether (as now being proposed) there should be a screening bund at the Hacheston Park and Ride site. Personally, I see this as a positive development and one we should respond to.

Action: *The PC agreed that we should respond as indicated by Cllr Cross in the report*

Scottish Power Renewables - PINS is already engaging with the public on SPR's DCO for East Anglia ONE and TWO windfarms (c 30 miles off the coast with the proposed transfer station at Friston, east of Snape). The PC took the decision not to attend in person to make representations. They have recognised the community's complaints about timings and Covid 19 and have now scheduled the next round of hearings for January and February 2021. The clerk can provide internet links to the key documents if any councillors or villagers wish to see the detail from PINS.

11. **Butchers Field Update**

Cllr Benson confirmed there is little to report. The ROSPA report highlighted the sand box cover which we know about, and strimmer damage to base of various logs to monitor only. It was suggested we retrieve the mesh netting to put over the sand pit which worked well. Cllr Cross cleaned the algae off all the wooden apparatus with a wire brush and horse brush.

Action: *Working party to be arranged in the spring to apply timber preservative*

12. **Plastic Champions & Gear Change Report** - reports submitted by Cllr Cross:

Attended two plastics champion and environmental events since the last meeting and am reporting jointly due to the amount of interlinkage.

I shall be attending a workshop on 10th December, run by Ricardo Energy & Development on behalf of the county's Public Sector Leaders that sets out to collect views from across the community on current and planned schemes to combat climate change and to quicken the process of rolling out initiatives more widely. 2020 is seen as being a year of inertia due to Covid 19. Key areas will be insulation and heating of homes (old and new), transport and waste and a written report will follow via the clerk.

Gear Change is an initiative which had an open consultation period between August and November to encourage wider use of cycling as a mode of transport. I submitted a report, detailing the challenges I have faced in 12 years of commuting to work in Framlingham and pointing out the clear link between weather, road quality, traffic speed and volume and the number of people cycling. The aim is for bikes to replace cars as a mode of transport and the hope is that Suffolk County Council grasps the nettle and creates safe corridors whereby people can get into the local market towns to do their shopping when the weather is favourable.

13. **Community Partnerships report from Cllr Cross** - report submitted by Cllr Cross:

I attended one forum meeting plus two break-out group sessions looking at practical measures to tackle loneliness and social isolation as well as three events in East Suffolk Council's highly successful week of webinars looking at ways to tackle transport issues, loneliness and things for young people to do. The upshot is that I have acted as sponsor for 'Katch' – an electric taxi/bus to serve a loop between Fram, Wickham Market and the rail station in Campsea Ashe and co-sponsor for 'chat benches' to be sited here in Great Glemham and outside The Elms social housing in Fram. Decisions on both issues should be made shortly.

14. **GG Community Support Group (GGCSG)** - report submitted by Cllr Debenham:

The support group set up in Great Glemham by the Parish Council on 17th March was reactivated for the second lockdown in November with information going out via the village information email and the Website. There were a few personnel changes for village leavers and some whose circumstances had changed, however 18 residents continued to be available to support those in need with help to shop,

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collect medicines, dog walk etc. In addition, the pack included this time information on Suffolk Resilience Forum. No issues have been reported, and volunteers have continued to outweigh requests for support.

15. **Footpaths and Dog Poo Strategy** - report submitted by Cllr Debenham:

The deteriorating sleeper bridge at corner of Church Field has been reported again on the reporting tool in Nov 20. Nothing else to report. Action awaited by SCC on lopsided and broken signs.

GG Farms considering footpath map and Poo Strategy decision awaited, without GG Farms approval no further action can be taken.

16. **Quiet Lanes Suffolk** - report submitted by Cllr Debenham:

Four (4) lanes registered: Simpess Drift, Workhouse Lane, Chapel Lane & The Grove. KD attended a 2 ½ hr launch meeting on 25/11 to discuss the scheme & JC a follow up 7/12. The Quiet Lanes Scheme was outlined. It does not alter the speed limit but raises awareness of other road users to traffic. Approx. £600 of funding per village is likely to be available for those who join the scheme with other costs to be met by the PC. Lanes that begin and end in East Suffolk may attract further grants.

Glemsford and Snape are part of a Trial Phase. GG have applied to be part of Phase 2 Wave 1 running in Q1 2021. To meet the schedule we have to have submitted our requests by 22nd Dec (Done) and held an open Parish Council meeting by 31st Jan and decided to go ahead. A hard copy flyer should be sent to all villagers during Jan to conclude by no later than 22nd Feb. For those interested there is a very good website called Quiet Lanes Suffolk. Cllr Debenham sought approval to continue with the scheme which was unanimously approved. It was agreed to hold a Zoom public meeting on Wednesday 13 January at 7pm in order to comply with the process. We can piggyback on Snape's consultation process and use their documents as templates.

Action: To arrange public meeting for 13/1/2021 as above and any other documents required. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Debenham and Cross

17. **New Website**

The new website was discussed in detail. It was suggested the couple buying a particular house in the village may be persuaded to take on the village e-newsletter and possibly the new website as they are IT literate and wish to make an immediate impact on the village. Cllr Lissaman confirmed he just does not have the time to commit to this project. It was agreed to pend this for now until the Spring of 2021. We have a year's grace to October 2021 for the current One Suffolk subscription to lapse.

18. **General Governance**

a) The following policies were reviewed for updating and subsequently approved en-masse pending a few amendments as highlighted to the Clerk by Cllr Cross.

Privacy Notice for Website	Equality Policy	Lone Worker Policy
Privacy Notice - Employees/Councillors	Consent Form	FOI Act 2000
Health & Safety Policy	Data Protection Policy	FOI Publication Scheme
Filming etc. at Council Meetings	Public Participation Protocol	
Document & Electronic Retention Policy		

b) Councillor Training: It was agreed that all the slides and presentations be sent to Cllr Wright as it was felt the online training was too onerous.

Action: Clerk to arrange all necessary information to Cllr Wright

19. **Finance**

a) The following payments were approved:

£944.86	Caroline Emeny	Clerks remuneration
£ 52.49	Caroline Emeny	Clerks expenses & Annual Internet security renewal
£144.00	S.A.L.C.	Councillor Training inv 23971
£600.00	Spencer Wix	War memorial clean as per quote Q5502

b) The following bacs payments were made since the last meeting:

£ 60.00 - 09/11/20 - Community Action Suffolk – renewal of one Suffolk website

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£103.20 - 09/11/20 - ROSPA - Inv 52574 re playground inspection
£500.00 - 26/10/20 – East Suffolk Council - partial repayment of Covid grant

c) There were no receipts to note but a payment of £5676.84 was due soon re the Solar Farm.

d) Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 30/11/20 to be signed by Cllr Wright.

The Schedule of payments as listed at 19(a) to be signed by Cllrs Debenham and Wright.

Note the Chair still has the cheque book.

20. Budget & Precept Review

The Budget was approved for the 2021/ 2022 financial year as per the worksheet previously distributed by the Clerk. The Precept will be increased to £6175 to allow for the increased regular clerks hours, pay increase, and a general increase in our reserves as highlighted by the auditor. A copy of the approved budget is available on the website.

Action: Clerk to ensure Precept form is signed and submitted to ESC

21. Clerks Report and other Correspondence received

The Clerk reported as follows: -

CATS Community Transport have asked us to promote their service to residents. Website and notice board both updated. Various clerk networking events attended where possible and the recent East Suffolk SALC forum. A lot of time taken up by a needy family in GG late October. We got ESC involved along with the Salvation Army Foodbank in Woodbridge and the FIND foodbank in Ipswich. Cllr Cross also had valuable input and meetings about this with Hour Community in Framlingham.

Three consultations on planning documents were launched by East Suffolk as follows which we chose not to comment on as a PC: a) Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy – Cllr Cross is looking at this under Gear Change. b) Draft Statement of Community Involvement with the planning process and c) Draft Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy.

Contact was made by a brand new charity organisation on behalf of software company Sicon, called the Sicon Foundation, based in BSE, focusing on conservation and the wellbeing of the natural environment and the free planting of trees on land. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Flagship Housing to enquire whether trees can be planted on the land in front of their premises. Details to be passed to the Chair.

Action: Clerk to action above 2 points re trees

All relevant correspondence circulated for information.

22. There were no urgent Matters to be advised.

Pursuant to the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act (1960) the meeting was then closed to:

23. Clerks remuneration and expenses

The Chair confirmed the increment of one SCP point in the clerk's salary scale and a marginally increased expense allowance for working from home, which was unanimously approved by the Parish Council. This will be effective 1st April. Note the annual cost of living increased negotiated by NALC is also effective 1st April annually, and has been budgeted for in the forthcoming financial year. It was noted that GG is a professionally managed council that requires additional responsibilities and that the Parish Council have demonstrated with Covid what they can achieve as a PC. This does not detract in any way from the good work done previously by our voluntary clerks, but it shows how Parish Council business has moved on and has become more complicated and time consuming in the last few years.

24. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 10 February 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

Note there will be a Quiet Lanes public meeting in January as already minuted.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm