

GREAT GLEMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE 240th MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL Held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 15 September 2021 at 6.45 pm

Present: Cllrs Beaumont, Benson, Cross, French, Gathorne-Hardy, Mercer and Wright and the Clerk.

Also in attendance: 2 members of the Low Carbon team for some of the meeting.

1. **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first physical meeting of the Parish Council since February 2020. The meeting was also hosted on Zoom for anyone parishioners wishing to attend remotely however there was no remote attendance.

2. **Apologies of absence**

Apologies were received and approved from Cllrs Debenham and Lissaman, and County Cllr Burroughes and District Cllr Cook who were both in other meetings.

3. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

1. The Chair and Cllr Cross declared their interest in the Low Carbon agenda item as previously recorded.
2. Members were reminded of their obligations under the Suffolk Code of Conduct including the Nolan Principles of Public Office.

4. **Vacancies**

Note there are still 3 vacancies on the Parish Council.

5. **Presentation by Low Carbon Energy (LC) followed by Q&A**

The latest version of their presentation was shared with everyone present. Points noted / discussed from the presentation were as follows:

Outstanding photography to be carried out on 16 September. The hedges are currently sited 5 mt from the panels themselves – LC confirmed the exact location where the hedges are to be planted can be up for discussion. Page 4 of the current presentation showing a plan of the Solar Farm – middle right of image shows the Highways verge – what is the maximum hedge height? Page 6 of the presentation shows the breakdown across that section of the road as follows: A 3 mt wide x 2.5 mt High hedge alongside the road, then a 4mt gap to the 2mt high external perimeter access fence, a 1 mt gap, then the 2.5 mt high internal perimeter access fence, then another 4 mt gap before the first solar panel.

Q: Why are there 2 perimeter fences? A: To enable us to clean around the panels and maintenance of the hedge. Q: Could the hedge be moved further in adjacent to the first perimeter fence thus leaving a greater gap from the road for use by pedestrians in the absence of a footpath? Q: What is the overall grid capacity? It was suggested LC harvest the local knowledge in the area in terms of ornithologists, environmental experts etc. The Planning Committee review date is 4 October. It was agreed we should reach a position that if the photomontages are acceptable, we should be minded to support the application pending mitigation of the hedges. The traffic management needs to be aware of school opening / closing times to mitigate traffic. There is a Medieval deer park on the site. Landscape proposals – we need to state what they are.

Councillors were updated on the latest Community Benefit proposal by Cllr Mercer. A £400K sum has been agreed over the 40-year life of the solar farm shared between the 3 affected villages of Great Glemham, Parham and Marlesford, meaning approx. £3333 per village per annum. More work will have to be done on the transfer of this agreement to the actual construction company building the solar farm. Cllr Mercer stated this is the best outcome we can hope to achieve. **Action: Cllr Mercer to revert to LC re their offer**

6. **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 5 May 2021 were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

7. **Matters arising from those minutes not covered elsewhere**

There were no matters o/s not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

8. **Public Forum**

The following reports were received for information:

- Report from County Councillor Stephen Burroughs – previously circulated

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- Report from District Councillor Maurice Cook – previously circulated
- Report on behalf of Great Glemham Farms (GGF) – not much to report. They are currently undergoing a stewardship process. They are taking a regenerative approach to farming bringing the conservation side into the arable side, introducing more ground cover on the fields to reduce water run off
- To receive any additional reports -
Parham Biogen Composter Plant – Biogen’s last email was received end July and provided a copy of the long-awaited minutes of the last meeting (held in October 2020). Since then nothing has been heard, assume therefore there are no plans to revive meetings of the Liaison Group - Patrick Wilson
Ladies Club - still in abeyance. Previous regulars very cautious due to their demographic. It is hoped the group will restart in February where they left off by having their annual meal – Jill Wilson
Tuesday Teas – not enough volunteers so up in the air until some more come on board – Jill Wilson
Defibrillator – The Clerk confirmed Cllr Wright will take on the defibrillator checks
- Members of the public – there were no members of the public present to raise questions
- Members of the public not present – one question had been received asking about use of Butchers Field for a wedding next September alongside the Village Hall. The Chair agreed the field could be used in return for a donation of £100 to the Charity <https://wildeast.co.uk>. Their arrangements with the Village Hall are separate to the use of the field. **Action:** Clerk to inform accordingly

9. To consider matters relating to planning for Great Glemham

- a) There were no planning applications to discuss.
- b) The following application was 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 planning determinations received from the local authority.
- d) Any other planning matters for information – ENF/21/0216/LISTL Martha’s Cottage, Church Road – changes to outbuilding (stables) without planning permission; the change of use of the building and the land requires planning permission which has not been submitted and is therefore unauthorised. Owner instructed to cease the use of the land as residential curtilage and to undo the works completed to the outbuilding to return its use to stables.
- e) There were no other planning matters for information.

10. Suffolk Highways, Speeding and Road Related Issues

See detailed report at the end of these minutes as previously circulated from Cllr Debenham.

Actions from that report as follows:

Tree trimming near Reed House over the Highways verge for health and safety and VAS sign visual – Clerk to contact and request they trim the overhanging branches

*Highways signage around the village that needs cleaning or trimming around to be completed as follows-
North end of Chapel Lane – Cllr Debenham to do*

South end of Chapel Lane at crown Corner – Cllr French to do

Low Road by Street Farm and Reed House – Cllr Mercer to do

30mph signs entering airfield before Church – Chair to do

New Road and junctions with The Grove and Low Rd near Stone house – Cllr Benson to do

Workhouse Lane – Cllr Cross to do

Planning permission still outstanding in relation to Village Entrance Gates.

Action: Chair to do

Speed cameras were operating on 2 and 16th June, 30 July and 13 August as part of the Suffolk speed and safety programme.

The tarmac pavement outside of 5 Church Cottage directly next to the K6 Telephoner Box is being eroded away and needs reporting to Suffolk Highways.

Action: Clerk to report online

Potholes – Cllr Beaumont reported many of them had been filled recently. The Crossroads sign at the junction with the B1119 has been reinstated. Note the Quiet Lanes signage is not yet in situ.

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11. Sizewell C Update

Cllr Cross confirmed there are a few areas under further investigation as follows:

- I. The extraction of water and the possible use of a desalination plant
- II. The environmental impact of Sizewell beach
- III. The immediate properties surrounding the proposed site

A decision will be made next year. The most important points are the resultant effects on the A12 and the consequential traffic impact combined with the effects from the proposed wind farms.

12. Butchers Field update

Cllr Benson confirmed ROSPA inspection all in hand due to be carried out this month. No problems expected. The hedges need trimming. It was agreed at a previous meeting that MR would undertake these on an annual basis for the Parish Council. It was noted there are still fuel receipts outstanding to be reimbursed to Cllr Benson for the mower. Pigeon faeces is still a problem – Cllr Benson to source suitable cabling to go across the top of the play equipment that will prevent pigeons from roosting. The Wood preservative is still to be applied to the play equipment.

Action: Clerk to contact the volunteer concerned re hedges, Cllr Benson to source cabling

13. Plastic Champions report

Cllr Cross reported there was no spent batteries / lightbulbs collection point yet. He will source a suitable container(s) and apply for funds from the Solar Fund to get this up and running. Siting Solar Panels on homes was mentioned in County Cllr Burroughes report advising that residents can register their interest until 27 September at www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk. The Great British Beach Clean is also coming up which he will share details with via the GG information list. He will also research the possibility of a recycle container for crisp packets which cannot be put into residents recycle bins but can be recycled if collected separately. The Tesco store in Saxmundham has a crisp packet recycle bin in the car park.

14. Community Partnership report

Cllr Cross confirmed the Chat Bench still needs to be sited. He has received a quote to bolt it down. The Chair has 8 x second hand flagstones that can be used to site it on. It was agreed to spend up to £200 to securely site the bench so it cannot be removed. It also needs teak oil applying for longevity.

Action: Cllr Cross to liaise with the Chair re flagstones and get the bench securely sited asap

15. New Website

The Clerk confirmed the annual hosting fee for the new site will remain at £60 as per the current site. The Village Hall have talked about an interactive events calendar. It was agreed the costs of this should not be born by the PC. Everyone was in agreement that the new site was looking more appealing as more detail was added to it. The basic site should be complete soon. The Clerk will then meet with the new webmaster for training on how to add / remove / update Parish Council information on the site which she will remain responsible for. Note the transfer needs to be complete by mid-October as a deadline.

Action: Clerk to continue to liaise with TK re new site and training thereon

16. Footpaths report

Cllr Debenham's report was previously circulated and is included in full at the end of these minutes. The PROW team at SCC have asked for assistance with installing new plaques on existing fingerposts and footpath signs. The Clerk has acknowledged the request and we await further information.

17. Electric Vehicle Recharging Point at the Village Hall

The Village Hall are keen to have a charging point installed at the VH if funding is available. Any grant applications have to be made through the PC. This was unanimously approved.

Action: Clerk to register interest on the www.greensuffolk.org/plug-in-suffolk website

18. Great Glemham and Climate and Environmental Initiatives

a) Climate Initiative introduced by Cllr Mercer: Approx £40 - £50K was saved through a climate initiative where he previously lived. A village plan is the first step and research into initiatives that will benefit every house in GG, which then forms an active discussion enabling actions to take place. If we can borrow an infra-red detector from East Suffolk Council or SCC we could survey every home in the village, give them

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advice about how to save £s by reducing their homes' heat loss. It was agreed to make this a regular agenda item and promote it within the village. Another initiative is to research the overall amount of electricity used by GG homes within a defined area and look to reducing that year on year.

Action: Cllr Mercer to start initial research into the above and report back

b) WildEast is a new initiative by the Chair and two colleagues to turn a large section of East Anglia into one of the biggest and best nature reserves in the world. They have created a digital Map of Dreams which allows anyone to pledge land to support this initiative. The ambition is to return 20% of the region back to nature over 50 years. It is about democratising nature recovery and enabling everyone, no matter how small, to do something positive now. It could be as small as putting a bird feeder somewhere outside your home. We need to gather data e.g how many bird feeders are there in GG and actively grow it. It includes making our verges wildlife sites whilst still ensuring there is no hindrance to vehicle drivers. Risby have a good website <https://www.wildlifefriendlyvillage.co.uk> which can provide lots of ideas.

Action: Chair to put something together for the next meeting

An autumn litter pick was suggested. **Action:** Clerk to contact the previous organizer to organise

19. Grit Bins

Cllr Mercer proposed we purchase a new grit bin for Workhouse Lane which has only had a grit pile in the past. This was unanimously approved up to a budget of £200. There is no cost to refill them. All volunteers must be recorded so they are covered by our insurance provider as acting on behalf of the PC.

Action: Cllr Mercer to collate all the necessary information to ensure it is up and running before the winter sets in. To agree grit bin purchase via the Clerk

20. The Queens Platinum Jubilee and Festival of Suffolk

Cllr Debenham emailed various groups within the village approx. 2 months ago but no responses to date. It was agreed a joint Working Party was required in conjunction with the VH. A street party, closing off the street, and including the K6 Telephone Box is the favoured option at the moment. Beacons are to be lighted across the country on the Friday night. **Action:** Clerk to enquire about the cost of a beacon

The weekend starts on Thursday 2 June 2022 through to Sunday 5th June when it is hoped all villages will come together for the Big Jubilee Lunch. Lots of details are on websites www.queensjubileebeacons.com and www.festivalofsuffolk.org which hopes to combine the Jubilee celebrations with all things Suffolk. It was agreed Cllrs Debenham, Beaumont and Wright would be on the Working Party on behalf of the PC.

21. General Governance

The following policies / documents were reviewed and unanimously approved: Financial Regulations and Standing Orders as recommended by the Internal Auditor to reflect the latest updates; A Statement in regard to Internet Banking; the Risk assessment and Financial management document.

22. Finance

a) The following payments were approved:

£183.86	Caroline Emeny	Clerks remuneration
£ 9.00	Caroline Emeny	Clerks expenses
£ 93.50	Edward Benson	Play pit sand and wood preservative
£ 93.54	Wel Medical	Invoice S242896 re defibrillator pads

b) The following BACS payments were made and approved since the last meeting:

£ 252.35	Caroline Emeny	Clerks remuneration for May
£ 9.00	Caroline Emeny	Clerks Expenses for May
£ 248.75	Caroline Emeny	Clerks remuneration for June
£ 281.19	Caroline Emeny	Clerks remuneration & holiday pay for July
£ 18.00	Caroline Emeny	Clerks Expenses for June & July

The monthly Schedule of Payments was approved and signed by two Councillors.

c) The following receipts were noted: £100.00 dd 3/5/21 being refund of Licence fee re chat bench siting from Suffolk County Council and £133.46 dd 24/6/21 being a VAT refund.

e) The Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31/8/21 was approved and signed by Cllr Mercer.

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f) The annual Insurance was reviewed and approved for renewal at £257.49, no increase on the previous year. Clerk to ensure payment is made by 1 October.

Note the Chair still has the cheque book.

23. Correspondence of note

All important information had been circulated to Councillors for noting including: Variety of emails regarding the current Coronavirus epidemic and the support available including regular updates from SALC, CAS and the Covid-19 Collaborative Board.

Consultation on new residential development at Oulton; Consultation on new local council division Boundaries; Email re Climate Support service for Norfolk & Suffolk; code of Conduct consultation survey; Next SALC area Forum SALC 'virtual' Area Forum 30 September; Police locality online meeting

24. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting has been brought forward by one (1) day to Tuesday 7 December at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall. Note the change of date and slightly earlier time.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Great Glemham PC Speedwatch, Quiet Lanes, Footpaths and Entrance Gates
Update 11/9/21 Karen Debenham

Speedwatch – SIDs

- Posts were up by end of May and we had our first round of SIDs allocation.
 - The SID near the Church was installed facing the wrong way (although several folk said it reminded them to slow down when leaving the village as still in the 30mph section!).
 - The post installed near Reed House opposite the VH means the corner warning sign is now obscured
 - I have reported these issues and had a response from Mike Motteram at highways: *"I will contact the TVAS contractor and request that when they install the device at Chapel Lane near Church next time, it faces drivers coming into the village. I will also ask them to confirm whether there is an issue with the height of the post."*
 - ACTION: Please would someone volunteer to ask the residents at Reed House if they would allow the overhanging tree to be trimmed back so that the sign is visible from where folk enter the 30mph section
- I propose we have at least three more temporary SIDs allocations to review before purchasing our own SIDs with solar funds.

Village Signage

Most of the 30mph and direction signs around the village have become obscured by hedging and trees. Please could we each Councillor perhaps take a section before the end of September to have a good cut back and clear up and wash signs?

See the draft minutes for who is tackling which section of road signage.

I have reported to Highways two damaged and faded speed signs

Village Introductory Entrance Gates

- AG and GG farms progress on applying for the planning permission on behalf of the PC is awaited.