

GREAT GLEMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

2023/10

Minutes of the Meeting held 21 March 2023

Present: Councillors Argus Gathorne-Hardy, Mark Lissaman, Ed Benson, John Cross, Sasha French, Karen Debenham, John Mercer and Jenny Beaumont

Apologies: Councillor Lindsay Wright, Stephen Burroughs, SCC

In attendance: Debbi Tayler, clerk, Maurice Cook, ESC

1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received and approved from Councillor Wright.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor French declared an interest in item 8a.

3 **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes meeting held on 6 December were unanimously approved and signed. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

4 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

5 **Public Forum**

Councillor Cook, who holds the Finance Portfolio for ESC, advised local elections take place on 4 May. ESC are promoting the use of hybrid meeting whereby some members may join online. He thanked the parish council and parishioners for the work done throughout the pandemic and mentioned how communities had pulled together.

Councillor Beaumont mentioned the second pothole outside Lavender Cottage which she has reported. This could have been done when the first pothole was mended. Councillor Cook advised that the county council had received additional funding for pothole repairs just last week.

6 **Churchwarden's Report**

Jill Pascoe had sent her apologies as the PCC meeting was this evening. The clerk read out the report. The cupboard donated for crockery is not appropriate for the space and so the PCC will be seeking a further quote for the work.

7 **Planning**

a) There had been one planning application for Crown House for the addition of a balcony which had not been on the original plans. There was no objection.

b) There were no other planning matters for discussion.

c) Issues with the proposed Low Carbon Solar Farm are ongoing. There were landscape issues but the company has not responded to either the council or the planning authority. Councillor Cook is arranging a meeting of the three parish council chairs to resolve the issues brought up by the chair of Parham Parish Council.

Signed.....

Date.....

8 Finance

a) and b) The following invoices were approved and signed:

Payee	Amount	Reason	Legal power
Westcotec	3690.00	Speed Indicator Device	LGA 1972 s.111
D Tayler	531.38	Clerk's salary Feb & Mar 2023 + holiday pay	LGA 1972 s.112
HMRC	132.80	PAYE months 11&12	LGA 1972 s.112
Payments made by delegated authority			
Mark Runnacles	95.00	Resiting of chat bench	LGA 1972 s.111
John Cross	312.23	Recycling bins	LGA 1972 s.111
Deborah Tayler	£258.60	Clerk's salary Dec 2022 & Jan 2023	LGA 1972 s.112
HMRC	£64.60	PAYE months 11 & 12	LGA 1972 s.112

c) There was one receipt on 8 December of £6225.91 for the annual income from the Solar Farm.

d) Councillor Debenham had checked and signed the bank reconciliation for the months to 13 February 2023. The balance on that date was £37391.69.

e) It was agreed that SALC will be the council's internal auditor again for this financial year.

f) The Asset Register was presented and approved. It was agreed that for 2023/24 the register should be adjusted if the insurance policy states they will pay replacement costs.

g) The Risk Assessment and Financial Management return for y/e 31 March 2023 was presented and approved.

h) The Statement of Internal Control for y/e 31 March 2023 was presented and approved.

i) The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were reviewed and approved.

9 Community issues

a) Suffolk Highways, Speeding and Road Related Issues (Cllrs Debenham & Beaumont)

Councillor Beaumont reported there is a second pothole opposite Lavender Cottage which she will speak to Highways about.

Councillor Cross has been dealing with SCC Highways about the ditch between his property and Pound Farm. The ditch that has been dug out to improve drainage is now being encroached on due to vehicles using the verge as a passing place. SCC should have carried out an assessment of the verge and vehicular ingress and erected reflective indicator posts. In some places the road is now wider than the carriageway. The Speed Indicator Device has been delivered. Councillor Debenham will check everything has been accounted for before the invoice is paid. She will put a notice on the village email asking for volunteers as the device will need to be moved every four weeks and the battery changed and charged. This needs two people with a wheelbarrow. The clerk will ask the VH if we can use it to charge the battery which will cost a matter of pence.

Stephen Burroughs to be contacted again regarding faded road signs.

b) Butchers Field (Cllr Benson)

There will be a working party on 22 April to tidy the field in preparation for the Coronation festivities. Councillor Benson will start the schedule of work in the RoSPA report. He has just started cutting the grass again. Running costs for Butchers Field are paid out of the PC general account with capital costs coming out of the earmarked funds.

c) Plastic Champions (Cllr Cross)

The Village Hall Committee has asked for a store to be built to house the new recycling bins.

d) Community Partnerships and chat bench in particular

The chat bench has now been resited. It was suggested that an article be put in the parish magazine about it.

The last Community Partnership meeting was cancelled. The new app for the Katch bus should make booking easier.

e) Footpaths (Cllr Debenham)

The clerk has put all the QR code plaques on the footpath posts and will advise ESC where posts are either missing or damaged.

f) Vehicle Charging Point (Cllr Cross)

The equipment is still not working properly and is costing around £10.80 per month with little or no income. Government regulations prevent parish councils asserting ownership as it is illegal for them to sell or generate electricity. This means the PC cannot own the equipment. The Village Hall is the appropriate body to have ownership of a community asset which this is. It was suggested the clerk write to the VH Committee to offer to pay the monthly charges for the SIM cards until such time as it becomes self-funding. It was suggested that an article be put in the parish magazine to say the equipment is suitable for overnight charging using the Zap app.

g) Climate initiative (Cllr Mercer)

Councillor Mercer advised the weather is now too warm to use the thermal imaging camera effectively as there is insufficient differential in the internal and external temperature. We will aim to borrow the equipment again next winter, ESC have said they will offer online Zoom training.

h) Wild East (Cllr Gathorne-Hardy)

Councillor Gathorne-Hardy advised that Wild East has bid for a Community Connectivity Project which is about habitat creation. There will be surveys carried out in local gardens and will link with farms. There will be a plan for community action. The project will need a Community Champion with a website or page on an existing website.

i) Grit bins

The council may consider another grit bin at the Village Hall. In the meantime the clerk will report the broken lid on the one in the middle of the village.

j) Coronation weekend (Cllr Debenham)

There was a meeting on 16 March with another scheduled for 30 March. There will be a community picnic in the Village Hall. Support is needed to clear Butchers Field 10am – 1pm on 22 April. Flyers will be delivered. The clerk has been successful in obtaining a Lottery grant of £1570 towards the costs.

Meeting closed 20.40.