

GREAT GLEMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

327th

Minutes of a special meeting held on 9th August 2018 held in the village hall

1. **Present:** Argus Gathorne-Hardy (Chairman); Nicholas Redman (Honorary Clerk); Karen Debenham; Elaine Lewis; Jennifer Beaumont; Sasha French; Diane Minns. **In attendance:** Five electors. **Apologies:** Edward Benson (childcare responsibilities); Duncan McIver (pre-booked holiday); John Cross (family commitments); Mark Runnacles (family commitments). **Declaration of interests:** there was none.
2. **Resignations:** Elaine Lewis tendered her resignation. The Honorary Clerk thanked Elaine Lewis for her contribution to the parish council which included a term as the Chairman.

Nicholas Redman resigned as a parish councillor and as the Honorary Clerk. He explained that the role of a parish clerk had changed considerably since he became an honorary clerk in 2008: being a clerk now was a very significant responsibility, one which could not be easily combined with a full and demanding career. Nicholas Redman's resignation was accepted. He reported that he had spoken to Ms Caroline Emeny, who was a clerk to a number of Suffolk parishes and was in principle willing to be the clerk for Great Glemham Parish Council.

It was agreed that:

- 2.1 the grants that the parish council paid out of precepted funds around the turn of the year would in 2018/19 be paid from the solar funds (the terms of the unilateral undertaking relating to the solar funds were considered to be extensive enough to cover this);
- 2.2 the parish council would gratefully accept from John Cross a PC with Word, Excel, Outlook, Explorer and a reputable virus protection which would be "sterilised" so that it could be used solely for parish council matters by Ms Emeny;
- 2.3 the parish council would consider taking appropriate steps to insure that PC; and
- 2.4 though Elaine Lewis had resigned as a parish councillor, she kindly agreed to continue to run the "village information" service.¹

3. **Finance**

The Honorary Clerk reported that the audit form had been lost in the post on its way to the auditors. He confirmed that he had sent copies. The following payments were approved: payment (from solar funds) of £130 from solar monies to support the Ladies Club pay for trips and visiting speakers; and hire of village hall for this meeting from general funds.

4. **Planning application (DC/17/1241/FUL) relating to The Old School**

This was discussed and the parish council agreed that the application should be supported. It set out a suitable future for a large building. The parish council wondered if a different parking arrangement could be considered and whether the railings at the front could be reinstated as an indication of the original use of the building.

¹ It was noted that parish councils were not subject to the GDPR. However, Mrs Lewis would continue to take all practicable steps to respect the privacy of subscribers and to review the efficacy of these steps periodically.

Handwritten signatures and initials:
A large blue signature, possibly "G. C.", followed by a smaller signature and the initials "AN".

5. **Planning policies**

A revision of planning policies set out some ambitious plans for Saxmundham and proposed changing the planning designation of Great Glemham from "unsustainable settlement" to a "small village".

6. **Parham Composter Liaison Group**

An elector who works with the liaison group gave a report as follows:

The salient point of the meeting of the Liaison Group Meeting of 5 June 2018 was the announcement of Biogen having in February 2018 acquired Tamar Energy (one of the UK's largest owners and operators of anaerobic digestion (AD) plant) so as to expand its food waste recycling network. This acquisition created one of the largest independent AD operators in the UK. It is to be noted that Biogen's website make a very strong statement about it being "The UK's leading AD operator, providing a cost effective and sustainable food waste recycling service for local authorities and commercial organisations - food waste to renewable energy all taken care of".

Not so loudly trumpeted is the fact that Biogen also operates two types of composting plant, viz., Open Windrow Composting (OWC), which recycle green garden waste, and In-Vessel Composting (IVC) that process mixed green garden and food waste, as at Parham. It is clear from all that Biogen publishes the emphasis of their business is on the former. Note here that the word Open means composting in the open air, which I fear could spell changes afoot in the operations at the Parham site with consequent risks of worsening of odour emissions.

My concerns are underpinned by messages received at Composter Liaison Group meetings of dwindling garden waste throughput (30% down since the introduction of the Green Bin scheme in May) affecting the economics of the process and the "knock-on effect" on unit operating costs. If these costs rise too much there is the possibility of Parham being priced out of the market and local authorities not renewing their contract next year. An additional factor affecting the sustainability of current operations at Parham is the likelihood of the Environment Agency (EA) withdrawing consent to include food waste in any composting process, which undermines the whole reason for using an in-vessel composting operation.

In summary, I see two possibilities for the future use of the Parham site: AD (NB: the most probable based upon Biogen's opening declaration, see first paragraph above) and/or OWC. The only ameliorating factor may be that the site is too small and the controlling authorities might not consent to a change of process. However, Biogen might manage to acquire adjoining land for expansion and the County and District Councils both have a vested interest in the continuation of waste processing at Parham.

On other matters: the EA reported having received 12 odour related complaints (but only attended to 3) and 1 about noise in the preceding quarter. The accuracy of the latter was disputed by a Parham resident. The main, and continuing, dissatisfaction with the nuisance reporting procedure is the fact that complaints are only heard by authorities' staff during normal office hours, i.e., less than a quarter of the time that odour and noise emission incidents occur, so opportunity for thorough investigation is usually lost.

NOTE: Next meeting of the liaison group is scheduled for 11th December 2018 at 2pm, in the Parham Airfield Museum.

7. **Next meeting**

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Note that the 227th meeting planned to be held on 14 September 2018 has been cancelled.
The Chairman was to liaise with Ms Emeny to fix a new date for that meeting.

Nicholas Redman, Honorary Clerk

20/08/2018

g cr-j (AN)