# GREAT FINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Great Finborough Parish Council meeting held in the Upper Room of the Pettiward Hall on Monday 29th July **2024 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:**

**Councillors: A.Mann (Vice Chair)**

 **L. Morgan**

 **S.Waspe**

**In Attendance: Cllr John Matthissen**

 **L.Luther (Clerk)**

 **3 Members of the public**

**GFPC/20/24/25 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Spencer, Cllr Burton, Cllr Barron and Cllr Campbell. Apologies accepted.

**GFPC/21/24/25 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None were received.

# GFPC/22/24/25 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

# It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2024 be approved as a true record and were signed by the Chair. Proposed by Cllr Mann, seconded by Cllr Waspe and all were in favour.

### **GFPC/23/24/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:**

There were 3 members of the public present.

Cllr Mattissen gave his report as he was absent from the previous meeting. John reported that after the recent election Cabinet had reviewed the housing revenue account finances and found that the results were not ideal owing to the increase in interest rates. Cllr Matthissen reported that a good article had come from a cabinet member 2 weeks ago that dealt with housing and property and explained the problem well, adding that it was also a shared problem with many councils in the country. Housing is looked at in terms of the next 30 years, and with interest rates the way they are, rents were not going to cover the incurred costs of council housing. Councils had long term loans which had caused their own issues. A suggestion was made to put forward a scheme to further discount council tax for people on benefits, or who were vulnerable and so on, as it was found that it was cheaper to write off the money than collect it. On another issues, Cllr Matthissen reported a project was set up, where Council voted on a town gateway fund, which made 1.5 million pounds available. The fund was intended to possibly buy one or two properties and assist movement within the town centre property market, to get buildings back in use again, this is one of the benefits of Gateway 14. Council approved a social value policy, to get social value out of the things that were done, and provide a more systematic look at how to achieve social value out of activities.

Cllr Matthissen also reported that a full council meeting was held and a state of the district report was introduced last year. The district report showed that for the Council property company, income was down because of interest rates. Decreased income had come about because shorter term interest rates had gone up, resulting in the market not being very buoyant and the value of the property portfolio had decreased. On the positive side, Council had adopted 3 supplementary planning documents, which would help to extend and explain the existing policy that was there. Finally, Cllr Matthissen reported that two more companies had signed up for space within Gateway 14.

One member of the public asked about the area outside of her house, and the overgrown bushes, asking if the Council would be attending to it. Cllr Mann reported that it would be looked at as part of works planned to tidy up the play area.

Cllr Waspe asked what the plan is for dispersal of roof water from Gateway 14 was. Cllr Matthissen reported that a main holding pond was installed underneath the car park and was plenty big enough for water to go into. It was also reported that each new building will get its own sustainable drainage scheme to match up with its individual requirements.

### **GFPC/24/24/25 TO RECEIVE THE CLERKS REPORT**

1. Clerk reported that she had received an email from Babergh Mid Suffolk council about cleansing grant payments, which was related to litter picker wages. The e-mail was asking if council would want to continue receiving quarterly payments, or if they would like to receive an annual payment instead. Clerk contacted Babergh Mid Suffolk concerning the matter and was told that last year, council had not claimed all the funds that were available to claim. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would find out if the funds could be retrospectively claimed, and would request that payments were continued to be received on a quarterly basis.
2. Clerk asked Cllr Morgan if all was now updated with regards to the Defibrillator. Cllr Morgan reported that all was now in order, and system was up to date.
3. Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Matt Hullis at SCC, to ensure that the contact details for Giles Bloomfield at the Internal Drainage Board (also known as Water Management Alliance) were correct. Matt reported that Giles was involved in some large projects and had to prioritise his time, but that he was sure he would revert back when time became available to him. Clerk would keep council updated on news concerning this.
4. Clerk reported that she had booked onto the first module of the CILCA qualification, for the end of August. Clerk reported that as she would soon be clerking for Onehouse Parish Council too, she hoped that she could obtain agreement from them to split the cost of the training between Ringshall Parish Council, Great Finborough Parish Council and Onehouse Parish Council.

# GFPC/25/24/25 PLANNING

1. DC/24/03228 – Broad Oak Cottage, High Road, Great Finborough

Council discussed the planning application for Broad Oak Cottage and came to the conclusion that the planning application was to the detriment of nobody, the addition of a window affects nobody, as it is covered by trees and Council felt the design was sympathetic and in keeping**. It was AGREED** that Clerk would add a comment to the planning consultation that reflected the discussion that Council recognise the sympathetic design and had no other comments.

1. Cllr Matthissen reported that a temporary roadway had been installed at the end of Pear Tree Place, this was evidence that the Council would stick to its conditions on planning permission. An agreement had been reached between the owner of the land, the council and the developer and the expectation was that the roadway would remain until May 2025.

c) Cllr Mann had been approached by a resident asking if planning permission was required for a larger than average garden pond. Cllr Matthissen reported that yes, planning permission would be required.

d) Cllr Matthissen reported that there was no update on Cagman’s Farm consultation yet, and would report back when there was.

# GFPC/26/24/25 FINANCE

1. Clerk had brought the bank reconciliation for the end of June, for which she had the bank statement. Verification of the Bank Reconciliation was deferred to the next meeting, when Cllr Barron would be present to oversee.
2. **It was AGREED** that all payments authorised and approved for July, including salary payments for Clerk £476.90, Litter Picker payments of £52 and £26 and Robinson Arnold payment for £175.20. Cllr Waspe Proposed, Cllr Morgan seconded, all were in favour.

# GFPC/27/24/25 MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Morgan to speak to MB Building Solutions regarding the design for the plinth for the village sign. Council to discuss at next meeting if the crown of the tree needs to be lifted. Cllr Morgain to obtain quote for work to be done for next meeting.

Cllr Mann to speak to Top Garden concerning contracted work being carried out within the village inconsistently and resolve ongoing issues. Cllr Mann to report back at the next meeting and discussion any further action to be taken.

To be put on the next agenda, there is a tree on Church road, adjacent to a power substation that is requiring maintenance work, but is on Parish owned land, so requires discussion by the Parish Council before any action can be taken.

Cllr Morgan to liase with Cllr Matthissen to source projector for the next meeting.

City Lane needs to be on agenda for the next meeting.

# GFPC/28/24/25 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Monday 9th September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Upper room of the Pettiward Hall.

### The meeting closed at 20.24hrs.

**Chairman: ……………………………… Dated:………………………………..**