

GREAT FINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Great Finborough Parish Council meeting held in the Upper Room of the Pettiward Hall on Monday 9th September 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: J.Spencer (Chair)
A.Mann (Vice Chair)
L. Morgan
S.Waspe
R.Burton
J.Barron

In Attendance: Cllr Penny Otton
L.Luther (Clerk)
3 Members of the public

GFPC/29/24/25 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Matthissen. Apologies accepted.

GFPC/30/24/25 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None were received.

GFPC/31/24/25 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

It was AGREED that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 29th July 2024 be approved as a true record and were signed by the Chair. Proposed by Cllr Mann, seconded by Cllr Morgan and all were in favour.

GFPC/32/24/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

There were 3 members of the public present.

One member of the public reported that they were investigating setting up a good neighbour scheme, they reported that this had already been achieved in other areas. There is no specific way that this should be done, Great Finborough is already full of good neighbours, but this would be a way of enabling people who don't know who to ask, or who do not like to ask to access help that is available. A system that has been set up in Staffordshire is where everyone gets tokens to 'buy' a service, such as a dog walk, or picking up a prescription. This is not intended to replace statutory services, but just to be available in cases of emergency, and to help build more of community feel in the village. The group was in the early stages of setting up a scheme that might work for Great Finborough, so if anyone had any ideas, they would be welcome to share them. An example given was when the old Forge flooded and people needed help. Sometimes people just need someone to have a chat with, or someone to call in and have a cup of tea with – so practical and emotional support. It was suggested that an article be written and sent to Councillor Mann for inclusion within the Village Newsletter.

Another member of the public mentioned the Wildflower Meadow, and the need for the meadow to be cut. Cllr Matthissen has put a request into BMSDC for a quote to cut the meadow, who were very busy, but they were hoping it would be cut in September or October. It was requested that the quote, when received, would be forwarded to the Clerk, so that the Parish Council could discuss potentially paying for it.

The member of the public also mentioned that on November 14th, there would be a talk about 'Save our Swifts', to publicise the need for swifts to be looked after, and swift boxes put up in as many places as possible, this formed part of the village Biodiversity plan.

1945 hrs Cllr Otton arrived at the meeting

GFPC/33/24/25 TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Penny Otton reported on the egress of water issue along Buxhall Rd, which had most recently been referred to Ben Cook – the Senior Highways officer, who would be looking at it and following up. Cllr Morgan reported that the water that was egressing had been tested and was not chlorinated, so was not an Anglia Water issue. The new owner of Buxhall Lodge had reported that they were happy for any water leakage to be redirected to their pond to replace recently lost water.

Concerning the residents correspondence regarding speeding, Cllr Otton asked if the Parish Council would like the ANPR camera to come to the village, as a deterrent method. **It was AGREED** that the clerk would complete the application form for the ANPR van and send it to Cllr Otton.

Cllr Otton also discussed the Solar Together project, where residents can group together to apply for Solar Panels. It was requested that information regarding this be put on the website, to publicise it.

It was also reported that changes would be happening in terms of recycling. A recent cabinet meeting had big plans for ensuring more recycling was completed across Suffolk. One of the changes being glass collected, rather than going into bottle banks – discussion was still underway. A commitment had been made for food waste to be recycled that would come into force in Suffolk in the future.

1955hrs Cllr Otton left the meeting.

GFPC/34/24/25 TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Matthissen was absent from the meeting, but his report was circulated prior to the meeting.

GFPC/35/24/25 PLANNING

- a) Council discussed planning consultation DC/24/03675 – 14 Combs Green. Council had no objections. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would comment 'No Objections' on the planning consultation portal.

2000 hrs Cllr Mann left the room.

- b) Council discussed planning consultation DC/24/03396 Hamilton House. No Objections were expressed. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would comment 'No Objections' on the planning consultation portal.

2005 hrs Cllr Mann returned to the room.

- c) Councillors discussed the decision relating to DC/24/02406 Cagmans Farm.

GFPC/35/24/25 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

- a) Clerk reported that Cllr Campbell had resigned from the Council owing to personal commitments. Council were disappointed to receive her resignation, as she was a valued member of the Council and made a significant contribution. Cllr Campbell was the Footpath Warden for the Village. Notice had been posted of the vacancy on the village noticeboard, once the 12th September had passed, if no nominations were received, then a new council member could be co-opted on to the council.
- b) Clerk reported having completed the introduction to CILCA module with SALC. Clerk reported that the total cost of the training for the CILCA qualification would be £797 plus VAT, plus paid hours for training – suggested four hours a week per clerk, as the qualification was anticipated to take 200 hours over the course of a year. The cost could be split between Ringshall Parish Council, who the clerk also clerked for – so would only be £398.50 plus two additional hours a week. Council discussed whether they were prepared to support the clerk in completing the qualification. **It was AGREED** that Council did support the clerk and would be happy to pay the costs involved and support payment of additional hours for studying the qualification. Cllr Spencer signed the learning agreement that would be submitted to SALC as part of the qualification application process.
- c) Clerk asked Cllr Morgan for an update on the application for locality funding to pay for a projector and trimmer for the Woodpecker Hill volunteers. Cllr Morgan said the application was with Cllr Matthissen for final approval, so was expected to be successful.
- d) Clerk received an e-mail asking for payment for the domain name renewal for the year. **It was AGREED** to pay for renewal at £18, and if any savings to be had for renewing for more than one year at a time, then that would be instructed.

GFPC/36/24/25 FINANCE

- a) Clerk provided the Bank Reconciliation for June, July and August for approval and advised it would be sent out prior to meetings in the future. The Finance Report was read out by Clerk. The CIL reserves were discussed, and **It was AGREED** that Clerk would investigate how long current CIL reserves had been held for so they could ensure they were utilised correctly and in time for the returning deadline.
- b) Clerk read out the list of payments and receipts for the month, along with payments and receipts that had taken place during the year and required a minute reference for Audit purposes.
- c) Insurance renewal had come up as £700.74. Clerk had sought a comparative price, but not received a quote yet. **It was AGREED** that if the comparable quote was less than, clerk could go with that, if it was more, Clerk was to approve the current provider and proceed with cover with them.

GFPC/37/24/25 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

- a) Clerk reported that BMSDC had asked if Great Finborough wanted an annual playground inspection report. The previous inspection report was done in February 2024. **It was AGREED** that a new inspection report would be requested, but that it would not need to be done until February 2025.
- b) Councillor Mann reported that the lottery money had agreed to pay for maintenance work to be done, and that it was scheduled to be done by the end of October. It was noted that residents had complained about pigeon excrement in the play area and

Councillors suggested cable ties be put on the top of the bar across the swings to discourage pigeons from settling and fouling the equipment.

- c) The bridge near the swimming pool was discussed as being damned up with sticks and twigs and required clearing before the winter set in. **It was AGREED** that the maintenance work party could do some work on that when they next met.
- d) Valley lane ditch was discussed, as being full of clippings from a local landowner, who was seen dumping the clippings into the ditch. **It was AGREED** that Cllr Morgan would write to the individual responsible for the dumped clippings to instruct him to clear the ditch.
- e) **It was AGREED** that 28th September would be the date for the next working party group.

GFPC/38/24/25 FLOODING WORKING GROUP

It was AGREED to postpone the meeting that was scheduled for 7th October, until a time when Giles Bloomfield could commit to attending, as so far he had been unable to reply concerning the meeting.

GFPC/39/24/25 CORRESPONDANCE

Email received from resident requesting a strimmer purchase and for dates to be fixed for the working group meeting twice a year. It was discussed that a strimmer should be purchased shortly, once the locality funding is approved. A meeting for the next working group has been set for 28th September.

GFPC/40/24/25 BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Councillors discussed the Biodiversity Action plan, which now needed a new lead councillor to take over, as Cllr Campbell was previously the lead and did a great job at achieving some quality items. Item to remain on the agenda for the next meeting. **It was AGREED** that these roles would be promoted in newsletter and that job descriptions would be formed for both volunteer roles.

GFPC/41/24/25 EMERGENCY PLAN

It was reported that a resident who produces emergency plans for their job and was very good at it, had offered to help with the production of an emergency plan for Great Finborough. Cllr Morgan offered to take the lead on the project.

GFPC/42/24/25 MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Morgan reported that the design for the plinth had been confirmed and ordered. £2500 had been raised for the bench to be installed, in part owing to the golf club charity day.

The Pettiward Hall would need to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Village Marquee required replacement and would need to be discussed at the next meeting.

GFPC/43/24/25 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Monday 14th October 2024 at 7.30pm in the Upper room of the Pettiward Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.07hrs.

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