

Report of the Chair of Great Finborough Parish Council to the Annual Village Meeting – 10 May 2023

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to summarise the main activities of the council since May 2022.

Annual Village Meeting (AVM) – 2022

The AVM held on the 18 May 2022 was the third since this PC's election. The 2022 AVM reports were received from Chair of the PC, The District and County Councillors, St Andrews Church, the Pettward Hall management committee, The garden Club, the Allotment Association, The Village Newsletter, the Community Speedwatch, and Woodpecker Hill Volunteer group.

Parish Council (PC)

The elected Parish councillors from 2022 to 2023 were,

Simon Tarabella (chair)
Sebastian Reeves (vice chair)
James Spencer

with Peter Turner, Simon Waspe, Lee Morgan and Sharon Shipp who were all co-opted onto the council. Sharon Shipp stood down in July 2022 and was replaced by Isabelle Campbell.

Parish Clerk

Paula Gladwell continues to serve as our Parish Clerk and once again I would like to express the Councillors thanks to her for her guidance and support over the past year. The council regard themselves as very lucky to have such an experienced and knowledgeable Parish Clerk to guide them.

Responsibilities and Issues addressed in 2022/2023

Precepts, Budgets and Finances

The final accounts for year ending 31 March 2023 were approved. In November of 2022, the Budget Working Group provided reports that enabled the council to make decisions about the future investments in Estate maintenance, facilities and services for which it is responsible. In January 2023, the Budget Working Group recommended the budget for 2023/2024. It was resolved to approve the budget as recommended, which generated a precept requirement of £14,505. This ensured that there would be no increase in the Parish Council part of residents Council Tax based on a Band D property for the year. I am grateful to the councillors who assisted me in assuring an effective process for the setting of the precept.

A review of the effectiveness of the council's governing arrangements and systems of internal control have been carried out and the controls were effective.

Planning

The Council met regularly to discuss planning applications submitted to MSDC, to register its views on them, and to note decisions made by MSDC. It is also working alongside Orwell Housing to find a suitable site to build affordable housing for local residents as determined in the local housing needs survey carried out last year.

What has the Parish Council achieved over the last year?

In addition to the normal estate maintenance and management of the village, several projects were overseen by the Parish Council.

Replacement of Parish owned streetlights

Refurbishment and replacement of wooden posts around village greens

Tree work in Woodpecker Hill wood, to the horse chestnut on the village green, and in Church Road

Provision of white entrance gates to the Hitcham end of the village

Repair of fencing to Allotments

New village notice board

Provision of new directional signs for the village car park

Supported Queens Jubilee party and Kings Coronation party

Created a Parish Facebook page – Thanks to Lee Morgan who set up and continues to manage this page

With help from the Garden club, created a rose garden in honour of the late Queen Elizabeth II

Supported and financed the village newsletter – report to follow

Repair and maintenance to Herb Garden. - Thanks go to the Garden Club members who continue to look after and maintain the plants in the Herb Garden.

Allotments

The allotments continue to be well managed by the Gt Finborough Allotment Association, and they are maintaining the hedges and footpaths around the allotments. The association will report in due course. Thanks go to the members who continue to look after and maintain the plants in the Herb Garden. The Parish Council are currently addressing the wording of the allotment tenancy agreement

Pettiward Hall

The Parish Council continue to support the Pettiward Hall Committee. The committee will report in due course.

Post Office Van

The mobile post office van operates in the village car park every Thursday 1.45 to 3.15. There have been a few instances when it hasn't managed to make it but it still provides a good service to the village and is much appreciated

Village Services

Newsletter

The Council continues to provide a newsletter to all households in the village. I will be giving a report later in the meeting. We now have a new editor in Tracy Barnett and the PC's thanks go to her for taking on this post

Litter and Litter picks

Eddy Hines, Ben Morgan and Luca Gambling are employed to pick litter in the central areas of the village. The PC would like to thank individual village members who have carried out litter picking during their regular exercise walks.

Estate Management of the Greens and other Parish owned land.

The Council continues to employ contractors for maintenance of our greens their trees, the playing field and associated footpaths. Our contractor, ~~Green~~ Scene have carried out the estate maintenance in an exemplary manner

Future Council projects.

The new council members will hold their first meeting on 22 May and will set forth their ideas for the next 4 years of office. I am sure that the village residents will give them all the support they need as they continue to look after the village on the resident's behalf.

Finally, I would like to extend a big thank you to Paula and all the Parish councillors for all their hard work and dedication over the last 4 years in achieving many of our aims and goals.

Simon Tarabella
May 2023

Great Finborough Parish Council

Financial Report for the APM

The Parish Council started the 2022 – 2023 financial year with £39,617 in the bank.

Income between April 2022 and March 2023 was £30,326 and is made up of the precept which comes from residents via their council tax at £14136 and various grants and donations together with income from newsletter advertising.

Thanks are extended to all the people who make donations towards the various projects the council undertakes each year. This year Cllrs Otton and Matthissen between them have awarded us in excess of £4500 towards the notice board, the street light replacements and the white gates, and we couldn't carry out these types of projects without their support.

The replacement of the street lights has been helped by a very generous donation from Finborough Hall School and a match funding grant from Suffolk CC together with fund raising via the smartie tubes and the jubilee event.

The Garden Club have been, as always, very generous with their funds and their time helping to re bark paths and to complete the fantastic commemorative Rose garden.

Advertising revenue, allotment rent and a small amount of bank interest make up the balance of income.

Spending for this financial year has been one of our highest at £51490 with the street light replacement costing £21225, the new notice board £2305 and the white gates at Hitcham end of High Road £3113.

Grass cutting and open space maintenance totalled £1810 and £1730 was spent on tree work this year.

The clerk and litter pickers salaries together with admin, insurance, audits, hall hire, and subscriptions at £10117, the newsletter production at £2268 and emptying litter bins £564 make up the regular spending of the council.

Finally contributions to the Jubilee event and the coronation weekend complete spending for this year.

The closing reserves in the bank on 31st March 2023 was £18454.

Great Finborough Parish Council as at 31st March 2022

2022/2023

Receipts

Precept	£ 14,136.00
Street Lights Grants	£ 10,989.00
Advertising	£ 1,408.10
Cleansing Grants MSDC	£ 685.50
Interest	£ 159.60
Garden Club donation	£ 140.00
Donation to tree work	£ 250.00
Allotment Rent	£ 146.69
Cllr Otton - Notice Board	£ 500.00
Cllr Otton/Cllr Matthissen - White Gates	£ 1,600.00
Virador credit	£ 312.04
Vat recovered	£ -
	<u>£ 30,326.93</u>

Payments

Salaries	£ 8,234.00
admin expences	£ 252.84
Website	£ 50.00
Insurances	£ 619.98
training	£ 26.00
Audit	£ 535.00
Subscriptions	£ 401.94
Grass cutting	£ 716.34
Newsletter	£ 2,268.00
Coronation event	£ 195.00
Notice Board	£ 2,305.35
Allotments	
Repairs/Maint	£ 564.93
Open space maintenance	£ 1,094.23
Playground	
Tree work	£ 1,730.00
White gates	£ 3,113.30
Water	£ 77.03
Hall Hire	£ 146.00
Street Light Replacement	£ 21,225.00
LGA 1972 S137	£ 200.00
Litter Bins	£ 564.34
Street Furniture	£ 444.72
Street Lights	
Jubilee event	£ 588.10
Speedwatch	
vat	£ 6,138.22
	<u>£ 51,490.32</u>

Net payments & Receipts -£ 21,163.39

Cash Reserves

Opening Reserves	£ 39,617.11
Nett Movement	-£ 21,163.39
Closing Reserves	<u>£ 18,453.72</u>

Represented by:

Cash at Bank - Current	£ 7,432.60
- Deposit	£ 11,021.12

Petty Cash	£ -
	<u>£ 18,453.72</u>

Fixed and Long Term Assets

As per Asset Register	£ 129,848.00
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45352.10

Great Finborough Parish Council
Balance as at 31 March 2023

Opening balance as at 01.04.22

HSBC Community Account	£	3,755.59
HSBC Community Savings Account	£	35,861.52
Barclays Community Account 50427969	£	-
		<u>£ 39,617.11</u>

Less payments for 1 April to 30 June 2021	£	4,696.94
Less payments for 1 July to 30 September 2021	£	7,320.94
Less payments for 1 October to 31 December 2021	£	8,339.75
Less Payments for 1 January to 31 March 2022	£	31,132.69
		<u>£ 51,490.32</u>

Plus receipts for 1 April to 30 June 2021	£	7,087.25
Plus receipts for 1 July to 30 September 2021	£	8,101.06
Plus receipts for 1 October to 31 December 2021	£	8,058.90
Plus receipts for 1 January to 31 March 2022	£	7,079.72
		<u>£ 30,326.93</u>

£ 18,453.72

Bank Reconciliation

Balance as at 31 March 2023

HSBC Community Account 711483870	£	32,902.60
less cheques issued but not cashed	£	25,470.00
		<u>£ 7,432.60</u>

Plus receipts not shown on bank statement

HSBC Deposit Account 01487469	£	11,021.12
less transactions not yet shown		

£ 18,453.72