

GREAT FINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th June 2024 in Pettward Hall

Present: Cllr James Spencer (chair) Cllr Simon Waspe Cllr John Barron
Cllr Richard Burton Cllr Isabelle Campbell Cllr Ant Mann
Paula Gladwell – Clerk
6 members of public Cllr Penny Otton - part

- 2024/3371 **Apologies for Absence** - Cllr Lee Morgan. Council consented to accept the apologies given.
- 2024/3372 **To receive member's declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registerable interests and non-registerable interests in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct for the items on the agenda and to note any request and determination for dispensations relating to those interests** – Cllr Barron declared a pecuniary interest in item 8a (minute no. 2024/3378)
- 2024/3373 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** - It was proposed by Cllr Spencer, sec Cllr Mann that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved, with all in favour. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 13th May 2024 were signed as a true record.
- 2024/3374 **Public Participation** – Thanks were extended to the clerk for her 13 years in the role. Various objections were put forward to the planning application at Cagmans Farm. It was noted that the operators licence application for the site had been withdrawn, work had ceased following the Planning Enforcement stop notice and the site has not been opened up to the highway.
- 2024/3375 **County Councillor Otton's Report** – Deferred.
- 2024/3376 **District Councillor Matthissen's Report** – Deferred.
- 2024/3377 **Clerks Report** – The recent visual check of the parish owned street lights carried out by Cllr Spencer was noted. The foliage clearance for columns 67 and 20 will be carried out by the next work party. It was noted that the faded 30mph sign on column 57 will be reported and the speed aware sign will be replaced.
It was noted that the Biodiversity audit had been carried out and the report is awaited. Cllr Campbell confirmed that Dorothy had lots of recommendations and these will be considered at the next meeting.
It was noted that The Circuit defib checks had not been updated.
It was confirmed that the contact details should be updated for the National Lottery grant. The new clerk and Cllr Mann will replace the outgoing clerk and Simon Tarabella for future correspondence.
- Cllr Barron left the room
- 2024/3378 **Planning** – It was RESOLVED to submit the following comments; DC/24/02406 Construction of vehicular access and hardstanding. Cagmans Farm, High Road. *"Great Finborough Parish Council OBJECTION to the proposal to create a vehicular access and hardstanding at this site under DC/24/00652 stands for this new application. Concerns are expressed that the purpose of the hard standing and access are now stated as for agricultural vehicles and machinery. The blue line on the site plan extends to less than 2 hectares and the meadow has no agricultural produce. Although it is understood that the application for an HGV Operators Licence for this site has been withdrawn and this is not a material planning consideration there are grave concerns that this is still the aim of the entrance and hardstanding. This application is retrospective and the work has already been carried out, the site is wholly within the countryside and the impact on the rural landscape and its character is devastating. It does not conserve nor enhance the landscape and the loss of the grassland and its biodiversity is extremely detrimental. The drawings within the application also show fencing surrounding the hardstanding and this would further erode the sense of open space of this countryside location all contrary to policies LP17 and LP24 of the Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan. There is no justification for such a large entrance and there are no visibility splay details. The proposed gate is set only 5m back from the highway and if this is used for agricultural machinery they would be forced to stop on the highway to operate the gate, this reinforces our concerns that the lack of visibility near the bend in this road and the speed of vehicles travelling along the High Road will result in an adverse effect on highway safety and a lack of safe access and egress to the site. Although there is now a Biodiversity Net Gain report included with this new application the assessment states a 100% net loss of habitat and as there is no landscaping proposed to offset this and achieve the required minimum 10% BNG it is contrary to SP09 and LP16 of the B&MSJLP. Concerns are*

expressed that this survey was carried out post construction and the hedges and trees removed back in April would not have been included in the base line values. The loss of permanent meadow, trees and hedgerow in this countryside location is unacceptable and refusal of this retrospective application is recommended with an enforcement obligation to return the lost biodiversity value as soon as possible." Proposed Cllr Mann, seconded Cllr Burton with all in favour.

Cllr Barron returned to the room.

- 2024/3379 DC/24/02432 Application for Works to Trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TP041/A2 Pollard 1 no. Poplar (T1) by 50% as too heavy and leaning towards menage. Fell remaining stem of 1 no. Poplar (T2). Crown lift away from buildings and power lines a group of trees (T30) by up to 5m and cut back by 3m. College Barn, High Road - "Great Finborough Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available"
- 2024/3380 The following MSDC decisions were noted; DC/24/01830 Discharge of Conditions Application DC/23/03826 - Condition 6 (Surface Water Discharge), Condition 7 (Construction Management Plan), Condition 9 (Great Crested Newts - Precautionary Method Statement), Condition 10 (Wildlife Sensitive Lighting Design Scheme), Condition 11 (landscaping Scheme) and Condition 13 (Wildlife Management Scheme) Valley Farm, Valley Lane APPROVED
- 2024/3381 It was agreed that no comment be submitted at this time to the Babergh Mid Suffolk DC Supplementary Planning Documents Consultation on Biodiversity & Trees SPD; Housing SPD and Intensive Livestock & Poultry SPD.
- 2024/3382 **County Councillor Otton's Report** – Cllr Otton gave her report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.
- 2024/3383 **District Councillor Matthissen's Report** – Cllr Matthissen gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.
- 2024/3384 **Finance** – The Finance report for June 2024 was approved. Cllr Barron confirmed the bank reconciliation had been checked.
- 2024/3385 The following payments were approved. Prop Cllr Spencer, sec Cllr Burton with all in favour, Staff salaries for May.
- 2024/3386 Top Garden £432.00
- 2024/3387 Gipping Press £225.00
- 2024/3388 MSDC Play Inspection £63.78
- 2024/3389 Pettward Hall Hire £138.25
- 2024/3390 It was agreed that councillor dual authorisation be set up at the bank for future electronic payments when the mandate is amended for the new clerk. It was RESOLVED to adopt the drafted NALC recommended new Financial Regulations. Proposed Cllr Spencer, sec Cllr Burton with all in favour.
- 2024/3391 **Village Maintenance** – The monthly risk assessment of the Play Park was considered. The recommendations were noted and it was agreed that the offer of help to rectify the trip hazards be accepted.
- 2024/3392 Broken railing - Cllr Campbell will assess and if necessary replace the rail. Purchase of a railing, cost tbc, proposed by Cllr Spencer, sec Cllr Campbell with all in favour.
- 2024/3393 Village sign plinth - nothing new to report
- 2024/3394 Chestnut Tree bench - It was confirmed that fundraising is going well for the project to replace the circular bench and further consideration will be taken at the next meeting.
- 2024/3395 It was noted that the youth shelter's broken panel safety tape had been ripped off, Cllr Mann will make safe again. Further consideration of a project for this area will be added to the next agenda.
- 2024/3396 **Flooding Working Group** – Details of the next meeting were confirmed for 17th June at 7pm. It was agreed that the agenda be organic with emphasis on landowner projects and contribution.
- 2024/3397 **Footpaths** – Cllr Campbell reported missing waymarkers at FP47 and FP20, replacement posts will be requested from PROW. It was noted that a work party to add bark chippings to FP9 and FP10 would be beneficial. It was noted that FP22 was overgrown with vegetation from the sides. Cllr Mann will contact the landowner to request this be cleared.
- 2024/3398 **Correspondence** – There were no comments to tabled correspondence.
- 2024/3399 **2024/2025 Meeting Schedule** - It was RESOLVED to amend the July meeting to the 15th and the April meeting to 21st of the month. Proposed Cllr Spencer with all in favour. The amended schedule will be added to the website and the hall bookings changed.
- 2024/3400 **Open Space Management Working Group** – It was noted that the meeting set for 13th June had been cancelled and a new date had yet to be fixed.

- 2024/3401 **D Day event** – Cllr Mann confirmed that the event had been very successful with a total of £474 raised. It was confirmed that this would be donated to the Royal British Legion once all monies had been deposited.
- 2024/3402 **Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – It was noted that Cllr Spencer had been asked to join the SALC board.
- 2024/3403 **Motion to exclude temporarily the Public and Press** - It was resolved to exclude the Public and Press pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed concerning staffing.
- 2023/3404 The appointment of Lacey Luther as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer was approved. Proposed by Cllr Spencer, sec Cllr Mann with all in favour. Details of the pay scale and contract were confirmed.

Next meeting will be held in Pettiward Hall on Monday 15th July 2024 at 7.30pm