

Great Finborough Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Great Finborough Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

17 members of public present
Chairman – Cllr Peter Turner, Clerk – Paula Gladwell,
County Cllr - Penny Otton, District Cllr – John Matthissen
Apologies - Judith Cameron

1. The minutes of previous meeting of 8th May 2017 were approved and signed.
2. Cllr Otton gave her report, which is attached.
3. Cllr Matthissen gave his report, which is attached. The question was asked as to what are MSDC's intentions for the council offices site at Needham Market, Cllr Matthissen confirmed that the site was earmarked for residential and/or retail development. Question asked regarding local peoples eligibility for council housing, Cllr Matthissen confirmed that a "choice based letting" scheme is employed and run jointly with neighbouring councils with local people usually being given first refusal.
4. Cllr Turner gave his report from the Parish Council which is attached to these minutes.
5. Rev Chris Childs gave his report from St Andrew's Church which is attached.
6. A report from the Pettiward Hall Management Committee was given by Mrs Mary Preece and is attached.
7. Judith Cameron's report from the Garden Club was read by the clerk and is attached to these minutes.
8. A report from the Primary School was given by Ant Mann, a school governor. A personal tragedy has had an enormous impact on the school recently however results are good with Ofsted giving an outstanding mark for some school features and recent SAT's results are very good. The Board of Governors is at full strength and the recent school residential trips to Scarborough, Scotland and Pembrookshire have been excellent. Staffing as always remains a challenge but financially the school is in a good position. The Parish Council was thanked for their contribution to the outside area improvements which are hoped to be completed over the summer. The school is about to launch a social media project by embarking on Facebook. It has been established that the flashing lights on the road approaching the school do actually work but need a key to operate them, the location of which remains a mystery so reactivating them is a work in progress. The parking issues at pick up and drop off times seem to have lessened with no recent complaints received. The question was asked if 11yr olds were being encouraged to join in with the Crucial Crew sessions at "The Mix" Ant confirmed that he would look into this. Question asked as to whether all village children get a place in school, it was confirmed that there is a waiting list however there is no issue with local children getting a school place, over at least the last 10 years all village children wanting a place got one. Question asked as to whether the school could promote the mobile library to encourage more people to use the service which visits the car park at 4pm every fourth week. Ant confirmed that the school would be happy to promote this. Question asked about the current role numbers and it was confirmed that the current number of 142 children is expected to reduce by approx 20 leavers in September with an estimated 20 plus new starters so number remaining around 140 for 2019.

9. Rhod Gardner's report on the activities of the Woodpecker Hill Group was read by the clerk and is attached to these minutes.
10. Mary Smyth gave a report from the Allotments Association which is attached.
11. Simon Tarabella gave a report from the editorial team for the Newsletter which is attached.
12. Simon also gave a report from the Community Speedwatch team which is attached to these minutes.
13. There was no report from the Great Finborough & Buxhall Under 5's
14. There were no further parish reports.
15. Any other matters – Discussion took place regarding the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan with a visual display available for further information.
It was suggested that the parish council purchase their own speed gun so that Community Speedwatch sessions could increase and that a second VAS machine be purchased. It was suggested that the Parish Council look at other speed reduction schemes. It was confirmed that it sourcing funding for major hard surfacing projects would be unlikely, however gated entries and the extension of speed restrictions together with the purchase of another VAS and speed gun would be considered.

The chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.