

Great Finborough Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Great Finborough Annual Parish Meeting held on 6th May 2021 **Held remotely via Zoom platform**

9 members of public present

Chairman – Cllr Simon Tarabella, Clerk – Paula Gladwell,

Apologies – PCSO Henrikson, David Preece

1. The minutes of previous meeting of 14th May 2019 were approved and signed.
2. The clerk gave Cllr Otton's report, which is attached.
3. Cllr Matthissen gave his report, which is attached. Concerns were expressed about the flooding at Combs Lane/Onehouse Road junction. It was suggested that the speed of the water needs to be slowed somehow. Cllr Matthissen confirmed that he would be arranging a meeting with the Environment Agency, SCC LLFA and representatives from each Parish Council concerned for later this month. It was noted that Debenham Parish had similar concerns and they have spearheaded a project to slow the water down to help their flooding issues by creating a system of weirs and dams.

Concerns were expressed regarding the destruction of trees both at Union Road and in Thurston by developers of new housing schemes, questioning how we can lobby to stop this happening in the future. Cllr Matthissen agreed that more tree officers were needed to assess planning applications where trees are at risk before planning is granted. He confirmed that there are currently only 2 tree officers and one of these is dedicated to looking after MSDC owned trees leaving only one officer to deal with all planning applications. Cllr Matthissen suggested contacting Cllr Jessica Fleming, Environment Portfolio Holder and Cllr Burn, Planning Portfolio holder to express concerns and lobby for change. Cllr Otton reiterated that both councils have recently implemented a biodiversity strategy and cutting down trees is against the ethos of that. MSDC would be in a position to prosecute Hopkins Homes for what they have done at Union Road and Thurston and it is disappointing that they have not done so.

4. a. Cllr Tarabella gave his report from the Parish Council which is attached to these minutes.
- b. Neil Watts gave a report from Canon Pauline Higham from St Andrew's Church which is attached.
- c. The Clerk read a report from David Preece for the Pettward Hall Management Committee which is attached.
- d. Judith Cameron's report from the Garden Club was read by Peter Turner and is attached to these minutes.
- e. There was no report from Great Finborough Primary School
- f. June Nathan gave a report from the Woodpecker Hill Volunteer Group. June thanked the Parish Council for supporting the group and all the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to improve the wood for the benefit of all. Covid has encouraged people to exercise more and many have used the woodland paths. The group expressed their thanks to Timber Wolf for dealing with all the chippings and to the people who helped spread them on the paths. 150 trees have been received from the Woodland Trust and will be used to replace some of the recently lost ones. Children from the Primary School helped to plant bulbs last year and have seen them flourish when they use the wood for lessons this Spring. The wood is used by all generations providing a

positive experience and looks good for the future. The group is hoping to add another cross drain as the first one has worked so well and they will soon be marking up the trees that will need remedial work in the Autumn. One concern recently has been persons trying to have a fire or barbeque in the wood and it is suggested that the group may have to look at some sort of signage to discourage or prevent this.

The Parish Council thanked June and her team for their fantastic work at Woodpecker Hill which now looks amazing and is a pleasurable walk for the many people who use it. Others also expressed their thanks to the volunteers for making a huge difference to the wood.

- g. Mary Smyth gave a report from the Allotments Association which is attached.
 - h. Simon Tarabella gave a report from the editorial team for the Newsletter which is attached.
 - i. Simon also gave a report from the Community Speedwatch team which is attached.
 - j. There was no report from the Great Finborough & Buxhall Under 5's
 - k. There was no report from Suffolk Police Community Engagement Officer PCSO Stefan Henriksen
 - l. There were no further parish reports.
5. Any other matters – Concerns were expressed that PCSO Henrikson had given his apologies stating that he had been prevented from attending by his superiors. The Parish Council were asked if they could express the communities disappointment that Suffolk Police couldn't allow our Community Officer to attend a once in two years virtual meeting, to suggest it is not the best use of his time leaves us feeling very let down. An item will be added to the next Parish Council agenda to discuss.

Thanks were expressed to Jane & Rodney Self for their hard work and commitment to various projects for the community including refurbishing benches, helping at the pub and John's sign. All their work is done quietly in the background and it is very much appreciated.

The chairman thanked everyone for coming and for their time and commitment to the village and its residents and closed the meeting at 8.45pm.