

# GREAT FINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 in Pettiward Hall

Present: Cllr James Spencer (chair) Cllr Simon Waspe Cllr Isabelle Campbell  
Cllr Lee Morgan  
Paula Gladwell – Clerk Cllr Penny Otton (part)  
Cllr John Matthissen (part)  
4 members of public

- 2023/3011 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr John Barron – Reason for absence accepted.
- 2023/3012 **Declarations of Interest in accordance with the council’s Code of Conduct and requests for dispensations relating to Discloseable Pecuniary Interests** – None
- 2023/3013 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** - It was proposed by Cllr Spencer that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved, with all in favour. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 12 June 2023 were signed as a true record.
- 2023/3014 **Public Participation** – No questions.
- 2023/3015 **County Councillor Otton’s Report** – Deferred.
- 2023/3016 **District Councillor Matthissen’s Report** – Deferred.
- 2023/3017 **Clerks Report** – Combs Lane flooding –SCC Highways engineer Melanie Hill confirmed that due to the gas pipes under the road we would not be able to undertake any flood alleviation ourselves. It was noted that it is unlikely that anything will be done in the near future to rectify this issue as SCC are in dispute with the gas company.  
Finborough bridge (Knights Bridge) - Melanie Hill confirmed that any application for a priority scheme here would be unsuccessful as there is no accident data and the width criteria is exceeded. It was noted that going forward any and all accidents or collisions with the bridge should be recorded so that a portfolio of evidence could be built for the future. It was suggested that Highways be asked to consider other vehicle safety options for this stretch of road including speed restriction extensions and “horses” signage. These suggestions would be forwarded to Melanie for comment.  
It was confirmed the fallen barbed wire on the electricity stay in Church Road had been rectified. It was noted that the expenses for the Coronation event had now been received and once taken into account resulted in a balance of £560.01 to be donated.
- 2023/3018 **Planning** – There were no Planning Applications to consider.
- 2023/3019 The following MSDC decisions were noted; DC23/01379 Erection of replacement buildings 7 and 9 with B2 and E(g) use (following demolition of buildings 6, 7, 8 and 9) Change of use from agricultural to B2 and E(g) use for buildings 11, 12 and land to rear of building 12. (retention of Green Farm, City Lane – REFUSED and DC23/01926 Erection of a part two storey, part single storey side extensions with integral garage, 8 Oak Close – GRANTED
- Item 17 was brought forward.
- 2023/3020 **Woodpecker Hill** – Thanks were extended to June for her attendance and explanation of the requirements of the volunteer group. It was confirmed that any purchase of a chipper was not possible due to the insurance restraints. If a chipper is needed in future then it was agreed that hire of the machine and operator would be required.  
It was noted that a hand rail adjacent to the ditch was not required at this time.  
Discussion took place around disabled access to the wood; it was noted that some residents at Finborough Court would like to use the wood if access was better. It was agreed that a bridge across the ditch was not suitable. It was agreed that further discussion should take place around the possibility of making the wood more accessible for all.  
June requested a budget for the volunteer group going forward and it was agreed that this would be considered during the council budget setting for next year. The volunteer group were asked to provide an idea of the sort of expenses they may require in order for this to be assessed against the funds available.  
It was suggested that the need for a substantial strimmer/bushwacker was urgent in order to keep the vegetation back from the paths. Cllr Campbell will visit the wood with the volunteers to establish what might need doing and the type of machine needed. Cllr Matthissen agreed that purchase of a bush wacker and relevant PPE would be possible through his locality budget. It was noted that District council locality budgets would be available to the group but only through

parish council applications as they were not a constituted group. Once costs have been sought an application can be made.

It was noted that bluebells would need to be planted in the autumn and June agreed to get a costing for these.

2023/3021 **County Councillor Otton's Report** – Cllr Otton's report had been circulated and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Item 10 was brought forward.

2023/3022 **Church Road Traffic Survey** – The notes from the recent meeting with Melanie Hall, SCC highways Engineer were considered and it was agreed that any actions to alleviate the traffic issues in Church Road would need to come from the school. Finborough Hall School would be asked to meet with councillors and Cllr Otton to discuss a way forward.

2023/3023 **District Councillor Matthissen's Report** – Cllr Matthissen's report had been circulated and a copy is attached to these minutes. Cllr Matthissen confirmed that a small grant project has been launched to help parishes with cleaning roadside furniture and cutting back vegetation. A list of issues here will be compiled to submit to the fund via Cllr Matthissen.

Item 19 was brought forward.

2023/3024 **Creation of flood prevention and environmentally beneficial lakes** – Cllr Waspe presented details of a possible project for the introduction of two lakes which would alleviate flooding of the River Ratt and also provide a fantastic environmental project. Cllrs Otton and Matthissen expressed their interest in such a project and agreed to facilitate contact with the landowner and Rights of Way in order to progress this. Thanks were extended to Cllr Waspe for all his time and commitment towards getting a project such as this off the ground.

2023/3025 **Finance** – The Finance report for July 2023 was approved.

2023/3026 The following payments were approved. Prop Cllr Spencer, with all in favour, Staff salaries for June.

2023/3027 HMRC Q1 payment

2023/3028 Replacement tree PT £21.95

2023/3029 ICO Renewal £40.00

2023/3030 Salc Training £184.80

2023/3031 Salc Internal Audit £368.40

2023/3032 Consideration was given to increasing the Training budget in view of new councillors and the availability of E-learning courses. It was RESOLVED to increase the training budget by £300 from general reserves for 2023-24. Proposed Cllr Spencer, sec. Cllr Morgan with all in favour.

2023/3033 **Hosting a Bee Hive** – Cllr Campbell outlined a project to site a bee hive on parish land. Suggestions put forward were the allotments, the wildflower meadow and Woodpecker Hill wood, Cllr Campbell agreed to carry out a risk assessment of all sites and report back to the next meeting with her preference. It was agreed that this would be an excellent idea and as a member of the local and national Bee Keeping Association Cllr Campbell agreed to lead this project. It was noted that a contract of some sort would be needed along with the risk assessment and that Cllr Campbell would have her own Liability Insurance in place.

2023/3034 **Village maintenance** – There were no matters reported.

2023/3035 **Footpaths** – Cllr Campbell gave her report. It was noted that FP30 had been cleared, new waymarkers installed and strimming carried out to ensure the ditch is visible. Cllr Campbell will attempt to make contact with the landowner to see they would be willing to help with this path. It was RESOLVED to pay £30.00 for additional help with clearing FP30. Proposed Cllr Campbell, sec Cllr Spencer with all in favour.

2023/3036 **Correspondence** – There were no comments to tabled correspondence.

2023/3037 **Tree & Hedge Maintenance** – Following consideration of a report and quotations for the felling of the Scots Pine on land adjacent to High Road and the cutting back of cherrytree branches from overhead wires it was RESOLVED to engage ETC at a cost of £650.00 + vat to carry out the work as soon as possible. Proposed by Cllr Spencer with all in favour.

2023/3038 It was noted that the Tree and Hedge Management Working Group had not met recently and that a meeting would be set for August. It was noted that a branch had fallen from a tree adjacent to the youth shelter. It was agreed that a volunteer chain saw licence holder be sought to help with village tree work in future. An appeal will be sent out via the newsletter.

2023/3039 **Local Needs Housing** – MSDC Planning officer has confirmed her support for site 2 and Orwell Housing will now commence negotiations with the landowner.

2023/3040 **Speedwatch Scheme** – It was agreed that volunteers be sought via the website and newsletter.

2023/3041 **D Day celebration event** – It was noted that the June 2024 date for D Day celebrations clashes with another event planned by the events group and therefore it is unlikely that they will be able to organise a D Day event. It was suggested that a smaller, low key event with a

different format and site be considered and it was agreed that further consideration be added to the November agenda in order that funding could be considered in the budget for 2024.

2023/3042 **Forward Planning Working Group** – A meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm.

2023/3043 **Co Option to fill current vacancies** – Following consideration of the two applications it was RESOLVED to co opt Anthony Mann and Richard Burton to fill the two vacancies. Proposed by Cllr Spencer, sec Cllr Morgan with all in favour. Ant and Richard will complete a Declaration of Office and Register of Interests and be welcomed to the table at the next meeting.

2023/3044 **Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – None

Next meeting will be held in Pettiward Hall on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm