

# GREAT FINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in Pettward Hall

Present: Cllr James Spencer (chair) Cllr Simon Waspe Cllr Isabelle Campbell  
Cllr John Barron  
Paula Gladwell – Clerk Cllr Penny Otton (part)  
Cllr John Matthissen (part)

3 members of public

- 2023/2976 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Lee Morgan – Reason for absence accepted.
- 2023/2977 **Declarations of Interest in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct and requests for dispensations relating to Discloseable Pecuniary Interests** – Cllr Barron declared a non registerable interest in item 8b as a neighbour. (min no.2023/2985)
- 2023/2978 **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 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 were signed as a true record.
- 2023/2979 **Public Participation** – It was reported that the parking sign at Stowmarket end of the High Road was broken. This will be remounted.  
Thanks were extended to Finborough Hall School for their offer of a site visit as pre application pending a planning application submission. This will be arranged for a date to suit all.
- 2023/2980 **County Councillor Otton's Report** – Cllr Otton's report had been circulated and a copy is attached to these minutes. It was noted that the results of the traffic survey in Church Road had been received and a stakeholder meeting would be arranged to assess the results and discuss a way forward.  
The question was asked whether the PC could undertake the clearing of the pipe under Combs Lane? Would Highways be amenable to this? Cllr Otton will investigate what might be possible. It was noted that Beyton PC had undertaken the clearing of ditches at their flooding points.
- Item 18 was brought forward
- 2023/2981 **Burford Bridge** – Concerns were raised regarding the future preservation of Burford Bridge and also Finborough Valley bridge. It was noted that these bridges were 200+ years old and made for horse and carts, now 40 tonne HGV's use them. It was noted that SCC Highways had accepted the risks were their responsibility and confirmed that regular inspections were carried out and although the bridges were not listed or weight restricted they would be monitored closely going forward. Concerns were expressed that any weight restriction imposed in the future would create serious diversion issues. It was suggested that a priority system be created for Finborough Bridge similar to that already in place at Burford Bridge. The clerk will seek advice on how this can be applied for. It was noted that Listing the bridges would be a very long process through English Heritage and would be something for Highways should they ever decide on this route for their preservation. It was suggested that the answer would be a new road and bridge at Burford however this would be very unlikely due to cost implications and compulsory land purchase issues, it was more likely that a weight restriction would eventually be imposed. It was agreed that a priority system for Finborough Bridge be sought.
- 2023/2982 **District Councillor Matthissen's Report** – Deferred.
- 2023/2983 **Clerks Report** – It was noted that One Suffolk could do 2 hours training for the clerk on admin and accessibility for the website at a cost of £48.00 This was approved.  
It was noted that the clerk was now storing the laptop, speed gun and signs and the footpath maps. The fencing, VAS chargers and spare batteries and the litter pick equipment remains with ST & PT for ease of access in the village.  
It was noted that the defibrillator would need to be regularly monitored and kept ready for use. Cllr Waspe indicated that he would be happy to take this on and will liaise with ST for a hand over.  
It was suggested that the launch of the Community Awards should be publicised with residents asking to put forward any nominations.
- 2023/2984 **Planning** –It was RESOLVED to submit the following comment to DC/23/01926 Erection of a part two storey, part single storey side extensions with integral garage, 8 Oak Close – "*Great Finborough Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available*" Proposed Cllr Spencer with all in favour.
- Cllr Barron left the meeting.
- 2023/2985 It was RESOLVED to submit the following comment to DC/23/01379 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 – “Great Finborough Parish Council OBJECT to this application. Although some parts of the site already have B2 class use it is thought that any increase in operations of any sort on this site will be detrimental to the neighbouring residents and contrary to policy CS2 of the Mid Suffolk Core Strategy and policies E5, E7, E8 and H16 of the Mid Suffolk Local Plan (1998) There is no justification or explanation of business operations and their potential impacts within the application, without these and no noise and dust impacts or traffic impact assessment or ecological survey expansion of this site should not be granted. Concern is expressed that additional buildings being given B2 use will adversely affect the existing commercial operations, the environmental amenity, road safety and nearby residential amenity. Whilst the replacement of buildings 7 and 9 with modern new builds is not objected to the proposal to install B2 industrial businesses into them is of concern and these should remain for agricultural use only.

#### **Residential amenity**

The Parish Council have been made aware of the neighbouring residents concerns around the existing use of the site and the fact that they already see it as beyond what they believe to be acceptable in a residential area. Excessive noise, light, smell and visual impact of the buildings are detrimental to their residential amenity. Any increase in the number of businesses housed on the site and the uncertainty around unknown operations have the potential to disturb sensitive residential properties further. Building 12 is of particular concern due to its proximity to Town Farm Barn and its curtilage.

#### **Highway safety**

Speeding is already an issue on High Road, vehicles exiting from City Lane have poor visibility especially to the left and the increased traffic generated by this proposal accessing and egressing this junction will exacerbate these issues. Any increase in traffic will increase the risk of serious accident at this junction, particularly if it involves Heavy Goods Vehicles. In addition, the main access road to this site, the B1115 has two single file ancient bridges which would be seriously at risk if further HGV movements along this road were encouraged. City Lane is a small narrow country lane that leads directly to public footpaths and byways and is used by walkers and horse riders, any increase in commercial vehicle use along the lane will put these pedestrians at higher risk.

Should approval be considered by the Planning Officers the Parish Council ask that the following be controlled by conditions: Noise, traffic and ecological surveys to be carried out before any further occupation of the buildings by industrial processes. Acoustic cladding be installed on all buildings adjacent to residential properties. Any lighting should be low level to avoid disturbance to residents.

There should be no Sunday or bank holiday working. Additional sustainability features should include rain-water storage and usage, environmental offsetting could include the creation of natural habitat to the rear of the site rather than the dumping of hard aggregates as it carried out currently. The number of employees accessing the site, consideration needs to be given to number of toilets available, how they discharge, where parking will be sited.” Proposed by Cllr Spencer with all in favour.

Cllr Barron returned to the meeting.

2023/2986 There were no MSDC decisions to note.

2023/2987 **District Councillor Matthissen’s Report** – Cllr Matthissen’s report had been circulated and a copy is attached to these minutes.

2023/2988 **Finance** – The Finance report for June 2023 was approved.

2023/2989 The following payments were approved. Prop Cllr Spencer, with all in favour, Staff salaries for May.

2023/2990 Gipping Press £185.00

2023/2991 Pettward Hall Hire £67.00

2023/2992 Brook Street Foods £327.50

2023/2993 Green Scene £1050.00

2023/2994 The completion of the Internal Audit by SALC was noted. The recommendations of the Internal Audit report were considered and will be implemented as per the action plan. Cllr Barron agreed to take on the role of finance councillor to oversee the bank reconciliations.

2023/2995 Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, The Annual Governance Statement 2022/23, was completed, approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr Spencer with all in favour.

2023/2996 The final accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 were approved and section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, Accounting Statements 2022/23, was signed. Proposed by Cllr Spencer with all in favour.

2023/2997 The CIL return was approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr Spencer with all in favour.

2023/2998 It was Resolved to approve Councillor training courses at a cost of £418.20 Proposed Cllr Spencer with all in favour.

2023/2999 It was noted that the Coronation event had raised £891.50. Thanks were extended to the working group for their hard work and commitment to such a successful event. It was Resolved to award £445.75 each to Save our Slates and GF & B Under 5’s. Proposed Cllr Spencer with all in favour.

2023/3000 **Village maintenance** – It was noted that a volunteer to carry out future playground inspections was needed. Consideration was given to whether any qualification was needed and also what risks the council was happy to take and what actions would be needed to minimise any risks. It was agreed that continued monthly inspections by a competent person was needed together with a regular weekly walk by. Cllr Spencer agreed to carry out the walk by checks.

Finborough Hall School agreed that their play equipment risk assessor would be willing to carry out the monthly inspections for the council. This offer was gratefully received and a hand over to Ben at Finborough School would be arranged.

2023/3001 There were no other matters reported.

2023/3002 **Footpaths** – Cllr Campbell gave her report. It was noted that FP30 was very overgrown and had caused a pedestrian to fall into the ditch as the path is no longer marked clearly. It was noted that this path is not on the MSDC cutting schedule however the Clerk will ask Rights of Way to cut it if possible. Cllr Campbell will approach the landowner to see they would be willing to help with this path.

2023/3003 **Correspondence** – There were no comments to tabled correspondence.

2023/3004 **Tree & Hedge Maintenance** – It was noted that a report and costings for any recommendations of work to the Scots Pine and the Cherry branches on the green adjacent to Rookery Nook & Abutilon was awaited from the contractor. The Clerk will chase this up.

2023/3005 **Local Needs Housing** – Nothing new to report. A response from the planner with regard to site two is awaited. Sunila Osborne is chasing this up.

2023/3006 **Woodpecker Hill hand rail & bluebells** – Deferred.

2023/3007 **Speedwatch Scheme** – It was agreed that volunteers be sought via the website and newsletter.

2023/3008 **Creation of Lake to alleviate flooding** – Deferred

2023/3009 **Forward Planning Working Group** – Confirmation of the next meeting was deferred.

2023/3010 **Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – Consideration of an event to mark D Day anniversary will be added to the next agenda.

Next meeting will be held in Pettward Hall on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30pm