

GREAT FINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th March 2023 in Pettward Hall

Present: Cllr Simon Tarabella (chair) Cllr Simon Waspe Cllr Peter Turner
Cllr James Spencer Cllr Lee Morgan Cllr Isabelle Campbell
Cllr Sebastian Reeves
Paula Gladwell – Clerk Cllr John Matthissen (part)
5 members of public

- 2022/2877 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Penny Otton
- 2022/2878 **Declarations of Interest in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct and requests for dispensations relating to Discloseable Pecuniary Interests** – None
- 2022/2879 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** - It was proposed by Cllr Turner, sec Cllr Tarabella that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved, with all in favour. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 9th January 2023 were signed as a true record.
- 2022/2880 **Public Participation** – The owners of Green Farm explained their plans for the site and gave their assurances that they want to work with everyone to ensure that the site is clean, quiet and improved. They confirmed that Planning Enforcement has made recommendations and that they will be submitting their planning application. It was suggested that when the Parish Council are consulted on the applications that a site visit be arranged with all stakeholders and this was welcomed.
The owner of the bus sited at Green Farm confirmed that a planning application was to be submitted for the conversion of the bus to a residential dwelling for his family. It was indicated that this would be a temporary 5 – 6 year plan for them.
- 2022/2881 **County Councillor Otton's Report** – Cllr Otton's report had been circulated, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.
- 2022/2882 **District Councillor Matthissen's Report** – Deferred.
- 2022/2883 **Clerks Report** – It was confirmed that the new street lights had been installed and the work by the contractors commended. The invoice is awaited and it is hoped that it will arrive and can be paid within this financial year.
It was noted that the report from the Planning Enforcement Officer for Green Farm had been circulated. No planning applications related to the recommendations made had been received to date.
It was noted that there is a vacancy for a History Recorder for Great Finborough and this has been advertised in the newsletter in the hope that someone will come forward to take on this role.
The calendar for the upcoming Parish Council elections was confirmed. Nomination papers must be submitted in person before 4th April.
It was noted that no invoice had yet been received from Woodpecker Hill Group for the requested equipment.
- 2022/2884 **Planning** – It was RESOLVED to submit the following comments to application DC/23/01118 Use of land for the stationing of 1 holiday lodge (alternative scheme to that approved under DC/22/04246) Land at Valley Lane – *“Great Finborough Parish Council OBJECT to this application. Although the applicant has had permission granted under DC22/04246 for a holiday let caravan on this site the Parish Council objected to that proposal and those concerns remain regarding development of this site. The existing permission for a caravan is understood to be “use of the land” and by its definition a temporary structure that in the event of the lack of viability for a holiday let could be removed. This alternative application is for a building which is a much more permanent proposition and causes concern that if the holiday let is not viable could potentially be repurposed as residential. This site is outside of the settlement boundary and is defined as countryside. Any development of this site is detrimental to the area and a more permanent building of this type would be visually intrusive from community amenity areas into the landscape and not in keeping with the rural character of the area. This design would be contrary to RT19 of the existing Mid Suffolk Local Plan that seeks to prevent adverse effects of tourist accommodation on the surrounding environment, as a new build it does not respect the form, nature and setting of the adjacent area. Concern is expressed that the granting of permission for permanent holiday let buildings outside the development boundary is setting a precedent for further development when there is no identifiable need for tourist accommodation in Great Finborough.”* Proposed by Cllr Tarabella, sec Cllr Turner with all in favour.

- 2022/2885 The following MSDC decisions were noted; DC/22/05766 Erection of timber framed joinery workshop (Use Class E(g)(iii)) (resubmission of DC/22/03569, Oakdene, High Road – GRANTED and DC/22/06092 Erection of a two storey side extension including replacement roof to rear extension and erection of cartlodge (following demolition of existing garage) (Resubmission of withdrawn application Dc/22/04659, 4 Wash Lane Corner, Combs Lane – GRANTED
- 2022/2886 It was suggested that all planning applicants be personally invited to attend a Parish Council meeting. Consideration of this will be added to the next agenda.
- 2022/2887 **District Councillor Matthissen’s Report** – Cllr Matthissen gave his report a copy of which is attached to these minutes.
- 2022/2888 **Finance** – The Finance report for March 2023 was approved.
- 2022/2889 The following payments were approved. Prop Cllr Tarabella, sec Cllr Waspe with all in favour, Staff salaries for January & February
Gipping Press £182.00 & £204.00
P Chapman – Fencing £540.00
MSDC Grass Cutting £859.61
Posts for the green PT £137.92
Chapple Signs – car park signage £353.66
M P Building- White Gate install £900.00
- 2022/2890 Grant donations for 2022/23 were considered. It was noted that a request had been received via the Facebook advertising from SULSAR and from the Chair of GF & B Under 5’s.
- 2022/2891 It was RESOLVED to award the following grants; Great Finborough & Buxhall Under 5’s £300, SULSAR £100 and Stowmarket Food bank £100. Proposed by Cllr Turner, sec Cllr Morgan with all in favour.
- 2022/2892 Following discussion on the merits of changing auditors on a regular basis it was RESOLVED to appoint SALC to carry out the Internal Audit for 2022/23. The Terms of Engagement and Audit Plan were approved. Proposed by Cllr Spencer, sec Cllr Turner with all in favour.
- 2022/2893 **Meeting Schedules** – It was RESLOVED to amend the next meeting to Monday 17th April 2023 and the Annual Parish Council Meeting to Monday 22nd May 2023. Proposed Cllr Tarabella with all in favour.
- 2022/2894 It was RESOLVED to fix the Annual Parish Meeting (Village Meeting) for Wednesday 10th May 2023. Proposed Cllr Tarabella with all in favour. It was agreed that the format and invitation list be the same as last year.
- 2022/2895 **Village maintenance** – It was RESOLVED to approve the quote for grass cutting for 2023 season from Top Garden Services for 12 cuts. Proposed by Cllr Tarabella, sec Cllr Turner with all in favour.
- 2022/2900 There were no further matters to report.
- 2022/2901 **Footpaths** – Cllr Spencer had nothing new to report. It was noted that a fence had fallen over the permissive path along the allotments; this will be cleared as soon as possible.
- 2022/2902 **Church Road parking** - Consideration was given to the offer to provide a tarmac surface extension to the car parking area in Church Road. It was agreed that additional spaces on a hard standing would go some way to solving the parking issues in Church Road however it was noted that further investigation was needed regarding the village green status of this area before progressing this. Thanks were extended to the contractors for their generous offer.
- 2022/2903 **Correspondence** - First Aid Course – A request to provide funded first aid courses and to keep a register of qualified first aiders in the village was considered. It was agreed that an article in the newsletter would gauge interest in the courses and Cllr Campbell would co ordinate responses and report to the next meeting for further consideration.
- 2022/2904 Traffic in Church Road – It was noted that evidence of traffic movements collected by residents had been submitted to Finborough Hall School and the Parish Council had been copied into the reply sent addressing the concerns.
- 2022/2905 Valley Lane Car park gate – Concerns regarding the gate being left open on occasion were noted. It was agreed to source a Please Close the Gate sign.
- 2022/2906 There were no comments to further tabled correspondence.
- 2022/2907 **Allotment Tenancy Agreement** – It was noted that the 5 year tenancy agreement was due for renewal in October and that the GFAA had made some suggestions for amendments. Further consideration of a draft Tenancy Agreement was deferred to the next meeting.
- 2022/2908 **Tree and Hedge Management Working Group** – It was noted that Green Scene had yet to carry out the requested work to the Chestnut Tree on the green and the removal of the row of trees adjacent to gardens at Woodpecker Hill. The removal of the dead Ash tree in Church Road had also not yet been carried out. It was agreed that Cllr Morgan will source further quotes for this work if possible.
- 2022/2909

- 2202/2910 Consideration was given to the concerns raised by a resident regarding trees on the green adjacent to Rookery Nook and Abutilon. It was agreed that the condition of the Scots Pine would be assessed during the next scheduled tree survey, the young Oak tree that is possibly sited over the sewage pipe would be relocated as soon as possible and the top growth of cherry trees which is surrounding the electric main will be reported to UKPN.
- 2022/2911 **Local Needs Housing** – The LNH Working Group are still awaiting the results of Orwell Housing’s land owner negotiations. The clerk will request a copy of the letter sent and try to make contact directly.
- 2022/2912 **Event to celebrate the King’s Coronation** – Following consideration of various events to mark the Coronation weekend it was agreed that a Working Group be set up to arrange the events. Terms of Reference for the Coronation Working Group will be drafted and members will be confirmed. It was RESOLVED to order toilets at a cost of £195.00 Proposed by Cllr Tarabella, sec Cllr Turner with all in favour and to provide an initial budget of £500 to the Working Group. Proposed by Cllr Morgan, sec Cllr Turner with all in favour.
- 2022/2913 **Future production of the Newsletter** – It was noted that a resident had come forward with the desire to possibly take over the editorial for the Newsletter. Cllr Tarabella will carry out a handover as soon as possible once the details have been agreed.
- 2022/2914 **Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – It was noted that the ditch on Combs Lane had been cleared out which was much appreciated and will hopefully alleviate at least some of the flooding issues.
It was noted that the Pettiward Hall Management Committee were fundraising to have the hall re roofed. It was agreed that a letter of support be sent to the Committee which would hopefully help with their grant applications.

Next meeting will be held in Pettiward Hall on **Monday 17th April** 2023 at 7.30pm