

GREAT FINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2020 held remotely via Zoom platform

Present: Cllr Simon Tarabella (chair) Cllr Peter Turner Cllr Simon Waspe
Cllr James Spencer Cllr Norman Vendittelli Cllr Dee Dixon
Paula Gladwell – Clerk County Cllr Penny Otton (part)
0 member of public District Cllr John Matthissen (part)

- 2020/2078 **Apologies for Absence** - Cllr Sebastian Reeves.
- 2020/2079 **Declarations of Interest in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct and requests for dispensations relating to Discloseable Pecuniary Interests** - None.
- 2020/2080 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** - It was proposed by Cllr Vendittelli that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved, with all in favour. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 8th June 2020 were signed as a true record.
- 2020/2081 **County Cllr Penny Otton** – Cllr Otton gave her report which has been circulated and is attached to these minutes.
- 2020/2082 **District Cllr Matthissen** - Cllr Matthissen gave his report which has been circulated and is attached to these minutes
- 2020/2083 **Public Participation** – None.
- 2020/2084 **Clerks Report** - Nothing to report
- 2020/2085 **Finance** – The Finance report for July 2020 was approved.
- 2020/2086 The following payments were approved, Proposed Cllr Tarabella, sec Cllr Turner with all in favour; Clerks salary June
- 2020/2087 Litter Pickers wages June
- 2020/2088 HMRC Q1 payment
- 2020/2089 ICO renewal £40.00
- 2020/2090 Gipping Press £175.12 & £200.12
- 2020/2091 CAS Insurance £5.71
- 2020/2092 Wave Water £20.43 & £20.39
- 2020/2093 **Planning** - There were no applications to consider.
- 2020/2094 The following MSDC decisions were noted; DC/20/02069 Erection of a single storey rear extension, Westlegate, Church Road - GRANTED
DC/20/01426 Outline Planning - Erection of 2 no. dwellings with garage outbuildings - Stone Farm, Borough lane - WITHDRAWN
APP/W3520/W/20/3244755 Land off Peartree place, High Road - Erection of 9 dwellings in accordance with DC/19/04912 APPEAL ALLOWED
- 2020/2095 **Footpaths** – Cllr Spencer - Nothing new to report
- 2020/2096 Details of the planned permissive paths around FP 17 - 24 were noted and agreed. Work would be carried out to replace and add to the signage in this area to ensure the waymarking is clear and in line with our Footpath Maps. Some concerns were raised regarding the lack of a bridge on FP17 and F22 these would be passed to RofW along with the maps of the permissive paths when marking was complete. Cllr Turner was thanked for his work on this with the landowners.
- 2020/2097 Schedule of works for F17 - 24 was agreed with waymarking for the rest of the network to be monitored and further work parties to replace any missing markers arranged when necessary.
- 2020/2098 **Correspondence** – There were no comments to tabled correspondence.
- 2020/2099 **Middlefield Drive tree work** - Following confirmation of the Parish Councils decision that no work would be carried out to the tree adjacent to No 1 it has been brought to Councils notice that work to remove three branches of the tree has been commissioned without authorisation. This goes against the recommendations of our tree surgeon and concerns are expressed that this work could potentially damage the tree. It was RESOLVED to write expressing disappointment with these actions and to seek the name and contact details of the contractor who carried out the work with a view to contacting them with Councils concerns about their lack of professionalism in working on a tree that did not need it and without the authorisation of the landowner.
- 2020/2100 **Chipper for Woodpecker Hill** - Following a request from the work group at Woodpecker Hill for a chipper to clear the arisings it was noted that Councils insurance would not cover the use of this type of equipment by a volunteer. The group would be asked to provide a quote for a professionally manned chipper which could be considered as an alternative. Councillors expressed their gratitude to the volunteers working in the wood and suggested that the group

put themselves on a more official footing by setting up a properly constituted group which could then take on their own fundraising and decision making similar to how the Allotment Association works with the Parish Council. The bark chips already approved for Woodpecker Hill would be laid as soon as COVID 19 guidelines allowed.

2020/2101 **Draft Local Government Association Model Member Code Consultation** - It was agreed that no comment be submitted at this time.

2020/2102 **Wildflower Garden Information Board** - It was noted that the average cost for an information board could be up to £1500 and that quotes would be obtained for consideration at the September meeting once a design and wording had been drafted. The Garden Club were thanked for their offer to provide £400 of plug plants for the wildflower meadow.

2020/2103 **White Entrance Gates** - Further consideration was deferred.

2020/2104 **Middlefield Drive Play Area Working Group** - Government advice indicated that the Play Area could reopen on 4th July however it has remained closed to ensure that Council can achieve conformity with the guidelines. Following some research into advice from SALC and the position of the Association of Play Industries we are now in a position to open the play area following a risk assessment. It was agreed that signage covering all aspects of the guidance and our risk assessment would be needed and the draft poster was approved. Gipping Press would be asked to provide copies for both entrances and further reminders inside the area. The aim is to reopen for the start of school holidays once the signage is available. It was agreed that a maximum of 20 people inside the area at any time was to be recommended.

2020/2105 **Parish Notice Board** - Cllr Vendittelli reported that he has been unable to contact the man to refurbish the board and would carry out the rubbing down and re varnishing himself. It was agreed that if the life of the notice board could be prolonged this would be preferable to the purchase of a new one at this time. The purchase of any materials needed was approved.

2020/2106 **To consider the replacement/upgrade of the Street Lights** - Following discussion around the quote from Suffolk County Council to replace the Street Lights it was agreed to defer any decision to the next meeting and in the meantime seek information on what funding help might be available.

2020/2107 **Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – Cllr Dixon reported on a visit to the Gate House food bank expressing concerns that they were expecting demand for their services to rise once the government help schemes ceased and lockdowns were lifted and asked whether we should have a COVID care plan for residents. It was agreed that the volunteer scheme set up in the parish back in March remained a strong network of support and that contact details for this could be reiterated in the newsletter and pushed back to the top of the news feed on the website.

It was noted that the small piece of grass outside Petteward Hall that should be on the grass cutting contract had been missed, Cllr Turner would ensure this was highlighted to the contractor for the next cut.

It was noted that the VAS pole on High Road had been pulled down and the VAS unit was found lying in the ditch. There appears to be no damage and the pole has been reinstated. It is unclear how or why someone would do this and the police confirmed that there have been some rare occurrences of wilful damage to VAS poles and advised extra vigilance where ever possible.

2020/2108 **Motion to exclude temporarily the Public and Press** - It was resolved to exclude the Public and Press pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed concerning staff contracts of employment.

2020/2109 **Appointment of Litter Picker** - Following the interview process the recommendation to employ Ellie Lawrence in the post of Litter Picker for Great Finborough was approved. The terms and conditions of employment were RESOLVED prop Cllr Tarabella sec Cllr Dixon with all in favour.

Next meeting of the Parish Council - Monday 14th September 2020 at 7.30pm