

GREAT FINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th November 2021 in Pettward Hall

Present: Cllr Simon Tarabella (chair) Cllr Norman Vendittelli Cllr Peter Turner
Cllr Sebastian Reeves Cllr James Spencer Cllr Simon Waspe
Paula Gladwell – Clerk Cllr Penny Otton (part)
Cllr John Matthissen (part)
12 members of public

- 2021/2463 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Sharon Shipp
2021/2464 **Declarations of Interest in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct and requests for dispensations relating to Discloseable Pecuniary Interests** – Cllrs Tarabella and Turner declared a non pecuniary interest in Item 8a as members of the Golf Club.(min no. 2021/02467) Cllr Turner declared a pecuniary interest in Item 8d (min no.2021/2470) and Cllr Spencer declared a pecuniary interest in Item 8c (min No. 2021/2469)
- 2021/2465 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** - It was proposed by Cllr Tarabella, Sec by Cllr Reeves that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved, with all in favour. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 11th October 2021 were signed as a true record.
- 2021/2466 **Public Participation** – Concerns were expressed from several members of the public regarding the proposed housing development at the Golf Club. Access safety was paramount with residents having worries about pedestrian safety if vehicle numbers were increased, together with the damage that would be caused to the views across the landscape and the detriment to the Grade 2 listed Church, Memorial and Finborough Hall. It was noted that this proposed site was outside of the settlement boundary and it was suggested that the complete lack of sustainability should ensure that this application was refused. Concerns were raised about the presumed social gain for donating land to the church when this offer had been talked about for several years and it was thought that this should not then be used to further a planning application. Concerns were expressed about the proximity of the reservoir to the proposed dwellings and the danger to children and pets this would bring. The damage to the environment with the loss of habitat and loss of the iconic vista from Buxhall was raised.
- Item 8a brought forward
2021/2467 **Planning** – It was RESOLVED to submit the following comments to applications; DC/21/05469 Outline Planning – Erection of 9 no. Detached dwellings with garages, including vehicular access, Stowmarket Golf Club. *"Great Finborough Parish Council strongly OBJECT to this application based on the comments submitted"*. (Full details of the PC's objection are attached to these minutes) Proposed Cllr Tarabella, seconded Cllr Reeves with all in favour.
- 2021/2468 DC/21/05733 Phased construction of 2 no. Detached dwellings and new vehicular access, Land to the North of Combs Lane (outline approved on appeal) *"Great Finborough Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application however we do ask that a condition be included to remove permitted development rights in order that these properties remain in keeping with the existing neighbouring properties"* Proposed Cllr Tarabella, seconded Cllr Turner with all in favour.
- Cllr Spencer left the room
2021/2469 DC/21/05966 Erection of front porch extension (following demolition of existing) 21 Middlefield Drive *"Great Finborough Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available"*
- Cllr Spencer returned to the room, Cllr Turner left the room
2021/2470 DC/21/05707 External lighting of the church steeple, St Andrews Church, Church Road. *"Great Finborough Parish Council fully SUPPORT this application. The lighting of the steeple will be a fantastic asset to the community, enhancing the iconic view of the spire for all to enjoy."* Proposed Cllr Tarabella, sec Cllr Reeves with all in favour.
- Cllr Turner returned to the room.
2021/2471 The following MSDC decisions were noted; DC/21/02968 Discharge of conditions for DC/19/04912 Condition 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 Land off Pear Tree Place. APPROVED
- 2021/2472 **County Councillor Otton's Report** – Cllr Otton gave her report which had been circulated and a copy is attached to these minutes.
- 2021/2473 **District Councillor Matthissen's Report** – Cllr Matthissen gave his report a copy of which is attached to these minutes.
- 2021/2474 **Clerks Report** – It was confirmed that the White Gates have been installed and SCC Highways will come and remove the name sign and replace the roundel as soon as possible. Following a request last month for a crossing point on the High Road SCC engineers have proposed a preferred point between the Pub and Primary School to be around the entrance to

Middlefield Drive where the widest verges are. They have confirmed that extensive public consultation would be needed and the cost of an uncontrolled crossing could be in excess of £15K with a controlled crossing such as a Pelican or Zebra costing over £20K. It was confirmed that if such a project was to be taken forward it would initially require further input from residents and a traffic survey.

It has been confirmed by SCC Traffic Regulation Officer that using our speed gun to collect data at Hitcham end of High Road as evidence for extending the 30mph limit would not be sufficient. They have also confirmed that as we have unsuccessfully attempted to extend the limit on previous occasions it is likely that the majority of the criteria will still not be met. To commission a further report would cost £750. Cllr Otton has agreed to look into whether this would be worthwhile to do again.

It was confirmed that no comments would be sent to the B&MSDC Draft Housing Land Supply Position Statement Consultation however it was noted that the draft position states in excess of 9 years supply. It was noted that the development at Pear Tree Place was only showing Phase 1 of the site and this would be highlighted to the local plan department so that the correct number of units was included.

2021/2475 **Finance** – The Finance report for November 2021 was approved.

2021/2476 The following payments were approved. Prop Cllr Tarabella, sec Cllr Turner with all in favour, Staff salaries for October.

2021/2477 Gipping Press £169.69

2021/2478 MSDC Play Inspection £60.65

2021/2479 M P Building Solutions £900.00

2021/2480 It was noted that the Budget Working Group will convene to approve a first draft of the budget for 2022/2023 to be presented to full council at the next meeting.

2021/2481 **Village Maintenance** – It was RESOLVED to approve the quote of £400 to replace the fencing at Valley Lane, Proposed Cllr Tarabella, sec Cllr Turner with all in favour. Cllr Turner will action the work.

2021/2482 It was noted that a branch that had fallen from a tree in Woodpecker Hill Wood into an adjacent garden had been cleared, however concerns were expressed that further damage could be caused if other branches fall. It was agreed that a full survey be carried out on all parish owned trees with a view to creating a 2 – 5 year action plan for any remedial work that may be highlighted by the survey. Green Scene would be asked to carry out the survey as soon as possible.

2021/2483 **Middlefield Drive Play Area** – It was confirmed that Komplan had been commissioned to carry out the refurbishment and had given an approximate lead time of mid January 2022.

2021/2484 The recent Annual Play Inspection was noted. The action plan created based on the report was approved and any remedial work needed would be carried out as soon as possible.

2021/2485 **Footpaths** – Cllr Spencer had nothing new to report.

2021/2486 **Correspondence** – There were no comments to tabled correspondence.

2021/2487 **Street Lights** – A report from the SL Working Group confirmed the information labels are ready for placing on all light columns and information for residents will be added to the website, notice board and in the Newsletter.

2021/2488 It was RESOLVED to approve the printing of the survey leaflets for inclusion in the Newsletter at a cost of £53.00. Prop Cllr Tarabella, sec Cllr Turner with all in favour.

2021/2489 It was suggested that our parish owned street lights were not going off until midnight whilst County owned ones went out at 11pm, the clerk will clarify this with SCC Engineers.

2021/2490 **Consultations** – It was agreed that no comments be sent for MSDC Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles (Revision) at this time.

2021/2491 It was agreed that no comments be sent for SPCC Draft Police and Crime Plan 2022 – 2025 at this time.

2021/2492 **Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – It was noted that several places in tributaries leading to the River Rat were blocked with debris and fallen trees. It was agreed that advice be sought on how the maintenance of these streams and ditches would affect the flooding at Combs Lane/Onehouse junction and whose responsibility it was to carry out such work. It was noted that the contact details for EA and LLFA were awaited from Cllr Matthissen.

2021/2493 **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.

2021/2494 **Staff Contracts** – It was agreed that no change be made to the Litter Picker Contract

2021/2495 It was agreed that the Clerks contract be increased by 5 hours per month and one scale point. Prop Cllr Tarabella sec. Cllr Reeves with all in favour.

Next meeting will be held in Pettward Hall on Monday 13th December 2021 at 7.30pm