

GREAT FINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th March 2020 in the Pettiward Hall

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)
1 member of public District Cllr John Matthissen (part)

- 2019/1992 **Apologies for Absence** - Cllr Sebastian Reeves
- 2019/1993 **Declarations of Interest in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct and requests for dispensations relating to Discloseable Pecuniary Interests** - None
- 2019/1994 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** - It was proposed by Cllr Tarabella that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved, with all in favour. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 13th January 2020 were signed as a true record.
- 2019/1995 **District Cllr John Matthissen** – Deferred.
- 2019/1996 **County Cllr Penny Otton** – Deferred.
- 2019/1997 **Public Participation** – Concerns were raised regarding the lack of maintenance at Woodpecker Hill.
- Item 16 brought forward
- 2019/1998 **Woodpecker Hill management** - It was noted that there are some volunteers were working on clearing dead wood caused by ash die back however it is unclear how the custodian group is working now. Cllr Tarabella will seek information from the original members. Council thanked all volunteers and agreed that steps were needed to regenerate the wood. Suggestions included new trees, bulbs, seating and input from the Primary School. It was confirmed that re barking of the path was in hand as soon as weather permitted. It was agreed that the Parish Council needed to facilitate an active custodian group to ensure regeneration is organised and working groups are cohesive and effective.
- 2019/1999 **County Cllr Penny Otton** – Cllr Otton gave her report which had been circulated and is attached to these minutes.
- 2019/2000 **Clerks Report** - It was noted that no volunteer had come forward to take on the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and that Cllr Spencer would continue to advertise the role whilst temporarily holding it.
Combs Lane flooding - Cllr Matthissen confirmed that the work carried out by SCC had not worked, the museum have reiterated that they are paid to keep the meadows as water meadows and could not do anything to relieve the issues on the road however they are prepared to join in a stakeholder site meeting. It was confirmed that the pipes under the road were probably damaged during the gas main installation. It was noted that whatever the cause the danger of water on the road must be addressed by SCC Highways. Cllr Otton and Cllr Matthissen will push for a site meeting and a resolution whilst the evidence still remains.
The clerk reported a warning from SCC that the existing SOX lamps in our street lights would be difficult to replace in future and thought needs to be given to an alternative.
Woodpecker Close - council comments were sent for the new road naming to MSDC. No response received so unsure what is happening with this as the revised planning app has been refused and is now to go to appeal.
Water Meter at Allotments - The Allotment Association reported that the meter cannot be read, this will be investigated. (Post meeting - Cllr Tarabella confirms the meter is broken and will be reported to WAVE)
Parking on High Road - Suffolk Police PCSO feedback that they have spoken with car owners who have been advised to refrain from parking dangerously. It was noted that the issue has improved but will continue to be monitored with any vehicles parked dangerously on the bends reported to police.
Cllr Dixon reported from her recent Councillors Training and will provide précis/handouts/info of the content for other councillors if desired.
- 2019/2001 **District Cllr John Matthissen** – Cllr Matthissen gave his report a copy of which is attached to these minutes.
- 2019/2002 **Planning** - There were no applications to consider.
- 2019/2003 It was resolved to send no additional comments to Appeal APP/W3520/W/20/3244755 by Ruby Homes against refusal of Application DC/19/04912 Erection of 9 no. dwellings and creation of new access, Land off Pear Tree Place.

- 2019/2004 There were no MSDC decisions to note.
- 2019/2005 **Finance** – The Finance report for March 2020 was approved.
- 2019/2006 The following payments were approved. Prop Cllr Tarabella, Sec Cllr Dixon with all in favour,
Staff salaries for January & February
- 2019/2007 Gipping Press £187.62 & £187.20
- 2019/2008 Gipping Press Footpath Maps £265.00
- 2019/2009 Earthwood Tree £475.00
- 2019/2010 It was RESOLVED to add the streetlights to the All Risks Insurance. This requires an increase in the banding to £20,001 - £50,000 at a quoted cost for the remainder of the year of £20.44, Proposed Cllr Spencer with all in favour. Suggestion was made that an item be added to the next agenda to discuss future replacement of the street lights.
- 2019/2011 It was Resolved to appoint Heelis & Lodge to carry out the Internal Audit for 2019/20. The Terms of Engagement and Audit Plan were approved. Proposed by Cllr Tarabella, sec Cllr Spencer with all in favour.
- 2019/2012 It was resolved to award donations to Age UK Suffolk £150.00, Home Start Suffolk £150.00 and The Mix, Stowmarket £150.00 under S137 donations. Proposed by Cllr Vendittelli sec by Cllr Tarabella with all in favour.
- 2019/2013 It was agreed to investigate whether a donation was possible to the local food bank, with a resolution to give £50.00 if this was possible. Proposed by Cllr Vendittelli sec by Cllr Tarabella with all in favour.
- 2019/2014 **Correspondence** – Following a letter from a resident expressing concerns about trees in Church Road it was agreed that Earthwood Tree be asked to survey the two trees and provide a report on any work needed to encourage healthy, safe trees.
- 2019/2015 Correspondence relating to concerns about the illegal mounting of the kerb to access No 24 was noted and it was confirmed that all possible avenues were being pursued to encourage Suffolk County Council to enforce the reinstatement of the kerb.
- 2019/2016 There were no comments to further tabled correspondence.
- 2019/2017 **Footpaths** – The Footpath Warden had nothing new to report.
- 2019/2018 Arrangements for a work party to replace missing waymarkers was deferred to April meeting.
- 2019/2019 **Grass Cutting** - Cllr Turner reported on his meeting with John Buckingham from MSDC. It was acknowledged that last year's cutting was not up to standard with only 6 cuts and one of those very late and only after complaint. We have now been promised that a better service would be forthcoming if we would agree to continue the contract and that if we had any problems this year to report directly to John. A credit on the invoice for 2019 will be sought.
It was RESOLVED to approve the contract for grass cutting with MSDC for 2020 season at a quoted £625.00. Prop Cllr Tarabella with all in favour
- 2019/2020 **Middlefield Drive Play Area Working Group** - Second meeting not so well attended however three quotes and designs were discussed ranging from £70K - £100K depending on the equipment chosen and the surfacing installed. The final designs would be confirmed following Public Consultation.
The questionnaire was discussed and approved. It was RESOLVED to have questionnaires printed at a cost of £117.00 Prop Cllr Tarabella sec. Cllr Spencer AIF
Cllr Spencer has completed a pre grant application for help and advice to MSDC .
Next meeting of working group is to be fixed for an evening in the hope that more people will be able to attend.
- 2019/2021 **White Entrance Gates** - Further consideration was deferred following Matthew Fox's request for another site meeting to confirm placing and removal of existing signs. It was noted that Glasdon quotes received were for £832.83 per gate or £900.38 per gate with added camera logo. This did not include installation to SCC Highways specs and further quotes would be needed for installation.
- 2019/2022 **MSDC Liaison Meeting** - Cllr Spencer reported from the recent meeting. Topics discussed included CIL, Community Governance and Planning. Cllr Spencer confirmed that attendance had proved very productive and encouraged others to attend future meetings if possible.
- 2019/2023 **Parish Notice Board** - Deferred
- 2019/2024 **Annual Parish Meeting** - It was agreed that the Annual meeting be held on Monday 4th May 2020 at 7.30pm in the main hall with invitee list to mirror last year.
- 2019/2025 **Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – Discussion around what the parish council could/should do regarding Covid 19 took place. It was agreed that at the current time national advice should be followed with our website directing to Government and WHO information only.

Should national advice be updated to include cancellation of public meetings then this will be followed.

General concerns were voiced about a lack of Emergency Plan in the village. It was confirmed that public engagement had been sought in the past for the establishment of an Emergency Plan with no one coming forward to facilitate this. It was suggested that this be added to a future agenda to revisit this.

It was noted that a dog bin had been damaged and possibly removed in Combs Lane. Cllr Turner will endeavour to source a replacement.

A review/forward plan was suggested for all parish assets with regular discussion for each item. Cllr Spencer will forward his wording or plan for addition on the next agenda.

Next meeting of the Parish Council - Monday 13th April 2020 at 7.30pm