



GREAT FINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Great Finborough **Monday, 7th April 2025 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors: A Mann (Chairman)
 J Barron
 R Burton
 J Kemp
 S Waspe
 L Morgan

In Attendance Mrs J Blackburn – Clerk
 County Cllr P Otton

GFPC01/25/26 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr James Spencer.

GFPC02/25/26 – DECLARATIONS ON INTEREST

None had been received.

GFPC03/25/26 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

GFPC04/25/26 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10th MARCH 2025

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th March 2025 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

GFPC05/25/26 – PUBLIC FORUM

Four members of the public were present.

Mary Smyth, Allotments Association and Gardening Club, was present and wished to inform the Parish Council that the following Gardening Club events were planned where car park would be used:

- 22nd June 2025 – Open Gardens – Public Liability insurance was in place
- 10th July 2025 – Meadow event – walk around the meadow, nibbles and drinks

She also reported that the annual bonfire event would be held, a date was yet to be confirmed, for the burning of all rubbish collected from the Allotments.

GFPC06/25/26 – TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – CLLR PENNY OTTON

Cllr Otton's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

Cllr Otton reported the following:

- Library Service – service was back in-house. Was called in for committee but was ruled out by the Monitoring Officer
- Devolution – one single Council – details were currently with Government
- Combs Lane – Traffic survey arranged which would be funded by Highways Locality Funding. Also, the B1115 would also be included in the survey
- Suffolk.gov.uk email addresses – would cease to be forwarded.

The Clerk confirmed that the old email address for the Parish Council would be affected but not the new gov.uk address.

GFPC07/25/26 - TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR JOHN MATTHISSEN

Cllr Matthissen was not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

GFPC08/25/26 – NRIGHBOURHOOD PLANS (NP)

Mr Paul Bryant, Neighbourhood Planning Officer, was present at the meeting. He talked through the process, with the following areas being discussed:-

- Policy Framework – used for planning applications
- The District Council's Joint Local Plan, which was being reviewed
- Local level – an understanding of what the need was for a Plan locally
- Neighbourhood Plans – The Localism Act 2011
- Statistics – 65 parishes in the Mid-Suffolk and Babergh areas currently had NPs in place (1/3 of the parishes in the county) with 44 adopted and ¼ of those being reviewed
- Timescale – 2 ½ - 3 years to carry out all the required work
- Cost – financial – locality funding would be available (£10,000). The money would be used to employ a Planning Consultant to help. New grants were being waited upon from July 2025 until 2027
- Cost – time – the Parish Council and the community would need to work together throughout the process and continue the interest to keep the project moving forward
- Parishes could merge with neighbouring parishes to share the funding if necessary
- Benefit of a NP – could be used for future planning applications and would enable the Parish to have a say in where housing development should be in the village – keeping green areas and 'important' buildings safeguarded
- Landowners – would need to be on board with any NP

Members asked what would happen if the 'do nothing' approach was taken, to which Mr Bryant explained that the Policy Framework and Joint Local Plan would continue to be used for any planning applications submitted.

He stated that the housing need had been increased by Government with 15,000 new homes proposed in Mid Suffolk over the next 20 years. To meet the targets sites would need to be allocated for those homes.

He added that 140 homes in Great Finborough was planned as stated in the Joint Local Plan.

It was noted that all information received on NPs would be subject to the outcome of Devolution.

GFPC09/25/26 - TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had nothing to report other than what was on the Agenda.

b) **TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk reported on the Council's current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance in the accounts as of 1st April 2025 was £29,780.41.

c) **TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS**

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Mar)	£32.75
SALC	Payroll service for 3 months	£55.80
Ben Morgan	Litter Picker's Pay - Feb (money owed)	£20.00
SALC	Membership Renewal	£385.89

It was AGREED: That payments totalling £494.44 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

The Clerk reported the following payments to be ratified:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Mar)	£469.51
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th Apr	£177.40
Luca Gambling	Litter Picker's Pay - Mar	£19.50
CAS	One Suffolk - website hosting (outstanding inv)	£60.00
SCC	Street lighting costs	£434.36
Digital Copy Centre	Newsletter printing	£200.00

The following receipts were noted.

MSDC	Locality Funding - Great In Finborough Together	£600.00
XL Financial Ltd	Newsletter Advert	£93.50
The National Lottery	Grant for Play Area Boundary works	£2,240.00
Allotment Association	Water	£119.03

d) **FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

It was AGREED: That the minor amendments, Section 5 – Procurement, in the Financial Regulations be approved and adopted.

GFPC10/25/26 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

GFPC11/25/26 - PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

GFPC12/25/26 – CIL FUNDS

Members made the following suggestions for use of the CiL money:-

- Solar panels for the three Speed Indicator Signs (to replace batteries)
- Lake works
- Low level lighting around Primary School
- Picnic tables / football goals / lines on football pitch
- White lines on car park
- Bin store – Village Hall

- Planted borders around village
- Container (clad to ensure blended into location) – to store tools and mower in including litter pick items
- Sit on lawn mower
- Signage for Litter Picks

GFPC13/25/26 – SPEED SURVEY – COMBS LANE

This item was reported earlier in the meeting.

GFPC14/25/26 - PETTIWARD HALL

a) FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR LEGAL COSTS – TITLE DEEDS

Members agreed to wait for the end of year accounts before discussing a financial contribution.

GFPC15/25/26 – PLAY AREA

a) INSPECTION POLICY

It was AGREED: That the Inspection Policy be approved and adopted.

b) SIGNAGE

It was AGREED: That this item be deferred to next meeting.

Cllr Mann reported that the Annual Play Area Inspection report had been received. He stated that all risks reported had been low or very low including the cleaning of moss. He added that extra signage had been suggested.

GFPC16/25/26 – LITTER PICK SIGNAGE

It was AGREED: That four extra signs be purchased for the litter pick events. **Cllr Mann to action.**

GFPC17/25/26 - VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Cllr Mann reported that volunteers had cleared out rubbish from the old swimming pool, which had highlighted the need to carry out 'making good repairs' in order to prevent collapse. A Working Group would be needed including a professional builder, of which a volunteer had been identified.

It was confirmed that the extra soil for around the village bench would be installed on 27th April 2025 at 10am.

GFPC18/25/26 - FLOOD WORKING GROUP

Cllr Mann reported that in relation to the installation of leaky dams, the Environment Agency (EA) would not need to check the area, but a permit would from them would be required. Therefore, the EA and District Cllr Matthissen would look at the site, a date of which was yet to be arranged. It had been confirmed that the stream was in fact classified as a river.

Cllr Mann explained that Little Finborough Farm and Sheila Ravenscroft had offered to contribute to any costs involved.

GFPC19/25/26 - BIODIVERSITY ACTION GROUP

There was nothing to report.

GFPC20/25/26 – EMERGENCY PLAN

There was nothing to report.

GFPC21/25/26 - FOOTPATHS

It was reported that footpath 7 had a broken kissing gate.

GFPC22/25/26 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Car Park – white lines needed
- Website – Village Hall need their own login

GFPC23/25/26 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Monday, 12th May 2025 at 7.30pm (APM & APCM)

The meeting finished at 9.16pm

Chairman: Dated: