

Minutes of the meeting of Great Bealings Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th July 2024 at Bealings Village Hall

Present: Sue Prentice (Chairman) (SP), Colin Hedgley (CH), John Carter-Jonas (JCJ), Regan Scott (RS)
Trevor Harris (TH)

In attendance: Mrs Dee Knights (DPK) - Clerk to the Council, Elaine Bryce (EB) – Suffolk County Councillor

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Rachel Lamb, Caroline Saunders
2. **Declarations of Interest**
NRI, District Cllr – CH.
3. **Declarations of Lobbying and Responses to Lobbying**
None
4. **To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 7th May 2024**
The minutes were approved for signature.
5. **Clerk/Councillor Updates not on agenda:**
 - (i) **FOI Request to SCC** – RS summarised the reply he had received from SCC which outlined some details of the Highway Maintenance Operational Plan. All issues which cannot be reported via the online reporting tool should be referred via the County Councillor. EB confirmed she does have a dedicated Highways Engineer that she can contact and can invite him to attend a future meeting. A list is needed of all outstanding problems and at the next meeting it will be discussed how best to collate this information.
 - (ii) **Other** – CH provided details of an Emergency Planning Workshop to be held at ESC which he will attend, also TH. SP commented that a central contact number should be made available to cover all organisations involved.
 - (iii) **Community Partnership Meeting** – SP summarised this meeting and will circulate suggestions for the priorities for the year, for Cllrs to comment.
6. **Public Participation Session** – none present
7. **Reports by:**
 - (i) **County Councillor Elaine Bryce** - a report was received shortly before the meeting and will be circulated to Cllrs. EB thanked Cllrs for their patience and kindness while she has been away. She verbally reported on a successful Trading Standards prosecution, a recent breach of Fire Safety legislation and recent incidents of cold callers. She emphasised the benefit of the Trusted Traders website. She advised that she has her new Locality Budget for this year, but this has been reduced. It includes a small amount for road signs and JCJ said that the 30mph signs on Lodge Road are completely faded. The Clerk will write to EB about this.
 - (ii)
 - &(iii) District Councillors Dan Clery and Colin Hedgley**
Two reports have been circulated to Cllrs and full copies are attached to the minutes on the website. CH verbally spoke about a recent case of Council Tax fraud, free school holiday activities, Operation Camouflage for children and the plans to regenerate the River Deben. There are 50 testing points along the river which have confirmed that the e-coli problem is related to sewage works and not agriculture.

8. Planning Applications:

(i) There were no new applications

(ii) Decision Updates :

The following are still awaiting decision:

DC/23/2787/VOC – Barn C, Former Woodbarn Cottages and DC/24/0191 – Cherry Tree Cottage. The applications DC/23/0319/LBC and DC/23/0363/FUL for Seckford Hall are currently under discussion by ESC with the Lead Local Flood Authority re surface water drainage. The appeal in respect of DC/23/2127 – Land north of Lavender Cottage – has been dismissed by the Planning Inspector – this was welcomed by the PC.

9. Other Planning Matters:

- (i) **Review of Neighbourhood Plan** - SP reported no further progress with this
- (ii) **Other Matters** – none

10. Village Fete Review – it was agreed that this was very successful, generating approx.. £1200 profit. Cllrs discussed possible dates for next year and will investigate creating some large banners for the roadside, as comments had been received about lack of publicity. Thanks were expressed to Ipswich Mencap for the loan of the barbecue. SP will arrange a working party meeting in the Spring.

11. Vacancy for Parish Councillor - An application for the vacancy of Parish Council has been received from Rachel Lamb and has been considered by Cllrs. It was proposed by SP, seconded by CH and unanimously agreed to co-opt her.

It was **RESOLVED** that Rachel Lamb be co-opted to serve as a Parish Councillor for Great Bealings Parish Council

12. Highways and Footpaths

- (i) **Speedwatch** – CH reported that as no volunteers have come forward to assist with this scheme, he would be returning the equipment to Suffolk Constabulary.
- (ii) **SAVID/SID** – JCJ is still experiencing problems downloading the information to the new laptop. CH will speak with his contact on SAVID
- (iii) **Other Highways matters** - the right-hand bend sign has been ordered and delivery is imminent
- (iv) **Footpaths:**
 - (a) **Letter from SCC re Claimed Public Footpath** – JCJ explained the history of this footpath. SP will draft a reply to SCC.
 - (b) **Other matters** – RS reported that the stile has been repaired on FP15b on Hall Farm Road and the barbed wire has been removed.

13. Environmental Issues

- (i) **Trees** – JCJ has got a dozen oak trees surplus to requirements which are available to anyone who would like them
- (ii) **Other matters** – The depth gauge has been ordered and RS will supply the necessary metal scaffold pole. The gauge will be sited at the Lodge Road bridge on the LtB side.

14. Finance and Admin:

- (i) **Authorisation of payments** – The following payments were authorised; proposed by CH and seconded by TH

| Chq No | Payee | Description | Amount £ |
|--------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| - | Mrs D P Knights | Office Expenses | 25.20 |
| - | Mrs D P Knights (dated 26.07.24) | July salary | 305.61 |
| - | HMRC (dated 06.08.24) | July PAYE | 76.20 |
| - | Mrs D P Knights (dated 28.08.24) | August salary | 305.61 |
| - | HMRC (dated 06.09.24) | August PAYE | 76.20 |
| - | John Carter-Jonas | Right Hand Bend Sign | 65.46 |
| - | John Carter-Jonas | River Depth Gauge | 125.35 |

(ii) Other Finance and Admin matters

- (a) **The Bank Reconciliation** was approved for signature
- (b) **Other matters** – DPK confirmed she had finished editing the new Financial Regulations and will circulate them for approval shortly. She mentioned that there has been a proposal by the LGA that all Town and Parish Councils move to a gov.uk domain. She will circulate some details and costings.

15. Date of next meeting– This will now take place on Wednesday 4th September (instead of the 3rd) and will be in the Angela Cobbold Hall at 6.30pm. The November meeting will be on Monday 11th November (instead of the 12th) at 6.30pm, hopefully back in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed.....
Chairman