

**Minutes of the meeting of Great Bealings Parish Council held on
Monday 13th January 2025 at Bealings Village Hall**

Present: Sue Prentice (Chairman) (SP), Colin Hedgley (CH), Rachel Lamb (RL), John Carter-Jonas (JCJ), Regan Scott (RS) and Caroline Saunders (CS), Trevor Harris (TH)

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

1. Apologies for Absence - None

2. Declarations of Interest

NRI, District Cllr – CH.

3. Declarations of Lobbying and Responses to Lobbying - None

4. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th November 2024

The minutes were approved and signed

5. Clerk/Councillor Updates not on agenda - None

6. Public Participation Session

No members of the public present

7. Reports by:

(i) County Councillor Elaine Bryce – EB’s report has been circulated to Cllrs and is attached to these minutes on the website. EB verbally reported that the Government’s Devolution proposal was discussed at the SCC meeting last week. SCC have written to the Government stating that they want to be taken forward on the Devolution Priority Programme. They should know by the end of January if this has been accepted, and if so they will know by the second week in February if the County Council elections in May will go ahead.

(ii) District Councillor Colin Hedgley

(iii) District Councillor Dan Clery

Reports have been circulated to Cllrs and full copies are attached to the minutes on the website. CH verbally reported that ESC car park charges are to be increased from 1st April, thermal imaging cameras are currently available to borrow from ESC to determine heat loss, and the CAB is providing advice regarding Energy costs.

8. .Gov.UK domain – email addresses and website

All Councillors and the Clerk have now set up their new email addresses and the new website is up and running. A grant of £250 towards the cost has been received from CH’s Enabling Communities Budget. The new arrangements will start on 1st February. The Clerk will circulate this information to all regular contacts and details will be reported in the Fynn Lark News and circulated via the electronic newsletter. The current email addresses will be retained and monitored for at least one year.

9. Planning Applications:

(i) DC/24/4098/FUL – Fambridge House, Lower Street – Detached carport and workshop

The PC **RESOLVED** to support the application in respect of the carport, but whilst there was no objection to the workshop, Councillors felt that the applicant should be encouraged to screen the structure with some hedging plants.

(ii) Any other application – none

(iii) Decision Updates :

The following applications have now been permitted by ESC:
DC/23/0319/LBC and DC/23/0363/FUL re Seckford Hall, and DC/24/3733/FUL – The Homestead

10. Other Planning Matters:**(i) Quarry**

SP outlined plans for the proposed quarry in the Fynn Valley near Westerfield. EB reported that a public meeting is to be held on 21st February in Westerfield when the plans will be presented. No application has been submitted yet. Cllrs agreed that this would impact GtB with extra traffic. SP will investigate the cost of a “Stop the Quarry” banner.

(ii) Other Planning Matters –CH spoke briefly about ESC’s recent advice regarding responses to Planning Applications. All responses, whether in support or to object, should include material planning reasons**11. Village Fete 2025** – It has been proposed that this is held on the last Sunday of August i.e. 31st, which is not the Bank Holiday weekend. SP will liaise with LtB**12. Highways and Footpaths**

(i) SAVID/SID – CH advised that he had reported to SCC the faulty SID on Boot Street, but they had replied saying they no longer maintain these devices. He will raise this matter at the next SAVID meeting and ask SCC to retain the pole.

(ii) Damage to Triangle –a large vehicle has driven across the triangle near Rosery Farm and caused substantial damage, nearly taking the tree out. Since then, EAOne have put a post there which may assist the problem. Cllrs agreed to use the funds remaining in the Parish Planters fund to purchase four reflector posts, JCJ will organise.

(iii) Other matters – none

(iv) Footpaths:

(a) Claimed Public Footpath – SCC have considered this matter and decided that the claim should be rejected

(b) Other matters – RS reported that there is no longer a date for finalising a definitive footpath map for England.

13. Environmental Issues

(i) Trees – JCJ reported that all spare trees have now been collected

(ii) Bealings Community CIC Flood Group – DPK reported that this fund is now active and donations have been received including a £2000 grant from CH’s Enabling Communities Budget.

(iii) Other matters – RS advised that he has enquired who to write to regarding recording of phosphate levels for small developments.

14. Finance and Admin:

(i) Authorisation of payments – The following payments were authorised; proposed by CS and seconded by JCJ

Chq No	Payee	Description	Amount £
-	Mrs D P Knights	Office Expenses	44.91
-	Mrs D P Knights (dated 28.01.25)	January salary	317.63
-	HMRC (dated 06.02.25)	January PAYE	79.20
-	Mrs D P Knights (dated 28.02.25)	February salary	317.63
-	HMRC (dated 06.03.25)	February PAYE	79.20
-	SAVID	Annual fee	50.00

(ii) Mobile phone – update by Rachel Lamb

RL has investigated this matter and said that it should be possible to create an Emergency Alert System by putting WhatsApp on a laptop. The PC purchased for the SID data could be used for this. She will do some more research and liaise with JCJ.

(iii) Budget and Precept for 2025/26

A draft budget for £8685 and provisional precept amount had been previously discussed at the PC meeting in November. It was proposed by SP, seconded by RL and unanimously agreed that this budget be adopted for 2025/26

It was **RESOLVED** to implement a precept of £8600, which would cover the budget, including the annual transfer to Reserves. This represents an increase of 7p per week (£3.41 per year) for a Band D property.

(iv) Other Finance and Admin matters

- (a) The Bank Reconciliation was approved and signed.
- (b) Other matters - none

Correspondence –

- (a) **Lead Item for Fynn-Lark News** – GtB are due to contribute the item for the March magazine. SP will circulate some ideas, possibly something about the Fete.
- (b) **Plant Sale 2025**– CS confirmed that this will take place on Saturday 26th April

15. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 3rd March at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed.....
Chairman