

MINUTES OF GREAT LIVERMERE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Wednesday 15th May 2024 7.00 in Great Livermere Village Hall

Present: Cllrs: H Johnston, A Johnston, S Charlton, R Charlton, A Norburn & C Dickson, SCC.

Apologies for absence. Cllrs T Redman & A Speed.

Minutes – The minutes of the meeting of 15th May 2023 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the minutes. None

Report from Parish Council Chairman: Helen Johnston

I would like to welcome everyone to the annual parish meeting. It has been a busy but productive year for the Parish Council.

As always, I am thankful for the support and dedication of the Parish Councillors that have served in this year. Without a willing group of Councillors, who give up their time in this role, we would not be able to deliver the improvements or projects on behalf of this village. Thank you all for your time, energy, and commitment to being part of the Parish Council.

As always, we owe a huge thank you to Vicki our Clerk who keeps us steadily on our path, meeting our statutory obligations and moving us forward. We would welcome any member of the village who may wish to join as a Parish Councillor. We currently have one vacancy on the Parish Council.

Like all of us, The Parish Council faces increased costs to keep meeting its responsibilities. During 2023/2024 we had to manage the grass cutting contract very carefully as we needed to change contractors, with an increase in costs, at late notice. As we start the year 2024/2025 we have again had to appoint a new contractor for grass cutting and reflect the increased costs in the Precept that forms part of the Council Tax bill for each household that pays it. Along with other rising costs and the need to ensure we build funds for bigger projects, such as refurbishing some of the playground equipment, you will have noticed an increase in the precept amount again this year. We have to balance the impact on residents financially and the need to ensure we can fulfil our responsibilities as a Parish Council to maintain and improve shared spaces.

One initiative we have started is a working group to help with some maintenance tasks that we can undertake ourselves rather than paying a contractor to do them. These may be clearing paths of leaves and weeds or maintaining play area equipment. Thank you to those who have already offered their support. If you would like to offer your support please contact me on my email

hjohnstonglpc@gmail.com. This working group is in addition to the regular villagers who support the annual litter pick in early spring which is essential in keeping our village looking lovely.

We were thrilled to be able to influence the reinstatement of a bus stop at Park Farm gates after a lengthy campaign with the local authority. We are grateful that common sense prevailed and for the villagers at that end of the village it has made their lives much easier without the long walk to the bus stop.

We are very aware of the concerns of residents regarding the speed of traffic travelling through the village. As a result of funding from both Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk Council we have arranged for an upgrade to the Vehicle Activated Sign to add solar power and during this year once the post was stabilised, we have been able to locate the VAS in the Troston Rd where it is needed most. We are now able to use sites for the VAS at two roads into the village, that are approved in terms of position, and which will enable us to provide data to the police that will continue to inform of the level of problem we are seeing and to inform them to be able to support us appropriately. We will also be part of a county wide initiative using ANPR technology to monitor vehicle speeds and rural crime on a rotational basis.

We have been campaigning on your behalf for a solution to the bridge across The Long Water that forms part of the circular foot path route and has been closed for over two years. This is not yet resolved but we are grateful for the support and commitment of Claire Dickson from SCC in liaising with our supportive landowners to secure a solution. We continue to monitor this closely and hope to be able to report that a route has been reestablished soon.

Much of our work as a Parish Council is signposting residents to where they can seek support to resolve or report matters that concern them. Residents reach out to us for advice, and in matters that are not part of our responsibility to directly resolve we will always offer advice as to where they can seek help. Contact details are always available on our website

<https://www.greatlivermere.onesuffolk.net/>

We are looking to explore ways in which we can engage with our community. We hope to develop a newsletter to physically deliver to households and revisit a questionnaire to give the community a chance to tell us what matters to you all so that we can prioritise time and financial resources. Please look out for these pieces of communication soon.

Parish Council meetings take place every other month usually on the third Wednesday in the month from 7pm in the Village Hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend to just listen and observe or raise matters. The next meeting will be Wed 17th July 2024.

As a community we look forward to another year in our beautiful village and the Parish Council continues to move forward with projects that are making a difference to the community that we live in.

Report from County Councillor: R Hopfensperger

Highways

As usual highways accounts for the largest amount of queries I receive.

Potholes

Potholes are the bane of people's lives and it does appear again due to the weather to have been particularly bad this year 105% increase in reports, and SCC response is not always as quick or as good as we expect, there has been a commitment by highways to improve their service not least by introducing the dragon patcher which fixes potholes quicker and better quality, secondly the Road Mender Elastomac which patches larger areas of the road at the same time.

I encourage anyone to report highway defects online on the highway reporting tool and if you do not think there is any action being taken you can report it to clerk with the report number and she can escalate it with me or contact me directly for emergencies you should contact **0345 606 6171**.

I've embedded here a quick guide to what intervention measures are used for potholes which I hope you will find useful [Reactive Service v1 \(002\) \(suffolk.gov.uk\)](#)

Verge Cutting and Weed Treatment

Verge cutting has been subject to discussions and Gt Livermere are due to have verges cut on the w/c Monday June 10th please allow +or- 5 days due to weather, I've attached a quick guide to verge cutting for your perusal which maybe helpful in understanding frequency etc [Grass Cutting - updated 3 April 2023 \(suffolk.gov.uk\)](#)

Weeds have been a subject which again has caused some concern I can confirm that Livermere will be receiving weed treatment the w/c Monday July 15th weed, please allow +or- five working days due to weather, I've embedded a guide to weed treatment for you to peruse - [Weed Treatment - updated 7 June 2023 \(suffolk.gov.uk\)](#), this has not been updated with the potential re-introduction of Glyphosate a decision made in February 2024 regular weed treatment on our highway network will continue using a variety of methods, with plans for glyphosate being considered only when appropriate – the ambition still remains to reduce the use of glyphosate as far as possible.

Speeding

We've tried to get speed enforcement in the village but the threshold for invention appears to quite high for the police to intervene. I've taken this up with the police and crime commissioner and the Suffolk

Road Safe Board to state that there should be campaigns for rural areas. It does however appear that the mobile VAS makes a difference.

Signs and Lines replacement

Works to install double bend signs and slow markings on The Street have now been ordered and are due to be completed by 16th July 2024.

Flooding

I know we have issues with blocked drains in the parish, I have requested that all the drains are flushed through properly and that they are cleansed on a cyclical basis.

Report from West Suffolk Councillor: Andrew speed.

No report received.

Report from Village Hall:

Not a great deal to report.

We have had no significant public events in the Village Hall in the last year since the celebration tea for the King's Coronation last May. However, we are planning to hold a 'Fun Day' on Sunday 8th September this year. More details will be put out in the parish magazine and on the village Facebook page.

The financial position of the Village Hall wavers between small profits/losses month to month but is overall healthy.

We have regular band bookings and local parties. We have recently installed a new digital lock and have a rota among the Committee members for checking the Hall after events.

Our next AGM is on the 16/5/24.

With best wishes to everyone. Mandy Harvey, Chair of Great Livermere Village Hall Committee

Report from Great and Little Livermere Feoffment Fund

The charity administers the trust funds invested for the benefit of those living in Great and Little Livermere since 1559, the capital being managed by CCLA. The income in 2023 was £1300 which was distributed to 19 eligible households within the parish. Due does go up and down depending on the stock market, and the trustees of which there are 5 are actively seeking feedback in 2024 on how the funds can be better distributed.

Report from Calthorpe Trust

The Foundation helps young people from the parishes listed below with a grant for studies in Further Education. This means University, Further Education College, Medical School and similar establishments. It excludes courses that could have been obtained at School.

The Governors limit assistance initially for a maximum of three years and to no person over 25 years of age. The period may, at the Governors' discretion, be extended a year at a time when appropriate, but not beyond the age limit. The grant is paid in three termly instalments and for the year 2023/24 it was £300 pa.

Keith Boswell is the Chairman and Rosemary Boswell is currently the Clerk. All Governors who represent Villages are volunteers and attend one meeting in September when new applicants are considered and the Clerk is given details of the new year's grant. The Clerk prepares the cheques which are countersigned by the Treasurer or another designated Trustee.

There are 2 groups of villages, the Inner Group and the Outer Group. If funds are limited, then students from the Inner Group take precedence.

Inner Group:-

Ampton, Ingham, Great and Little Livermere, Timworth.

Outer Group:-

Culford, Fornham St Genevieve, Fornham St Martin, Great Barton, Ixworth, Troston, West Stow, Wordwell.

Currently there are 3 students from Ingham, 1 student from Ampton and 2 from Great Livermere. There are 6 students from Fornham St Martin, 14 from Great Barton, 5 from Ixworth, 2 from Troston and 1 from Wordwell.

For more information contact Mrs Rosemary Boswell: phone 01284728199
or email: boswellrg444@outlook.com

Report from the church

The Parish Church

St Peters church within the parish is part of the Blackbourne ministry team centred on Ixworth. It remains open for burials, weddings funerals and christenings. The building is kept open for visitors all day every day and is well visited, especially by people looking for M.R.James . There are leaflets out the church history and advertising walks. Sunday services happen twice a month, and morning prayers on a Friday once a month.

The church distributes a parish magazine which is well thought of, contains village news as well as church activities and costs £3.50 a year.

We run a food pantry in the porch available for all in need, which has been costing up to £50 a week to stock. The Parochial Church Council are seeking grants to support this, which is otherwise supported by voluntary donations.

The Livermere men's breakfast has been run monthly by the church since about 2012, with a two year break for lockdown. It serves a full cooked breakfast with a vegetarian option for £5, and has a speaker each time. It attracts up to 30 men from round about and is self supporting financially. Health and safety and safeguarding matters are dealt with through the church.

We are fundraising for and hoping to get permission shortly for the installation of a composting equal access toilet in the churchyard, located discreetly behind the vestry, for which we will be looking for assistance in 2024/5.

The church receives no outside help to support its ministry, and the minister with responsibility for Livermere is both self-supporting, and has responsibility for three churches.

Any other Business the Chairman may allow.

No other business, meeting closed.

No further business, meeting closed.