

GREAT LIVERMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Great Livermere Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 16th November 2022 7:00 in Great Livermere Village Hall

Present. Cllrs, A Norburn, H Johnston, A Johnston, S. Charlton, R Charlton & E Ford.

1. Co-option of new Parish Councillor

Eve Ford was co-opted on to the Parish Council. The relevant paperwork was completed and the Clerk will submit to West Suffolk Council. **Action Clerk**

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr T Redman, WSC Cllr S Brown & SCC Cllr R Hopfensperger.

3. Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

3.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None

3.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests. None.

3.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act. None

4. Minutes - The minutes of the Wednesday 20th July 2022 meeting were agreed and approved as a correct record.

5. Meeting open to the public

5.1 To include advice from Police Community Engagement Officer, Lee Andrews-Pearce on speeding in the village. Unfortunately, PCEO Andrews-Pearce was unable to attend the meeting. He said that he would be happy to come to the village and meet with Councillors to discuss the concerns raised over speeding. The Clerk will contact PCEO Andrews-Pearce to arrange a time to meet. If possible, this would be either a Monday or Friday. **Action Clerk**

It was noted that the road markings, particularly at the junction for Bury Road and The Street, are very faded. In addition, the signage in this area was felt to be poor. It was suggested that these factors might, in part, have contributed to some recent accidents there. The Clerk will report this to SCC Highways and let Cllr Hopfensperger know of our concerns. **Action Clerk**

6. Report from County Councillor: R Hopfensperger.

Cllr Hopfensperger was unable to attend the meeting she sent a report and said that she had today chased Robert from passenger transport, re the additional bus stop, who will contact the Traffic Commissioner. She has asked highways to come out and re-inspect the tree to look at whether there is any action to be taken but has not heard back from them. As she has already stated they will only carry out any work if it is causing an issue on the highway. Cllr Hopfensperger sent a monthly Parish Newsletter for information.

7. Report from West Suffolk Councillor: S. Brown

Cllr Brown was unable to attend the meeting. He has offered to meet with the resident, who has concerns over a large tree adjacent to her property. Unfortunately, so far land ownership, and therefore responsibility for the tree, has still not been established. **Action Cllr Brown**

8. Progress reports. For information, from:

8.1. Chairman

The Chairman had no additional report to make.

8.2 Clerk:

8.2.1 To discuss the option to purchase of up to copy of Charles Arnold Baker and new office chair.

There is a new version of Charles Arnold Baker, costing £131.99 there has been at least 13 updates since the 6th edition, which is the addition we currently hold. Barningham Parish Council are happy to contribute a higher, pro-rata amount. This would mean Gt Livermere would need to pay £16.50. The Councillors agreed to this amount.

The Clerk needs a new office chair. As with above, Barningham will contribute a larger percentage towards the purchase price of approx. £200. Gt Livermere are happy to contribute up to £30 towards the purchase.

Action Clerk

The Clerk received a scam email, supposedly from Barclays. It was very authentic, even down to the email address. This coincided with a real email from Barclays, for another account, which was genuine. The Clerk checked with Barclays and the spam email was reported and not replied to. This form of defrauding is becoming more prevalent. It was recommended that these sorts of spam email are also reported to the police, via their website.

8.2.3 Feedback from Handling online abuse and intimidation webinar

The Clerk found the webinar regarding the above helpful. It was agreed not to set up a Parish Council Facebook page at this time, as it was felt the Community Facebook page was sufficient.

8.2.4 The New Suffolk Care Services Directory 2022/23- Pre-order your free copies

It was agreed to request a 100 copies for the parish. Cllr S Charlton will look at setting up distribution areas for the Councillors.

Action Cllr S Charlton

8.2.5 Bird Flu

It was noted that there is currently Bird Flu in the village. Precautions to help limit its spread have been put in place by Defra.

9. Finance.

9.1 9.1 The following accounts were noted and approved for payment.

Various	Admin	£744.51
D Thrower	grass Cutting	£137.00
D Thrower	grass Cutting Church	£210.00
D Thrower	grass Cutting	£128.00
Jeff Wells	Bus shelter	£20.00
Community Action Suffolk	Website	£60.00
Royal British Legion	S137	£30.00
Gt Livermere Village Hall	Jubilee event donation	£500.00

9.2 Bank reconciliation, schedule of payments and budget report.

The Clerk provided an up to date bank reconciliation, schedule of payments and budget report for the Councillors information.

9.3 To confirm Village Halls request for donation towards Jubilee event costs. Unfortunately, this request was too late to receive any funding from either SCC or WS. We had offered £500 towards the events costs, this payment was authorised.

Action Clerk

9.4 To discuss budget requirements for 2023/23, to include potential election costs.

It was noted that if an election were called it would cost between £1,500 and £2,000.

9.5 To discuss and respond to West Suffolk Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme. West Suffolk Council is seeking views on some potential changes to its Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) to support low-income working-age residents, in light of the current pressures on the cost of living. The council is considering an increase in the maximum discount to either 95 per cent or 100 per cent (from the current 91.5 per cent). If the maximum discount were increased to 95 per cent, those households benefitting from the change would pay £42.14 less in Council Tax over the year, on average, depending on the banding of their property. If the maximum discount were increased to 100 per cent, those households benefitting would pay an average of £103.32, depending on banding. The Councillors supported the option to increase the maximum discount to 100%. The Clerk will submit the response to West Suffolk.

Action Clerk

9.6 To agree Precept amount for 2023/24

If we precept for the same as last year £7,500 would leave us approx. £740 short. A precept for £8,239 would represent a £10.84 -12.03% increase. With rising costs, especially with a predicted increase in the grass cutting costs, it was agreed to precept for £8,239. The Clerk will submit the relevant paperwork to West Suffolk Council.

Action Clerk

10. Footpaths

10.1 To discuss and review footpath issues.

Cllr H Johnston reported a fallen tree, blocking the footpath, at Callow Hill.

The Following reports were received from SCC Rights of Way. *Great Livermere 13 cross-field route – after surveying the route this morning, I can confirm the route has not been ploughed up at the location of your pin.* This route was still considered to be an issue. Cllr S Charlton will report it again online.

Action Cllr S Charlton

Great Livermere 8 wall – I have previously contacted the estate about their wall and they have cleared the rubble away from the line of the path, although it is messy, there is little else I can do on this front if the estate choose not to repair the wall.

The route behind the Church is blocked. Cllr S Charlton will report this online.

Action Cllr S Charlton

11. Highway/village matters

11.1 To discuss concerns raised over tree at Mere View

A resident has raised concerns about the condition, and therefore safety of a tree adjacent to their property. After contacting all the agencies, who would potentially have any involvement, the Parish Council feel that they have reached the extent of what they can do. All the agencies involved reported that they do not feel the tree is an issue. West Suffolk Cllr Simon Brown has offered to meet with the resident to see if he can offer any further assistance.

Action WS Cllr S Brown

11.2 Update on highway matters.

We should be getting some new posts, to mount the VAS on, on the back of SCC's ANPR (mobile number plate recognition) scheme. The post outside of 10 Orchard Close will be changed to a taller post to take the SID and the road sign. The post outside of the Old School House is to be replaced with one nearer the hedge line. A suggested post by the old telephone box did not meet the requirements for the ANPR scheme. ANPR Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) will be rotated around sites in Suffolk where there is a problem with speeding. There are ten of these devices and they work like conventional SIDs by displaying the speeds of drivers to them as they approach, encouraging them to slow down. However, the difference is that if a driver continues to ignore the speed limit the ANPR camera will take a picture of them and record the date, time, speed, vehicle registration and a photo of the vehicle. This information can be used to take further action.

The batteries on the VAS device are beginning to fail. Replacements will cost in the region of £120 each, we really need two. Cllr A Johnston has looked at the cost of replacing the batteries with a solar device. These are in the region of £681. Cllr A Johnston will provide the Clerk with copies of the quotes and she will ask Cllrs S Brown and R Hopfensperger if they are able to provide any funds. It was noted that with the increase in electricity prices charging the batteries could incur a significant cost to those doing the charging.

Action Clerk

11.3 Emergency plan, update on progress and feedback from Rest Centre training session. The rest centre training was very informative and helpful. It was agreed to put some emergency advice on the website for residents. A redacted version of the completed plan has been sent to All individual's wishes have been taken into account on the redacted version. Cllr H Johnston will write an update for the village magazine re the existence of the plan and its purpose and the relationship with WSC and SCC departments. Cllr H Johnston will also set up a WhatsApp group for the planning group only. This will only be used for an emergency situation or to advise of updated versions of this plan being sent through.

Action Cllr H Johnston/Clerk

Cllrs S and R Charlton have equipped an emergency box; this will be kept in the village once a decision has been made as to where it can go. The Clerk will ask SCC Cllr Hopfensperger and WS Cllr Brown to see if there is any funding available towards this.

Action Clerk

The Councillors and Clerk thanked Cllr H Johnston for all the hard work she has put in to achieve such an excellent Emergency Plan document.

11.4 To discuss options for speed management in the village
Please see under item 5.1.

11.5 Update on Village Sign refurbishment.

Thanks were extended to all the Councillors involved in re-installing the Village Sign. It looks really good.

11.6 To discuss increase of dog mess in the village.

Some owners are still not taking responsibility for cleaning up after their dogs. This is a particular problem in the play area. For the first time ever the presence of dogs mess was noted in the monthly play area report by West Suffolk Council. There is no excuse for not cleaning up after your dog. A piece about this will be put on Facebook and included in the newsletter.

Action Cllr H Johnston

11.7 Rural Coffee Caravan, Winter Warmth and Warm Suffolk information.

The Coffee Caravan was due to come to the village sometime ago. This did not happen due to the pandemic. It was proposed that we ask them if they can visit the village and offer some winter warmth advice. The Clerk has been given some cost of living support advice. She will share this information with the Chairman to share on Facebook. We will also put a link to information on our website. A warm space is being set up in Ingham Church.

Action chairman/Clerk

11.8 To discuss 2023/24 grass cutting tender

It was agreed to send out requests to tender to the existing contractor and other contractors in the area. We have not carried out this exercise for a number of years and was thought prudent to do so now.

Action Clerk

11.9 Bus service in Little Livermere, to receive any update. Adie memoir.
See under item 6.

12. Play area

12.1 Play area report, circulated.
Noted.

13. Planning Matters to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted. None received.

14. Councillors reports and items for future agendas.
No additional reports.

15. Correspondence for information

15.1 Rural Mobility Survey. The Chairman has completed this.

16. Date for next meetings: January 18th 2023 at 7pm.

17. To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:

17.1 Personnel Issues. None.

17.2 Legal Issues. None.