

GREAT LIVERMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Great Livermere Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 7:30pm via zoom

Present: Cllrs: H Johnston, A Johnston, A Hudson, A Norburn, B Bryers, C. Cllr R Hopfensperger & Cllr S Brown.

1. Apologies for absence

2. Co-option of Parish Councillor

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** - Minutes of Wednesday 23rd September 2020 meeting agreed and approved as a correct record.

5. Meeting open to the public

None present.

6. Report from County Councillor: R Hopfensperger.

Cllr Hopfensperger provide the Councillors with a general report. This included details about SCC welfare help scheme, £228,000 for tree-planting, protecting hedgerows and verges across Suffolk as well as other news from SCC. The full report is available on request from the Clerk. Concerns were raised about the lack of action being taken over numerous reports of blocked drains in the village. Cllr Hopfensperger asked the report numbers to be sent to her and she will escalate the matter. It was agreed that we would send details of the trees we want replaced in Church Road to see if Cllr Hopfensperger could secure some replacements through the new SCC tree planting initiative. The Councillors thanked Cllr Hopfensperger for the donation she made towards the purchase of the new speed device for the village.

Action Cllr H Johnston/Clerk

7. Report from B. Councillor: S. Brown

Barley Homes – which is owned by West Suffolk has successfully provided 37 new homes in Haverhill, which includes 11 Affordable Homes. Following this success of developing homes to help people in West Suffolk, there are plans for further homes in Bury St. Edmunds and Gt. Barton. Great news for us locally and done so in a co-ordinated manner.

Homelessness

Emergency accommodation across West Suffolk is being increased to ensure there are enough beds to cater for homeless people this winter while also maintaining COVID-19 safety measures.

Services during Covid-19

Our bins service continues, parks and play areas as well as cemeteries in Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill remain open. West Suffolk Council aim to keep public toilets open at this time but under the new Government rules facilities such as leisure centres, cultural venues and museums, such as Moyse's Hall and West Stow centre will be closed to the public. Where we are able to keep facilities open, the current COVID-19 restrictions to reduce infection still apply.

Markets - Markets will remain open selling essential goods as set out by Government. Clarification on what are essential goods is still being updated nationally but we already know this will include items such as food and this is likely to be added to. This means our regular and farmers markets will remain open during this time and we are already talking to traders about arrangements.

Communities

West Suffolk Council has relaunched the Home But Not Alone Service to help the most vulnerable make sure they can access food, medicine and support. The Home But Not Alone service telephone number is freephone **0800 876 6926** and will be staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Getting in Touch

If anyone within the Parish has any urgent or immediate concerns the best means of contacting me is mobile 07793145909. There are times when IT gets disrupted, outside of my control, but Simon.Brown@westsuffolk.gov.uk is the best and I will respond as soon as possible. I'm happy for my personal email to be used if required and will detail on individual request. As always, I'm happy to meet any resident in person and in accordance with Government guidelines and requirements at that respective moment in time.

The Councillors thanked Cllr Brown for the donation he made towards the purchase of the new speed device for the village.

8. Progress reports. For information, from:

8.1. Chairman

The Chairman had no report to make.

8.2 Clerk:

8.2.1 Brief update from Parish Forum

The Clerk attended the recent West Suffolk teams Parish Forum. Ian Gallin gave a report on the work West Suffolk has been doing to support business and communities during the pandemic. Home but not alone has been re-activated since going in to the latest lockdown. There was a discussion about how the tax base has been impacted by Covid 19. West Suffolk have seen an increase in people asking for a council tax discount, which means that they have suffered a loss of revenue from this and from people going bankrupt and entering into IVA's. A presentation on the local Health and Wellbeing picture across our communities was given. It was reported that by 2028 there would be an increase of 504, over 65 year old patients for each GP practice. Concerns were expressed about the fact that there is only one manufacture of the pneumonia vaccine and that many practices do not receive the amount of vaccine they order. Louise Carsen, Census Engagement Manager gave a brief overview of Census 2021 preparations.

8.2.2 Update on planning training.

The Clerk has now had four session on planning and has taken away something from each session. She is attending, a free, webinar on West Suffolk's local plan tomorrow. Gt Livermere are not directly affected by the site allocations and options consultation but the councillors are encouraged to look at the plan and comment online.

8.2.3 Church Road. Replacement trees.

The Parish Council will try to get some trees, to replace the ones blown down in the gales, from the new SCC tree planting initiative. (See under item 6) **Action Cllr Hopfensperger/Clerk**

8.2.4 Antisocial behaviour webinar report

The Clerk attended SALC Virtual event with guests from Suffolk Constabulary. There was some interesting information shared about First principle, which gives advice on different crime prevention. <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/crime-prevention-z>

8.2.5 Asset Register, to discuss updated assets register.

Cllr A Johnston has done some further work on the asset register looking at costings for works that need to be done ahead of the budget discussion.

9 Finance.

9.1. The following accounts were approved for payment and will be authorised and checked by two Councillors.

Admin		£542.32
Elan City	VAS	£2,219.34
Community Action Suffolk	Website	£60.00
Jeff Wells	Bus shelter	£20.00
Royal British Legion	S137	£30.00
Adam Hudson	War Memorial	£198.69
Dissigns	play area	£28.80

We have received notification of recycling credits but have received no payment yet. The Clerk will investigate this. **Action Clerk**

9.2 Bank reconciliation

The Clerk provided the Councillors with an up to date bank reconciliation.

9.3 Update on Barclays and internet banking

It was confirmed that Cllrs H Johnston and A Johnston are now signed up to authorise payments. One Councillor will authorise the payments and the other will double check the transactions.

9.5 Budget 2021/22.

After discussion, it was agreed to precept for £7000. Going forward there are expenses related to projects and repairs that are going to be undertaken, additional to the normal running costs. Unfortunately due to a change in the tax base, mainly related to the Covid 19 pandemic, precepting for the same amount as last year will incur a 12.06% increase. This will amount to an additional £9.30, for a band D property, over the whole year.

It was agreed that Cllr H Johnston would write a report for the magazine to flag the planned precept level against last year and then in coming months publicise the works undertaken.

Action Cllr H Johnston

10. Councillors Roles

10.1 To confirm councillors roles within the Parish Council

The Councillors confirmed they were in agreement with the allocated roles as listed in the previous minutes.

11. Footpath leaflet

11.1 Post for way makers

Cllr Norburn will check to see how many new marker posts we need.

Action Cllr Norburn

11.2 To discuss a possible footpath link between Gt Livermere and Troston

This topic was raised again by Troston Parish Council. They will be speaking to the landowner again about the possibility of a permissive path to link up with a permissive path from Gt Livermere.

12. Highway/village matters

12.1 to confirm receipt and installation of new speed device

The new speed device has been received and is in use. The Councillors thanked Cllr Hopfensperger and Cllr Brown for their financial contributions, which made the purchase possible. Already a massive difference in driver's behaviour has been noted, with drivers slowing down. There are some questions over how the data is captured. The Clerk will look back to see where the original post were to be located and new sites will be considered going forward. The site near the School House is too close to the road, as the new device is wider than the previous one.

Action Cllr A Johnston/Norburn/Clerk

13. Play area report

13.1 Report circulated.

Cllr A Johnston is getting quotes for the required play area works in addition to getting quotes for repair works required for a number of items listed, and recorded as being in need of work, in the asset register.

Action Cllr A Johnston

14. Boundary Commission review

14.1 The following comments were agreed for submission

The Parish Council strongly object to the proposal to move Great Livermere out of the current Thingoe North Ward in to the Row Heath Ward. This move would put us in a different ward to our close neighbours, with whom we have built close relationships over the years. In particular, we work closely with Troston, and have recently completed a footpath project together and we are still working on a new footpath link between the villages. We share common issues with our other, rural, neighbours that we would not necessarily share with the more urban areas that we would find ourselves linked in with in the Row Heath ward. Our current County Council, Cllr R Hopfensperger supports our objections as the communality she currently experiences between her parishes enables her to peruse shared solutions to shared issues. This would not be the case if we were moved in to the Row Heath Ward. We object to being moved in to a ward to 'make up the numbers' rather than to best meet the needs of our residents.

Action Clerk

15. Welcome leaflet

Tony Redman is putting together a welcome leaflet for new residents. It was agreed that we should share our leaflet for him to use and that we would make a financial contribution of £200 towards the printing costs. The Clerk will send the leaflet template through to Cllr H Johnston so she can pass it on to Mr Redman.

Action Cllr H Johnston/Clerk

16 Review of policies and documents

16.1 Review of Standing and Financial orders

The Clerk has prepared some updated standing and financial standing orders for consideration. It was agreed to revisit these in January once everyone has had a chance to read them.

Action Clerk

17 Planning Matters

17.1 Confirmation of comments made on Government Planning White paper.

The Clerk submitted a response to the above consultation. The Parish Council do not support the proposal for a change to planning zones in its current form and would not support the suggestion to remove and or alter S106 agreements as a this could have a detrimental effect on facilities, including affordable housing, that can be gained through development. A copy of this submission is available on request.

18 Councillors reports and items for future agendas.

The collapsed wall, near the paddock has not been repaired. The Clerk will report this again.

Action Clerk

The fence of garden of 28 The Street has collapsed and is pushing out on to the path at The Clerk will write to Ben Turner reading this.

Action Clerk

The 30mph sign, on the right hand side, as you enter the village from Troston, is obscured by the adjacent hedge. The Clerk will report this.

Action Clerk

There were concerns raised about works carried out to a property in the conservation area. The Clerk will discuss this matter with West Suffolk planning.

Action Clerk

19. Correspondence for information

19.1 Consultation on Sizewell C. The Clerk will circulate this information.

19.2 Consultation on Sunnica Energy Farm. The Clerk will circulate this information

20. Date for next meetings: Wednesday 27th January 2021

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

21.1 Personnel Issues. None.

21.2 Legal Issues. None.