

GREAT LIVERMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Great Livermere Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 15th September 2021 7:00 in Great Livermere Village Hall

Present. Cllrs H Johnston, A Johnston, S Charlton, R Charlton, A Norburn, W.S Councillor S Brown & C.Cllr R Hopfensperger.

1. **Apologies for absence** Cllr A Hudson

2. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

- 2.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None.
- 2.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests. None.
- 2.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act. None.

3. **Minutes** – The minutes of the Wednesday 21st July 2021 meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. **Meeting open to the public**

None present.

5. **Report from County Councillor:** R Hopfensperger.

To include update on condition of Troston Road pavement and Drains.

The Clerk contacted Paul West, Cabinet member for Operational Highways and Flooding, to bring to his attention the problems we have been experiencing in the village. With the help of Cllr Hopfensperger these matters have been escalated, the Parish Council thanked her for this. Full details of the issues can be found item 10, Highway matters.

SCC Boundary review.

The final recommendations, by the Boundary review, have been published for Suffolk County Council. This sees Great Livermere and Troston being moved from the Thingoe North ward into the Brandon ward. This is very disappointing but as there is no right of appeal, we will have to do our best to work within this new ward.

Cllr Hopfensperger offered some money towards the new village sign. For further details see under item 7.2.2

6. **Report from West Suffolk Councillor:** S. Brown

Cllr Brown said he would be happy to pay for half towards the cost of the replacement village sign. Cllr H Johnson has been speaking to the village hall committee, offering them the support of the Parish Council as well as telling them that funds might be available if they decide to hold a community event for the jubilee next year. In fact, funds are potentially available for any community event. Cllr H Johnston will forward any details to the committee for consideration.

Cllr Brown provided the Councillors with the following information:

Action Cllr H Johnston

Community Meals

In partnership with Honington & Sapiston Parish Council, there are Community Meals (lunch & evenings) available for residents in Troston. These are FREE and have received grant funding by me to support all residents and families. Please see the attached and do share with as many people as you can. Any person(s) wishing to know future dates, please contact 01359 268880 to receive regular updates. Cllr Brown is going to arrange for some leaflets to be printed with further details. The Councillors will arrange to deliver to every house in the village. **Action All**

Wheelchair Access Vehicles in Taxis – Council Survey

Two surveys will go live today 6th September. One of the surveys is specifically for taxi drivers to gauge the experiences and views of those working in the taxi trade while the other is for people with accessibility needs, including people who are wheelchair users, people who have other disabilities as well as people who have mobility issues but would not identify themselves as being disabled.

For your information, there are a few different ways people can take part as outlined below; *(Please note the survey links below will not work until the survey goes live)*.

Online at <http://www.ctstraffic.co.uk/westsuffolkwav> (for taxi drivers)

Online at <http://www.ctstraffic.co.uk/westsuffolkwavuser> (for community members affected by this policy because either they have a disability or they have mobility issues but would not identify themselves as being disabled)

By email to either traderesponse@ctstraffic.co.uk (for taxi drivers)

westsuffolkresponse@ctstraffic.co.uk (for all other interested parties)

By letter to West Suffolk Council WAV Review 2021, CTS Traffic and Transportation, Unit 14 Aqueduct Mill, Aqueduct Street PRESTON PR1 7JN

By telephone 01772 251400

The surveys will be live from Monday 6th September until Monday 4th October at 5pm.

Housing Consultation(s)

An update has been distributed with regards to the updates on housing enquiries in relation to Troston. All of the comments received during the Issues and Options consultation from land promoters and the parish council have been logged on the consultation system and can be seen here by selecting the Troston section of the document:

[Part 3 - settlements - West Suffolk Local Plan \(Regulation 18\) Issues and Options October 2020 - West Suffolk Planning Policy Consultations \(inconsult.uk\)](#)

We are currently completing evidence based work to determine the final settlement hierarchy which will help decide what level of growth will be appropriate in each settlement and site selection. We will be sending all parishes the latest update of the services and facilities matrix for each settlement and inviting comments in early September as part of this work. The next consultation is scheduled for March 2022 when we will be consulting on preferred sites.

7. Progress reports. For information, from:

7.1. Chairman

7.1.1 Jubilee event 2022

The Chairman had no real update to give on this but to say, as recorded above, that she has passed on information about funding to the Village Hall Management Committee and that they are still waiting for quotes for catering etc.

7.1.2 Walks leaflet, update on permissive path between Troston and Gt Livermere

The Chairman met with the Chairman from Troston and they exchanged a box of footpath walks leaflets. These will be left in the church alongside our walks leaflets. A discussion was had about the possible use of land for a permissive path to link Gt Livermere and Troston. Great Livermere have permission, in principal from Ben Turner. Troston Parish Council have made a request to the Board of Troston Farms to consider allowing a permissive path along their field edge of the Livermere Road.

7.2 Clerk:

7.2.1 Update on new bench

The new bench has been installed and the plaque reattached. The job was made much easier with the help of Alan Delaney, from AD Fencing, who donated his time, skills and use of his power tools to help get the bench installed.

7.2.2 Update on village sign refurbishment.

The Clerk has contacted three contractors, Des Bavloue, Harry Stebbings signs and so far, only one has come back, Designs on metal, based at Stowlangtoft. He provided the following information:

They would then sandblast the old metal frame with the crown top-knot.

Once clean of old paint they would repair all the steelwork.

The inner picture (hawk and 3 x crowns) would be renewed completely with a new metal replica.

A new metal mounting frame for the picture would be designed and fabricated.

The new frame and picture would then be fitted into the freshly reconditioned, galvanised and repainted sign frame.

The sign would then be as new. It could then be collected from their forge and refitted to the post.

A very rough estimate price for these works would be £1120.00 + vat. The Councillors agreed this was a good price and are happy to go ahead with the work. The Clerk will contact the Designs on metal and also make the requests for funding to both Cllr Hopfensperger and Cllr Brown.

Action Clerk

7.2.3 Tree wardens, appointment of tree warden for the village.

Andy Drummond, Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Environment has written to encourage us to appoint a tree warden. As the current member responsible for trees in the village, the Clerk will ask Cllr Hudson if he would be interested in this role. If he does not wish to do so Cllrs R & S Charlton would be happy to consider the position.

Action Clerk

8 **Finance.**

8.1 The following accounts were approved for payment to consider payments.

	Admin	£543.20
Grass cutting	D Thrower	£125.00
Grass cutting	D Thrower	£200.00
Data protection	ICO	£40.00

8.2 Bank reconciliation, schedule of payments and budget report

The Clerk provided and up to date budget report, schedule of payment for September and a bank reconciliation.

8.3 Budget To discuss budget for 2022/23

A discussion around the 2022/23 budget was started. There needs to be some more work done on the budget proposals and some further information gathered. It was agreed that we should consider starting an earmarked reserves fund for replacement of the play equipment in the years to come. The Clerk will do some work with the Chairman to produce some figures for discussion at the next meeting.

Action Chairman/Clerk

9 **Footpaths**

9.1 Post and rights of way makers, update.

This work has now been completed.

9.2 Update on rights of way issues

9.2.1 The following issues have been reported to SCC:

On the road between Livermere and Timworth, heading towards Ampton, the path through the field is heavily planted with high sweet corn, it is not visible or passable as a footpath - it has been blocked with crops for some time. It is possible to divert, but only with local knowledge. A path needs to be cut through or diversion signs out in place.

9.2.2 Bridge across long water near Ampton Hall. The bridge is very damaged, lots of gaps in the boards. Still passable but in a state of poor repair and needs attention

9.2.3 Part of the wall between the Church and The Street has fallen wall, this has been reported again.

The Clerk will contact Claire Dickson at SCC for an update.

Action Clerk

10. **Highway/village matters**

10.1 Condition of Livermere Road pavement. The overgrown footway reported was inspected by SCC on 1/09/2021. The Highway Assessment Officer (HAO) placed 3 orders to have the vegetation cut back along the footway totalling over 100m of vegetation clearance and skirting works. These works have been scheduled for this week.

10.2 The hedge obscuring the playground sign was reported on 11/3/2020. Suffolk Highways' Public Rights of Way (PRoW) team responded at the time to explain that, during any COVID

restrictions, the County Council would undertake limited inspections; maintenance and protection activities. These would take place only where it was essential to enable the public to undertake their permitted outdoor exercise. PRow reports were prioritised on that basis and where the subject of a report did not constitute essential maintenance or protection it was likely to be some time before the matter was addressed. Suffolk Highways have now asked the PRow team to inspect this asap and to either have the vegetation cut back (if it is owned by Suffolk County Council) or to speak to the landowner and request that they carry out the work.

10.3 A blocked drain near to the bus stop, The Street, was reported 30/09/2020. Again, Due to COVID-19, the Highways team needed to prioritise their inspections so there was a delay in this report being assessed and it was not looked at until 28/12/2020. Although the drain was noted as being blocked, it did not meet Suffolk Highways' intervention criteria that is set out in the Highways Maintenance Operational Plan. The Highway Assessment Officer (HAO) recorded a category 7, potential future works, for the drain. Suffolk Highways have asked the HAO to revisit The Street to look at the drainage issues to see if anything further can be done.

10.4 Orchard Close – A blocked drain opposite Numbers 5 and 6 was reported 4/12/2020 and inspected 31/12/2020. There are two drains here, which were both inspected and did not meet the intervention criteria. The HAO recorded a Category 7 and Suffolk Highways have asked if this could be reinspected. It is thought that some work has been carried out here.

10.5 Troston Road – A blocked drain outside number 49 was reported 4/12/2020 and inspected 31/12/2020. At the time of inspection, no flooding was evident, so a Category 7 observation was recorded. Following a further flooding report from a member of public an order was placed 27/7/2021 and completed 09/09/2021 to clean and jet six gullies.

10.6 Troston Road – A blocked drain outside number 2 Birds Croft reported 4/12/2020 inspected 28/12/2020. At the time of the inspection, the blocked drain was recorded as a Category 7 observation. Following a further flooding report, an order was raised 31/08/2021 for all gullies and catchpits to be dug out. This was placed on a 20-working day order so the work should be carried out in the next few days.

10.7 The Street – A blocked drain outside Sunny Side reported 4/12/2020 inspected 31/12/2020. There was no flooding at the time of the site visit and so the report was closed as 'Not at intervention level'. Since December 2020, Suffolk Highways have received no further reports of flooding at this location. The Parish Council thought that this drain is still stilted up and will endeavour to take so photos of the issue next time it rains.

Action All

10.8 Birds Croft – Blocked drains (located on Troston Rd and Orchard Close) reported 27/07/2021 as an emergency and this was inspected the same day by the HAO. An order has been placed for the gullies to be cleaned and jetted and the work should be completed imminently.

10.9 Birds Croft – Outside number 2, following a safety inspection, an order was raised to repair a 15m length of the footway. The order was placed for 20 working days and so the repair should take place in the next couple of weeks.

10.11 Possible positions for new VAS posts.

Suffolk County Council in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Constabulary (the Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership), will be trialling the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to tackle speeding hot spots across the county. It is hoped that, through this scheme, SCC may be erecting some extra posts and this could include some more posts for Gt Livermere. We will continue to monitor the situation.

10.3 Emergency plan, update on progress.

This matter is still in hand.

Action Clerk

11. Play area

11.1 Play area report.

No matters raised of concern.

11.2 Play area, next phase.

Cllr A Johnston will do some work, to inform the budget discussion next meeting, on setting up a play area reserve fund. **Action Cllr A Johnston**

12 Planning Matters

None received.

13 Councillors reports and items for future agendas.

There were some concerns raised over some noxious weeds growing near the mere on the Ampton estate. The Clerk will send an email to the estate office to make sure they are aware of this. **Action Clerk**

14. Correspondence for information

The new **Suffolk Care Services Directory 2020/21** is still available and we were asked if we wanted some free copies. It's a guide to help people looking for care and support in Suffolk. It contains lots of really useful information about accessing social care, funding care, staying independent, moving to a care home etc. There is around 50 copies in a box. It was agreed to request 2 boxes and arrange a delivery alongside the flyer about the Community meals.

Action Clerk/All

15. Date for next meetings: 17th November 2021 7pm

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

16.1 Personnel Issues.

16.2 Legal Issues.