

## GREAT LIVERMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Great Livermere Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 7:00 in Great Livermere Village Hall

Present. Cllrs H Johnston, A Johnston, T Redman, WS Cllr Speed & SCC R Hopfensperger

### 1. Co-option of new Parish Councillor

### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllrs A Norburn, S. Charlton & R Charlton

### 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 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 Parish Council meeting were agreed and approved as a correct record.

5. Meeting open to the public. None present.

### 6. Report from County Councillor: R Hopfensperger.

To receive any update on traffic calming measures for the village. Cllr Hopfensperger has already chased this up and will do so again with SCC Highways Officer, Andrew Moore.

**Action Cllr Hopfensperger**

Concerns over tree, raised by resident, at Mere View. There has been no further correspondence from the resident regarding this matter. Cllr Hopfensperger will ask for the tree to be reinspected.

**Action Cllr Hopfensperger**

Problem with bridge at Ampton waters.

Cllr Redman has been in correspondence with Andrew Woodin from SCC regarding this matter. Mr Woodin has said that Highways, who have looked at the bridge and condemned the structure, said it could cost £500,000 to rebuild it. This is the sticking point. Established facts:

1: Retained information on ownership and repairs does not go back to 2000, when we think the Highways last repaired the bridge

2: Nobody has done a cost analysis on the repairs

3: Nobody did a regular inspection of the bridge until 2019, when its condition caused alarm.

Cllr Hopfensperger has been in discussions with SCC officers regarding this situation and has informed Cllr West of our concerns. The County Council is considering the next steps but at this stage it is not possible to give a timescale on reopening the PRoW. In a bid to get the path reopened it was agreed to look at the possibility of a temporary repair. To this end the Clerk will

contact Andrew Moore, SCC engineer, to arrange a site visit. It is hoped that he can draw up a plan for a temporary repair and we can then obtain a quote for any works. The Clerk will

investigate the liability angle before any decisions are taken. Both Cllrs Hopfensperger and District Councillor Speed have said they would be able to make a financial contribution to the bridge repairs costs if this is a route we go down.

**Action Cllr Hopfensperger/Speed/Clerk**

Condition of pavement opposite the village hall.

In July this year Highways installed some temporary traffic lights so the work to the path could be carried out safely. Unfortunately, despite the expense of the traffic control, a very cursory job was done with just a light cut back of the overhanging vegetation. With the current financial climate this seems like a very poor use of resources and was disappointing that a better job was not done at the time. The path should really have been skirted back as we are now, as anticipated, back to where we were before the work was carried out. The situation is now that we need a team to come out again to skirt back the path before it becomes impassable again. Cllr Hopfensperger has re-reported the footpath clearance to highways and copied the cabinet member in with regards to the quality of the work that has been completed. We will await a response.

Bus stop at Little Livermere.

In some good news, following the meeting with Cllr Hopfensperger and Robert Kemp, Transport Development Manager, the following was achieved:

Following communication with Coach Services regarding the stop at Park Farm, a resolution has now been reached. It has come to light that stops can be registered as official stops on the national database under the heading of “custom and practice” and therefore do not need the necessary infrastructure required for other new stops. It is understood that, although they don't meet any legislative requirements to provide an accessible stop for all passengers, it recognises that this is not always practical or feasible, particularly in rural areas. Coach Services have confirmed that the stop will appear in their ticket machines and on timetables. The Parish Council are very pleased with this outcome, as are the residents who use the service at this stop. We thanked Cllr Hopfensperger for her input with this matter.

A request was made to Cllr Hopfensperger to fund the purchase of a replacement battery charger for the VAS. Cllr Hopfensperger agreed to fund this for the amount of £138.67. The Clerk will forward the paperwork to Cllr Hopfensperger.

**Action Cllr Hopfensperger/Clerk**

Cllr Hopfensperger ask for a list of (advisory) signs and posts that need replacing in the village.

She has access to funds to cover some replacements, some of the faded signage can be replaced with stickers. Cllr A Johnston will draw up a list of our requirements.

**Action Cllr A Johnston**

## **7. Report from B. Councillor: A Speed.**

Cllr Speed introduced himself to the Council and explained that he sees his role of one to provide grants, lobby on West Suffolk issues and aid with planning applications where he can. Cllr Speed explained that following the elections this year a partnership between the West Suffolk Progressive Alliance Grouping and the Independents are working together, under the title of West Suffolk Working Partnership (WSWP), to form the administration which leads West Suffolk Council. Cllr Speed reported that there is a recommendation being made to change plans for the new Western Way leisure facilities in Bury St Edmunds due to national financial uncertainty for public services. Instead, West Suffolk Council would look to reinvest in the existing Bury St Edmunds leisure facilities to bring them up to scratch and to ensure the pool provision remains open during these challenging times. This recommendation could also have a knock-on effect with the provision of a new records office at Olding Way. It is understood that several West Suffolk Councillors, including Cllr Speed, have concerns about this recommendation and feel it is not fit for purpose for a growing population, there will be a further discussion, and vote on this at a full West Suffolk Council meeting next week. The Parish Council expressed concerns about the potential loss of a record office in Bury St Edmunds. Cllr Speed will keep the Parish Council abreast of any developments regarding this matter. As mentioned earlier Cllr Speed is happy to contribute towards the cost of the bridge repair, at Ampton Water, if the Parish council decide to pursue this further.

**Action Cllr Speed**

## **8. Progress reports. For information, from:**

### **8.1. Chairman**

Cllr H Johnston reported that we needed a new torch for defibrillator as the one supplied has been cracked. Cllr H Johnston will follow up on this.

**Action Cllr H Johnston**

### **8.2 Clerk:**

8.2.1 To confirm dates booked for Councillor/Clerks training and discuss Chairs training.

The Clerk confirmed the dates for Cllrs H Johnston, A Johnston and T Redman's Councillor training sessions. Cllr Redman is still to book session 1 of the training and the Chairman is still waiting for a suitable date to carry out the Chairmans training.

8.2.2 To share information from planning training event.

Unfortunately, no one was able to attend this planning training session. The Clerk however asked for the training material to be sent through. There seems to be a lot of useful information that may be helpful for future reference so this document will be held on file.

## 9. Finance.

9.1 The following payments/receipts were approved/noted.

Data protection	ICO	£35.00
Office	Various	£653.44
Bus shelter cleaning	Jeff Wells	£20.00
Councillor training	SALC	£180.00
Grass cutting all	Tramar	£207.00
Replacement footpath sign	Dissigns	£31.20
Defibrillator training session	Troston Parish Council	£65.00
Recycling credit	West Suffolk	£176.10
insurance %	BHIB	£39.85
Grass cutting	Tramar	£267.00
Election costs	West Suffolk	£81.91

9.2 Bank reconciliation and accounts update.

The Clerk provided the Councilors with a budget report, bank reconciliation, schedule of payments and copy of the invoices for information.

Following information provided by the Clerk, pertaining to next year's budget, it was agreed to look at revising the figures for the grass cutting, VAS sundries and training. The Councilors will also consider any other items they feel should be included in the budget for discussion at the November meeting.

**Action Clerk**

9.3 To confirm automatic payments to HMRC.

The Clerk confirmed that an automated collection, from HMRC has been set up, with Barclays bank.

9.4 To confirm arrangements for Insurance provider 2023/24

Following on from the discussion at the last meeting it was agreed that we cancel the old insurance, as, even considering the 3-year tie in, it was a better price to go with the new provider, Zurich.

**Action Clerk**

9.5 To complete paperwork to close old Lloyds bank account.

The Clerk has written to Lloyds to ask them to close the old Parish Council account. This request was signed by Cllrs H Johnson and T Redman.

**Action Clerk**

9.6 End of year accounts, notification of exempt status, 2023

The notification of exemption certificate was received from PKF Littlejohn. This finalises the accounts for year end 2022/23

## 10. Highway/village matters

10.1 Update on highway matters to include:

10.1.1 VAS update.

As discussed under item 6 it was agreed to purchase a replacement battery charger for the VAS. Cllr Hopfensperger has agreed to fund this.

It was understood that the post, adjacent to Orchard Close, is due to be replaced by the ANPR team. Cllr Redman has contacted Jon Shaw regarding this, and he is going to find out what is happening with its replacement.

10.1.2 Highway issues.

10.1.3 Footpath issues. To include

10.1.3.1 Problem with bridge at Ampton waters.

See under item 6, Cllr Hopfensperger's report.

10.1.3.2 Condition of pavement opposite the village hall.

See under item 6, Cllr Hopfensperger's report.

10.2 To receive any update on the 2023/24 grass cutting tender and grass cutting issues. Cllr A Johnston will speak to Tramar about the grass cutting for next year. With Cllr A Johnston monitoring and liaising with the contractors the grass cutting has been managed much better this year. The Parish Council thanked Cllr A Johnston for his input with this. **Action Cllr A Johnston**

10.3 Bus Stop for Little Livermere end of village, to receive any update. See under item 6, Cllr Hopfensperger's report.

10.4 To note suggestions regarding hedge alongside the road between Great Livermere and Troston.

A resident of the village has written to ask about the possibility of Ampton Estates doing some work to complete the hedge on the north side of the Great Livermere - Troston road, as they are carrying out similar works in the area. The Clerk will pass these comments on to Ampton estates and confirm that we would support any such works. **Action Clerk**

10.5 To receive update on potholes in Church Road.

This matter is still in hand. The Clerk will contact Cllrs S Charlton and A Norburn to receive any update. **Action Clerk**

10.6 To discuss options for field adjacent to the Village Hall.

This matter is on hold currently. Cllr Redman will provide an update when he can.

**Action Cllr Redman**

10.7 To note bus shelter damage and repair.

A panel on the bus shelter was smashed. The Councillors made the area safe, and SCC acted very quickly to come out and effected a repair. The Parish Council extended their thanks for the quick action from all involved in this speedy repair.

10.8 Church Road trees, to ascertain ownership.

It was agreed that confirming this would be an issue. The Parish Council will look at the logistics of providing signage in this area. **Action Clerk**

## **11. Play area**

11.1 Play area report, circulated.

Cllrs A Johnston and T Redman will look at what works need to be done and report back at the next meeting. **Action Cllrs A Johnston and T Redman**

11.2 To note any works required/completed.

As above.

## **12. Planning Matters to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted.**

12.1 DC/23/1381/HH Householder planning application - a. two storey rear extension b. Juliette balcony on rear and side elevation, Martlets The Street Great Livermere. **No objections**

12.2 DC/23/1176/TCA Trees in a conservation area notification - (a) one Swedish whitebeam (T2 on plan) - fell (b) one Sycamore (T3 on plan) - Crown lift to 4.5 metres above ground level. removing only lateral branches of 50mm or less diameter. Street Farm The Street Great Livermere. To note this application was granted by West Suffolk Council.

## **13. Councillors reports and items for future agendas.**

No additional reports received.

#### **14. Correspondence for information**

14.1 New policing model: PCC and Chief answer your questions, drop-in sessions.

New policing model: PCC and Chief answer your questions

The way local policing is delivered in Suffolk is changing and a new county policing model goes live in December 2023. In advance of the changes, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, and Chief Constable, Rachel Kearton, are hosting a series of meetings to talk through the plans with local communities and answer any questions they may have.

Meetings will be held across the county through September and October with an on-line meeting in November. All meetings start at 6.30pm and there is no need to book, just turn up on the evening.

WEST AREA: Thursday September 21, 2023, at Bury Town Football Club, Cotton Lane, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1XP.

SOUTH AREA: Wednesday October 4, 2023, at Police Headquarters, Portal Avenue, Martlesham IP5 3QS

EAST AREA: Tuesday October 10, 2023, at Wherry Hotel, Bridge Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft NR32 3LN

MID SUFFOLK: Tuesday October 17, 2023, at the new Stowmarket Police Station, IP14 2QU

There is also an on-line meeting on Tuesday November 7, 2023, at 6pm via Microsoft Teams.

Please email [spcc@suffolk.police.uk](mailto:spcc@suffolk.police.uk) to register and an invite will be sent through via email in advance of the meeting.

The Clerk will be attending the MID SUFFOLK session on Tuesday October 17, 2023, at the new Stowmarket Police Station, IP14 2QU

**Action Clerk**

**15. Date of next meeting.** 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 7pm Gt Livermere Village Hall

**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.**