

GREAT LIVERMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Great Livermere Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2019
7:30pm in Great Livermere Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: A Hudson, J Hartley, H Johnston, A Johnston & B Bryers

1. **Apologies for absence**, WS Cllr S Brown & C. Cllr Hopfensperger.

2. **Co-option of new councillors**

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 the Tuesday 24th September 2019 meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record.

5. **Meeting open to the public** 4 members of the public present.

5.1 The problems with surface water in the village was discussed. In particular it is a problem at the entrance to The Birches. The road has been resurfaced and there is no longer a kerb between it and the close. This means that water coming down the road runs directly in to the close rather than down the road and into the drain. The problem is made worse by the drains being clogged and blocked by leaves and debris. The Clerk will contact SCC about the issue with the resurfacing and jetting the drains and West Suffolk Council about getting the drains/road swept. **Action Clerk**

5.2 The pavement along Troston Road is overgrown both by the verge and by the hedge. Cllr Hartley will speak to the landowner about the hedge and the Clerk will contact SCC about the verge. **Action Cllr Hartley/Clerk**

5.3 The pavement in Birds Croft is in a very poor state of repair. A patch has been resurfaced but more needs to be done. The Clerk will find out who is responsible for the maintenance and ask them to carry out the necessary works. **Action Clerk**

5.4 SCC have repaired two potholes on the road towards Gt Barton However at the entrance to the footpath past Collowhill Lane there are two further very big potholes that need repair. **Action Clerk**

5.5 A lengthy discussion was had about the continuing and growing problem of feral chickens/cockerel in the village. It was agreed that a formal plan of action needs to be formulated. To this end, the Clerk will speak to pest control companies for advice and Cllr Hudson will speak to the local gamekeeper. It was considered important that, as this was a sensitive matter, we should invite members of the Parish to a public meeting at which we could discuss the options available to the Parish. To continue to allow the chickens/cockerels to breed at their current rate will only add to the noise and disturbance issues already being experienced by many. It was agreed that this will be an agenda item at the next meeting and that we should invite Ben Turner, as his permission may be need to enter his property to carry out any action. We would look to hold a public meeting in February/March. **Action Cllr Hudson/Clerk**

6. **Report from County Councillor:** R Hopfensperger.
Cllr Hopfensperger was unable to attend the meeting.

7. **Report from West Suffolk Councillor:** S. Brown
Cllr Brown was unable to attend the meeting.

8. Progress reports. For information, from:

8.1. Chairman

The Chairman had no additional report to make.

8.2 Clerk:

8.2.1 Works in village. Update on works

Park fencing have agreed to undertake the works in the village. They have not made a start yet but they are hoping to complete some of the jobs by the end of this coming week. They will keep us updated of progress.

9.1 Highway matters. Winter awareness from SCC.

SCC are still promoting community involvement in winter work, the Clerk contacted SCC as she wants to know how this sits with Chapter 8 etc.? Surely, this constitutes works on the highways. She has been told, at the meeting with Mary Evans and Mark Stevens, that anyone working on the highways needs Chapter 8 traffic management training. However, she is having difficulty seeing how spreading grit differs from, for instance, cleaning a sign? If anything you could argue that gritting in winter conditions, poor light, visibility and icy roads, is potentially more dangerous than carrying out works in better weather condition. After expressing these concerns the clerk received the following response, which seems quite ridiculous; she will continue to pursue the issue. *“Anyone applying grit from either the County Council’s / parish / town councils’ or third parties’ grit bins to Suffolk’s footways and roads would be acting in an entirely different way from those undertaking work such as sign cleaning, vegetation clearance or footway skirting. The individuals carrying out the types of Community Self-Help work that fall under the scheme will be focusing their attention on their activity, rather than on passing pedestrian or vehicular traffic – so the presence of separate traffic management is required. Those spreading grit will, by contrast, be specifically conscious of passing traffic – they would apply common sense and time such spreading once that traffic is clear rather than throwing it at passing people or vehicles!”* The Clerk will continue to pursue this matter with SCC as well as with SALC and our insurance provider, to clarify what works on the highway actually is.

9.2 Suffolk Preservation Society, landscape-training update

The Clerk attended some landscape training. It was a very informative presentation that looked in detail at the landscaping attached to new developments. Often a developer’s plan will not truly reflect the realities of what can be planted. By drilling down into the plans, at an early stage, more realistic goals can be set, with potentially better, forest scale trees and shrubbery being used rather than typical small, ornamental type trees. In addition, the ongoing maintenance plan can be agreed upon.

9.3 SALC training conference, confirmation of attendance

The Clerk attended the SALC, “Shaping Suffolk – working together to make a better place to live” conference. The speaker, from Mid Suffolk Council was advocating sharing information and the benefits of pre planning consultation. However, the District Council are not always able to share pre application information due to confidentiality issues. This can often make Parish Councils feel undervalued and that advice may have been given without local factors being taken in to consideration. Although we would support sharing information, it was disappointing that the planning department are often unable to do the same.

8.2.4 Play area signs

The sign for the play area are on order. They were slightly more expensive than the clerk had originally thought but they should be long lasting, as they are manufactured using 3mm aluminium stainless steel.. Cllr A Johnston will fit the signs when they arrive. He will let the Clerk know if any additional materials are required.

Action Cllr Johnston/Clerk

9 Finance.

The following accounts were approved and signed by two signatories

Admin		£445.81
DHF Products	play area signs	£92.64
Wybone	improvements	£14.82
Jeff Wells	Bus shelter	£20.00
Community Action Suffolk	Website	£60.00
West Suffolk	Election	£21.34
West Suffolk	grass Cutting	£1,125.00

9.2 Bank reconciliation and accounts update.

The Clerk provided the Councillors with a bank reconciliation, income and expenditure account details and a budget report.

9.3 Budget

The clerk provided the Councillors with some figures for consideration. Following discussion it was agreed to precept for £7000. This increase is needed as the Parish Council have been taking money from reserves to meet basic running costs for some years now. This is not a sustainable position going forward.

10. Bus Shelter

This has been cleaned. Thank you to Cllr H Johnson for organising this.

11. Footpath leaflet

11.1 Update on progress so far.

The group met again and after discussion, it was agreed that, due to the abundance of information and the potential for walks, two separate leaflets should be produced. The landowner, who owns the land partway between Gt Livermere and Troston, has granted permission for a path to go there. This means that if the landowner in Gt Livermere also grants permission a safe path can be used to get from Troston to Gt Livermere and vis-versa. A date was agreed to do the Gt Livermere walks, the Troston walks will be done towards the end of November.

11.2 Invitation from SCC to include Great Livermere in next year's walking festival.

The Officers from SCC felt that as both villages, Troston and Gt Livermere offer such delightful walking routes and compelling history/facts that perhaps the villages may want to be included in next year's Walking Festival. They would need walk leaders in the main from the villages. The Councillors thought this was a good idea and Cllrs Johnston and Hartley are all happy to be involved. It was suggested that we could hold an event, possibly at the village hall on the day of the walk. The Clerk will forward the festival details to the Councillors.

Action Cllrs Johnston, Hartley & Clerk

12. Highway/village matters

12.1 Streetlight, Troston Road.

This has finally been removed and made good.

12.2 VAS, to discuss condition of current sign and possible purchase of new sign.

It was agreed that in the first instance we should pay the £27.50 courier cost to have our existing sign checked. Due to the current financial situation it is unlikely that we would be in a position to purchase a new sign at the moment. The clerk will however compare the data produced from both the Morelock sign and the Westcotec sign for future information.

12.3 Feral Chickens, Troston Road, to discuss plans for control.

See under item 5.5

13. Village Hall

13.1 Dave Hurrell came from the Village Hall to talk about matters pertaining to the hall. He provided the Councillors with an up to date financial report. The current financial position is fair but they do not anticipate any big expenditure in the near future. The Fun day raised over £770 and other regular events give a regular income stream with other lettings contributing to the overall income. The fit Villages project, yoga, seems to be well attended. The Clerk will provide Mr Hurrell with details for Suffolk Cinemas as he thinks this might be something the committee could take forward. Mr Hurrell will speak to village hall committee about the installation of the defibrillator at the village hall. He will report back their response. It was suggested that the village hall have a dedicated email address for booking and correspondence. It was agreed that a regular report, from the Village Hall to the parish council would be helpful.

Action Clerk

14. Defibrillator

14.1 To discuss progress

Once we get the go ahead from the Village Hall Committee, the Clerk will order the defibrillator. It was agreed that we will organise an awareness event, potentially in conjunction with Troston, once the device has been ordered/ installed.

Action Clerk

15 Play Area to include:

15.1 Play area report.

The bigger jobs in the play area are being carried out by Park Fencing. Cllr Byers will undertake any other remedial works.

Action Cllr Byers

16. Planning Matters to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted.

10.2 The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment SHELAA).

The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (or SHELAA) is an assessment of land for housing and economic development. The SHELAA is not an assessment of whether the sites will be allocated in the future West Suffolk Local Plan nor does inclusion in the SHELAA imply or grant any planning permission. The document or previous call for sites process holds NO weight in decision making. West Suffolk is seeking views on the factual information submitted. In accordance with government guidance, they are seeking views on the draft SHELAA report and in particular: The suitability, availability and achievability (including viability*) of specific sites featured within the draft report (whether or not they are included or deferred at this stage) The constraints – are these (reasons for deferral of specific sites) still appropriate/relevant?

* for a site to be considered deliverable, the NPPF requires development to be economically viable and to this end, we seek written commentary on the viability of the sites in which you have a particular interest, in addition to confirmation that the sites themselves are available at this time and if not, when they are anticipated to become available.

10.3 West Suffolk Local Plan: 2019 sustainable settlements review.

West Suffolk Council is in the early stages of preparing a new local plan for West Suffolk. One aspect of the new plan will be to review the currently adopted settlement categories and hierarchies in the former St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath areas. In order to do this work officers are currently preparing a sustainable settlements study as evidence to sit alongside the local plan. The purpose of this study is to understand which are the most sustainable settlements in the district through applying a set key sustainability criteria, such as the presence of shops, schools etc. This information will be used to help draft a new settlement hierarchy which will be subject to consultation in January 2020 as part of the Issues and Options consultation. For those settlements which have an identified settlement boundary, key sustainability criteria have been recorded and a matrix produced. West Suffolk are now inviting all parishes to comment on this matrix in respect of the factual accuracy of the sustainability criteria recorded for settlements in their parish. The Clerk will action this as required.

Action Clerk

17. Councillors reports and items for future agendas.

Cllr Hartley reported that the church are hoping to install a toilet.

Most of the wood in Church Road has been chopped up. Those who would like some are being asked to make a donation towards the cost of some replacement trees.

Cllr Byers and his wife have spent some time cleaning up and tidying the phone box library.

18. Correspondence for information

18.1 Looking for Change Bury St Edmunds, circulated

19. Date for next meetings: Tuesday 28th January 2020

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

20.1 Personnel Issues. Decrease in Parish Councils pension contribution. Noted.

20.2 Legal Issues.