

GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Great Massingham Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 9th March, 2020, at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors, S Nash (Chair), C Boyden, J Cole, V Cross, M Eldridge, M Hipkin, P James, the Clerk, Sarah Harvey, County Councillor S Dark and Borough Councillor J Moriarty.

1. In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor M Wingell, Councillor S Nash took the Chair and welcomed all present to the meeting.
2. Apologies
It was agreed to accept apologies of absence from Councillors D Speake and M Wingell.
3. Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items
Councillors P James declared a non-pecuniary interest for the Biodiversity Project.
4. Minutes
Following amendments being made to Agenda Items 7 and 16c, it was proposed by Councillors M Hipkin, seconded by J Cole that the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on Monday 10th February 2020, copies of which had been circulated to members and were available in the Village Hall, be approved and signed by the Chairman.
5. Matters Arising from the Minutes for Information Only
Councillor J Cole reported that the new Youth Club Leader was still not fit to start duties, following an operation.
Councillor J Cole commented that two cars, a black Citroen and blue VW Polo had been abandoned on Lynn Road. The Police were aware of the former. The Clerk agreed to investigate the situation after receiving further details from Councillor M Eldridge.
Councillor P James advised that the Beacon was planned to be lit at 9.30pm for the VE 75th anniversary on the 8th of May. It was noted that a risk assessment would be undertaken and made available to the Parish Council.
6. Parishioner's Participation
There were no questions or comments made
7. Reports from County and Borough Councillors and Police
Borough Councillor J Moriarty advised that a new contract had been awarded for waste collection, to start in April 2021. It was expected that collection dates would not change and that bank holidays would also not affect collection dates. It was noted that the recycling service would be improved to include the collection of batteries and ink cartridges. The change in contract would see the waste collection lorries being owned by the Borough Council as opposed to the contractor and the lorries would be fitted with cameras.
County Councillor S Dark reported that the Budget Setting meeting had been held in February and that the County Council's precept had been increased by 3.99%.
County Councillor S Dark also confirmed that he had spoken to Sally Bettinson (Highways Engineer) and the County's Finance Department regarding money to be transferred to the Parish Council from the Local Member Fund in payment for a bench during 2019. It was noted that County Councillor S Dark would have further funds to allocate from the Local Member Fund for 2020/21.
County Councillor S Dark advised that the Local Government Boundary Review Commission were undertaking a review of the County Council Ward boundaries. It was noted that there may be some slight adjustments with some Wards. A potential update on the Review was likely to be published around May, 2020.

8. Digital Mapping Software

Councillor J Cole reported that the mapping system available from the BCKLWN was not interactive, so therefore would not be suitable. Councillor J Cole proceeded with a presentation of Parish Online, which was described as a web-based system. The presentation included a partial Youtube video about the system and it was agreed the link to this would be circulated amongst the Parish Council to review prior to the next meeting.

9. Website

Councillor C Boyden reported that four parishioners had thanked the Parish Council for providing information about local road closures on the Parish Council website. Councillor C Boyden also advised that requests had been received to provide more essential contact numbers on the website too. These would be added in due course.

10. Finance

- a. Accounts for payment under the Late Payments Interest Act 1998: there were none declared.
- b. Accounts for payment: It was resolved that the following accounts should be paid.
 - 101890 - Scottish Hydro (Street Lighting, December Statement) - £244.99
 - 101891 - K & M Lighting Services (Street Lighting Maintenance, March) - £72.84
 - 101892 - Colin S Whitmore (Equipment Inspection, Grass Cutting & Repairs) - £189.00
 - 101893 - BCKLWN (Collection & Disposal of Dog Waste 26/02/19 to 28/02/2020) - £646.46
 - 101894 - Community Action Norfolk (Annual Membership Renewal) - £50.00
 - 101895 - Clerk's Salary, Travel & Expenses (11th February to 8th March) - £294.08
 - 101896 - (Transfer to HTB (Great Massingham Parish Council) - £77,514.33It was proposed by Councillors M Hipkin, seconded by P James and agreed that all outstanding accounts be paid.
- c. Finance received during January: It was noted that the following amount had been received
 - Fishing Receipts - £13.50
- d. Financial Statement: The financial statement for January, 2020, was considered, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- e. **HTB One Year Fixed Rate Bond Account** – it was considered and agreed that Councillors M Wingell, S Nash and M Hipkin would act as signatories to the account for the duration of the investment.
- f. **Great Massingham Biodiversity Project** – it was considered and agreed that the annual donation of £200 should be made available to the Biodiversity Project.
- g. **Other Financial Matters** – there were no matters raised.

11. Governance

- a. **General Data Protection Regulations Policy** – it was agreed that the draft GDPR Policy would be considered at the April Parish Council meeting.
- b. **GDPR Information Audit** - it was agreed that the draft Information Audit would be considered at the April Parish Council meeting.

12. Open Spaces

- a. **Removal of Rubbish, land adjacent to Charles Dewar Close** – Councillor J Cole estimated that there was around 10 cubic metres of rubbish to be cleared from the land. It was considered that in leaving the rubbish this could encourage more waste to accumulate and that some trees would have to be removed to access the rubbish. It was therefore agreed that Councillor J Cole should obtain three quotes from private waste removal companies and obtain quotes to put in place a gate to stop individuals further accessing the land.
- b. **Geese/Cormorant Update** – Councillor D Speake (via email) reported that a number of Councillors had been using lasers on the geese for a period of two months to deter them from settling around the ponds and that numbers appeared to have decreased from the previous year. Councillor D Speake advised that he would be stepping back from the laser rota. Councillor D

Speake suggested that if numbers were to drastically increase over the year then he would look into General Licenses. It was noted that Cormorants were not covered by the General License and were protected wild birds. Unless 'serious damage' could be proved, then scaring was the only management option available.

It was agreed that the laser rota should continue and in order for it to be effective individuals should stick to their allotted times.

- c. **War Memorial** – Councillor M Hipkin advised that he had been unable to identify any funding that would assist with the cost of cleaning the War Memorial. The Clerk advised that the BCKLWN had also confirmed that permission would not be required to clean the War Memorial, which was Grade II listed. AJ Restoration would therefore be asked to proceed with the work at their earliest convenience.
- d. **Moles, Village Greens** - Councillor D Speake (via email) reported that around a dozen moles had been trapped and that the issue around the Post Office pond was thought to be resolved. Work was now being concentrated around Scotsman's where it was believed there may be 'breeding mounds'. A further update would be received at the April Parish Council meeting.
- e. **Tree Maintenance, Abbey Road** – it was noted that an email of concern had been received from a parishioner regarding a row of trees on Abbey Road, which were within the conservation area and were being 'suffocated by ivy'. The Clerk advised that consent would not be required to remove the ivy from the trees and that this had been confirmed by Richard Fisher (Tree Officer, BCKLWN). It was considered and agreed that the trees were privately owned, so therefore it was the landowner's responsibility to maintain the trees.
- f. **Greens, Fishing and General Maintenance** - Councillor D Speake (via email) reported that himself and Councillor S Nash had completed an application and forwarded it to the BCKLWN in order to obtain approval to clean up new growth around the tree stumps on Scotsman's. It was noted that the application had been received by the BCKLWN on the 3rd March and that permission had now been approved.

13. Street Lighting

- a. Councillor S Nash advised that a streetlight on Abbey Road had been reported as requiring attention. This had been reported to K & M Lighting Services.

14. Planning Matters

- a. **Applications received** - there had been no new planning applications received.
- b. It was noted that the following applications had been APPROVED/REFUSED by the Borough Council;
APPROVAL
19/02203/F - Proposed side extension to bungalow at 24 Walcups Lane.
APPROVAL
19/02144/F - Siting 8 steel containers on the existing coal yard for storage of coal and electrical equipment, plus one hopper for dispensing coal at Peddars Farm 37 Lynn Lane
APPROVAL
15/00883/NMA_3 – Non-Material Amendment to Planning Consent 15/00883/F: Demolition of side extension, rear conservatory. Extension of existing dwelling to side and rear and new garage at 2 Castleacre Road.
- c. **Neighbourhood Plan Update** – Councillor J Cole reported that the front-page article in The Mallard had been very effective and that at least eight parishioners were interested in becoming involved in a Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that the contact details of these individuals would be collated on the return of Councillor M Wingell.
- d. **BCKLWN Call for Sites Map** – those present considered the number and location of sites being considered by the BCKLWN for further development within the village under the Local Development Framework up to 2036. Borough Councillor J Moriarty explained that all sites have now been put forward for consideration by the Local Plan Task Group and the next draft document for public consultation was likely to be available in September. It was agreed that if parishioners

had any questions regarding the sites being considered they should be directed to the Borough Councillor J Moriarty.

- e. **Other Planning Matters** – there were none raised.

15. Highways

- a. **Lynn Lane** – Councillor S Nash reported that Sally Bettinson (Highways Engineer) had advised that Lynn Lane was due to be surface dressed during the year. Concerns were raised regarding the amount of water that was unable to drain along Lynn Lane and that a positive drainage system was required to be put in place prior to the road being surface dressed. It was agreed that the Clerk should raise the issue with Sally Bettinson. County Councillor S Dark asked to be copied in on the email and agreed that the drainage works should be undertaken.
- Station Road** – Councillor S Nash reported that there was a number of utility covers that required attention along Station Road. It was agreed the Clerk would raise this issue with Sally Bettinson.
- b. **Speeding Issues** – Councillor P James reported that speeding was still a problem in the village and that quarterly statistics were being kept. It was noted that a School bus was recorded as travelling 54 mph along Castle Acre Road.

16. Village Incidents

Councillor S Nash advised that some glass had been smashed in the telephone box and that this had been reported to BT and repaired.

Councillor M Eldridge advised that there had been a break in at The Old Rectory and along Station Road.

It was noted that the amount of dog waste being cleared by dog owners had improved substantially along Sunnyside, but elsewhere in the village there continued to be an issue.

17. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received and the contents noted.

- a. To note Village Clean Up – Saturday 28th March at 10am (all volunteers to meet at the Well).
- b. Letter of Thanks from GMACCS for £300 annual donation.
- c. Letter of Thanks from Norfolk Citizens Advice for £50 donation.
- d. Area Inspector's Meeting – Tuesday 10th March. 6.30 – 8.30pm – Dersingham Village Hall.

18. Items for the Mallard and Website

Coronavirus Information to be added to website

Clerk to prepare article for The Mallard

19. It was noted that the next Parish Council Meeting would be held on Monday 20th April, 2020 at 7.30pm and that the following items would be placed on the agenda.

- Norfolk County Council, Parish Partnership Scheme
- Parish Online
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Mole Update, Village Greens

With no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.

..... Chairman
20th April, 2020