

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF GREAT LIVERMERE PARISH COUNCIL
held on 1st October 2013**

	<p>Members present: Councillor Hartley in the chair, Councillors Benson, Coates, Johnson, King and Williams along with Mrs. Waples (Clerk), County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger, Borough Councillor Christopher Spicer and five members of the public.</p> <p>The Parish Council meeting was suspended for half an hour to honour Chairman Anne-Marie Storey's time as Chairman of the Council by presenting her with a gift and a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her dedication to the Parish Council and the Village of Great Livermere. Mrs. Storey had stepped down from the position of Chairman and from the Parish Council following her move from the village in August.</p> <p>1.0 <u>Opening Public Session:</u> the following issues were brought to the Council's attention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Overgrown trees along The Paddock and No. 35 and 45 The Street. ii. Corner footpath of Troston Road and The Street - Council's attention was drawn to the slippery state of the footpath at this point in the village. <p>2.0 <u>County Councillor's Report:</u> County Cllr. Hopfensperger was invited to submit her report in which she brought the meeting's attention to the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Brand Road - she would arrange for a site meeting with David Stiles and the Pc to investigate the area where the road is giving way. ii. The Street - she confirmed that the road was being patched through this part of the village within the next few days iii. Tourist Signs for the Church - the relevant departments within SCC were now organising this and had placed the relevant items on order iv. Mobile VAS - a desktop survey was due to be carried out as to where the unit could be sited. Once this had been carried out Anthony Smith from SCC would email the suggested sites to the Parish Council for its consideration. Once the sites had been agreed the posts should be in place in November. v. Schools Organisation Review - out for consultation for a period of 12 weeks. Parents and Governors will be holding meetings to give as much information as possible to those affected. vi. Free Electric Blanket Testing - Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, Suffolk Trading Standards, Age UK and the Electrical Safety Council were offering free tests to residents within Suffolk which it was hoped would reduce the number of fires caused by unsafe electric blankets. vii. Free School Meals - there was a large proportion of free school meals that were currently unclaimed. Parents of school aged children were encouraged to call a Bury St Edmunds number to see if they were eligible. viii. SCC and Suffolk Waste Partnership had teamed up and secured a grant to combat fly tipping which would be used to liaise with local landowners to help with fly tipping issues and enforcement. ix. Key Stage II Results - the County had climbed 16 places in the league table following the Summer's results. 20% of children were achieving expected levels in Writing and Maths. x. A14 Tolls - there were to be introduced around the Cambridgeshire area. SCC were supporting the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce with their petition against the tolling of this road. <p>3.0 <u>Borough Councillor's Report:</u> Borough Cllr. Spicer was invited to submit his report in which he brought the meetings attention to the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Duelling of A14 - over a number of weekends some traffic will be redirected to the B1088 due to closures to allow the work to be carried out. ii. Vision 2031 Consultation - Great Livermere was confirmed as countryside. The Planning Inspectorate had appointed an Independent Inspector to examine the Vision 2031 Local Plan documents and the documents would be submitted to the Secretary of State towards the end of the month. 	<p align="right">Clerk</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Great Livermere vis-a-vis Vision 2031 - under the Sustainable Communities Act there may be a change to free up decaying underused farm buildings for redevelopment. The Council were urged to talk to St Edmundsbury's Planning Policy team if this was of interest. iv. Gypsy and Travellers Working Group - whilst the Borough follows the Suffolk protocol for unauthorised encampments it has issued pre-emptive injunctions on certain sites within the Borough. It was confirmed that the Borough is legally obliged to consider a place for the gypsy and travellers to over winterise. v. Accounts for 2012/2013 - it was confirmed that these had been signed off on the previous Thursday. The Borough had achieved its savings target to date of £2m and had balanced the books to tune of £9k allocated to the reserves. vi. Great Livermere - he was pleased to represent a very active parish which carried out its duties well. <p>4.0 <u>Bury Rural SNT Report:</u> Apologies had been received from PCSO Hollie Cogman who had produced a written report which mentioned that there had been 4 crimes of interest in the Parish since the last meeting: theft of motor vehicle; criminal damage to a motor vehicle; attempt of theft from a motor vehicle and theft from a motor vehicle - the first three had all occurred on the same night. Priorities for the SNT were to enforce speeding issues and update the parishes accordingly; pre-emptive patrols for hare coursing and active patrols to prevent burglary from dwellings and other buildings. The Council were made aware of the results of the speed enforcement patrols for September. It was noted that Great Livermere did not feature on this report as the SNT's policy was to prioritise those areas who had active speedwatch teams and to follow up the other areas on an as and when basis. Borough Cllr. Spicer made the meeting aware of the spate of thefts of expensive road bicycles.</p> <p>5.0 <u>Chairman's Welcome:</u> The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. There were no apologies applicable. <p>6.0 <u>Declarations of Interest:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interests for the agenda under discussion. ii. There were no requests for dispensation for the agenda under discussion. <p>7.0 <u>Minutes of the last meeting:</u> Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 14th May and additional meeting of 17th July 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman as true and accurate records.</p> <p>8.0 <u>Chairman's Report:</u> The Vice-Chairman confirmed that he had taken on the mantle of Chair and was grateful to the work that Mrs Storey had done whilst in office. She had managed to get a lot of people involved and had encouraged others to help out. He would endeavour to follow her example.</p> <p>9.0 <u>Clerk's Report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Finances stood at £16,409.55 as of October 1st 2013. Income in the sum of £132.43 as Recycling Credits and £60 as donations had been received and banked since the last meeting. Since the previous meeting the following cheques had been raised: AM Storey £77.50 cheque 342 (LGA 1972 s111 & s142); D Thrower £195.00 cheque 343 (Open Spaces Act 1906 s9&10) and SCC £230.00 cheque 344 (Open Spaces Act 1906 s9&10). ii. Payment of verified invoices was proposed by Cllr. Johnson and agreed by all: D Riggall £12.00 cheque 345 (Open Spaces Act 1908 s9&10); D Thrower £195.00 cheque 346 (Open Spaces Act 1908 s9&10); ICO £35.00 cheque 347 (Data Protection Act); V Waples £279.78 cheque 348 (LGA 16972 s112); HMRC £95.40 cheque 349 (Corp. Taxes Act 1988) & V Waples £123.42 cheque 350 (LGA 1972 s111). iii. To receive the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2013 - the audit, which had been concluded by the external auditors, was presented to Council and was approved and accepted by all. There were no issues arising from the audit. It was confirmed that 	Clerk
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- the return and notice of conclusion of audit had been displayed in a conspicuous place for 14 days.
- iv. Play Area Inspection Report 2013 - it was noted that there were a number of items that required attention on the Playing Field - none of which were of a serious nature. The report had indicated that, as the very minimum, the Parish Council should install information signs with emergency contact details at the entrance to the playground. The Clerk would obtain quotations for the work to be carried out for consideration at the next meeting.
 - v. Response to Bottle Bank Survey - the Parish Council had received 47 responses to the survey that had been carried out on the location of the bottle banks. Of the responses given 35 had indicated that they wished the bottles to remain in the same location; 12 had asked for them to be moved and 1 response was undecided. Of the 12 who had indicated that they wished them to be moved 4 had mentioned moving them to the Forge and 8 to the Village Hall. It was proposed and agreed by all present that, given the results of the survey, the Parish Council would leave the bottle banks where they were but would aim to ensure the area was kept neater and cleaner.
 - vi. Issues arising from the bottle bank survey - the following issues were brought to the Council's attention:
 - a. bird mess on the play equipment
 - b. request for 2 dog bins - 1 at footpath at The Birches and 1 by the Village Hall
 - c. Request for a bench on the circular walk around The Mere
 - d. Inappropriate speeds of tractors and farm vehicles within the village
 - e. Speeding along Troston Road and The Street
 - f. Update Bus Shelter and Noticeboard
 - g. Maintenance jobs in and around the village - use community payback scheme
 - h. Removal of feral chickens and cockerels and a cull of montjac
 - i. Relocate Village Sign opposite phonebox
 - j. Continue pavement along The Street
 - k. Unblock drains prior to winter
 - l. Trees overhanging the Street and impeding pedestrian esp. along Mere View
 - m. Trees on pavement at corner of Troston Road
 - n. Blocking of various residents driveways at Mere View
 - o. Ownership of Trees in front of 7 -12 Mere View and the blocking of the light and chaffing of the wires to the properties

It was agreed that the Clerk would provide the Parish Council with an update at the next meeting as to those items that could be dealt with by the Council.
 - vii. Clerk's response to items raised at the last meeting:
 - a. Area around bottle bank - as this was regarded as common land it was agreed that a working party would be established on an as and when basis to clear the and tidy the area. It was proposed and agreed by all present that, following the results of the bottle bank survey proposals to move the bottle banks would now be shelved.
 - b. Bus Shelter - the Clerk made the meeting aware that she had received communication that morning from SCC regarding a replacement bus shelter and the options open to the Parish Council. There was a budget for bus shelters and the Clerk was asked to work with SCC on costings and funding.
 - c. Seats on Playing Field - a message had been left with Mr Clarke accepting his quotation to carry out appropriate works to the benches.
 - d. Dead tree on Troston Road - this had been flagged up to Highways for appropriate attention.
 - viii. Precept for 2014/15 - Council were made aware of the Borough's intention to phase out both the Council Tax Support Grant and the Parish Revenue Support Grant over a four year period at a 25% reduction each year starting in 2014/2015. This would impact upon parishioners and Council were informed that once the tax base for the parish was known financial impacts could be ascertained and the Council could prepare its budget for the forthcoming year.

10.0	<p><u>Councillors' reports:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cllr. Johnson made the Clerk aware that the dead tree was still in the verge just up from The Birches. ii. Cllr. Johnson requested a Village Welcome Pack in preparation for new neighbours that would be soon moving in. 	
11.0	<p><u>Planning Issues:</u></p> <p>The Borough Council had informed the Parish Council of the following decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Planning permission for an infill extension to side elevation @ 7 Orchard Close, Great Livermere. ii. Planning Application: SE/13/0549/FULCA - provision of vehicular access onto The Street, for Livermere Lodge, Church Road, Great Livermere - it was believed that this application had been refused but as of yet no decision notice had been received by the Council. The Chairman confirmed that he had explained the Parish Council's reasoning behind why it recommended refusal to the applicant's sister. 	
12.00	<p><u>Correspondence:</u> the following items were brought to the Council's attention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. St Edmundsbury - Parish Council Conference on 22 October 2013 ii. SCC - Temporary Closure of The Street for highway maintenance. iii. Ixworth Free school - Statutory Consultation Factsheet on opening a Free School in Ixworth 	
13.00	<p><u>Closing Public Session:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Bus Shelter - when questioned as to why the Council was replacing the bus shelter it was confirmed that the repairs needed were not cost effective and that the perspex and frame was too far gone to replace. ii. Bulbs - it was agreed that the Council would not plant any further bulbs this year but wait and see which ones would re-grow. Photographs would be taken for evidence as to where further bulbs would be needed. <p>There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 26th November 2013 commencing at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.</p>	