

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF GREAT LIVERMERE PARISH COUNCIL  
held on 24th November 2015**

	<p>Members present: Councillor Hartley in the chair, Clay, Coates, Hudson and Johnson along with Borough Councillor Simon Brown, County Councillor Hopfensperger, Mrs. Waples (Clerk) and one member of the public.</p> <p>A statement was read out indicating that, in accordance with the changes in legislation, the public and councillors were permitted to film, record, photograph or use social media in order to report on the proceedings of the meeting. <i>A full transcript of the statement is available from the Clerk upon request.</i></p> <p>1.0 <u>Opening Public Session:</u> there were no comments to be brought before the Parish Council.</p> <p>2.0 <u>County Councillor's Report:</u> County Cllr. Hopfensperger was invited to submit her report in which she commented on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Edmundsbury were looking at handing back its street lights to SCC once it had funded a number of efficiency upgrades to the existing stock. Those lights on the Highways are currently within SCC's budgets.</li> <li>• Following the Chancellor's decisions on the Local Spending Review, which will not be known until 24th December, the Scrutiny Committee will be looking at making recommendations for the budget for 2016-17. it was expected that there will be a £3.8billion boost to the settlement figure to be ring-fenced for social care. The government is proposing giving Local Authorities the ability to raise the council tax by a possible 2% to ring fence costs involved in them taking on this service. It is expected that the grant for freezing council tax at principle authority level will be withdrawn.</li> <li>• Savings from public sector - it was widely believed that the government would be looking for 30% savings from the public sector and that there might even be a cap on reserves to be held by local authorities.</li> <li>• In light of the above it was anticipated that some front line services will be hit and that there would be no protected budgets.</li> <li>• Dementia Friendly Communities - she wished to bring this to the Council's attention and was informed that the Council was involved in a similar Good Neighbour Scheme involving Ingham and Great Livermere - Here to Help Scheme and might look to call upon her Locality Budget for financial assistance.</li> </ul> <p>3.0 <u>Borough Councillor's Report:</u> Borough Cllr. Brown was invited to submit his report in which he commented on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Company - such a company would be set up to speed up the building of more houses in Suffolk and in particular West Suffolk. This had been approved at full Council on 17th November and would result in a share split of 50% to SCC; 25% to St Edmundsbury and 25% to Forest Heath. Any profits obtained would be redistributed to the three partners according to the share base. Each zone would work on the land it owns first of all. Rationale behind this: more control; more profit; more likely to meet affordable housing targets; each masterplan has to be submitted as now; income generator. It was noted that this would not apply to the buy to let market.</li> <li>• SCC Devolution Bid with Norfolk - a joint devolution bid had been submitted to the Government on 4th November. Each County would preserve its own entity but would source a number of services jointly. IF the bid was approved early on there was a chance that the two counties could be at the forefront of this project and enjoy further funding to take this forward. Rationale behind this covered a significant change in the way public services are to be offered. Suffolk was also looking to share some services with Cambridgeshire. No decisions had been made as it was still at the strategic stage.</li> </ul> <p>4.0 <u>SaferNeighbourhood Team - Bury Rural North Report:</u> apologies and a written report had been received from the SNT. It was confirmed that the dedicated PCSO was 3314 McDaid and that there had been 2 crimes of interest since the last meeting: Burglary dwelling – 28/10/15 – Bury</p>
--	--

	<p>Road entry was gained to a secure detached property by jemmying a rear door, once inside the offender/s made an untidy search and stole cash from within; Burglary dwelling with intent – 28/10-29/10/15 – Bury Road, entry was gained to a secure detached property by smashing a rear window and an untidy search was made inside but nothing was stolen. The meeting was reminded that Christmas was a busy period, and in the run up to the big day, towns are bustling with shoppers buying festive gifts. The SNT advise people to take extra care when out and about, as it is easy to get distracted at this time of year. A number of reminders for keeping vehicles and buildings secure were passed onto the parish council along with guidelines for keeping safe whilst out shopping.</p>
5.0	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome:</u> The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. There were no applicable apologies of absence .</li> </ol>
6.0	<p><u>Declarations of Interest:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The following declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary were received: Cllr. Hudson under Agenda Item 12i. There were no further Disclosable Pecuniary and/or local non-Pecuniary Interests for the agenda under discussion. There were no declarations of gifts of hospitality exceeding £25.</li> <li>ii. There were no requests for dispensation for the agenda under discussion.</li> </ol>
7.0	<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting:</u> Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 13th October 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record, aif.</p>
8.0	<p><u>To fill, by co-option, the vacancies for the post of Councillor:</u> there were no persons coming forth to fill the vacancies.</p>
9.0	<p><u>Chairman's Communications:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Here to Help Network - the Chairman confirmed that progress was still being made on this project with a possible launch of January 2016. 5 volunteers had come forward and there had been support and enthusiasm from local organisations.</li> <li>ii. Verges in The Street - tractors were impacting on the verges given the size of those passing through the village.</li> <li>iii. Church Road - condition - it had been reported that this road was covered in mud and had not been cleaned for a considerable time. Discussion ensued as to whether the road had been adopted and the Clerk was asked to chase Highways for a sweeper to pass along the road.</li> </ol>
10.0	<p><u>Clerk's Report:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Council had been notified that income of £116.04 for Recycling Credits had been received since the last meeting.</li> <li>ii. Payment of verified invoices was proposed by Cllr. Hartley and agreed by all: a breakdown of which can be seen in the table at the end of the minutes.</li> <li>iii. Council's Finances stood at £15,901.21 as of 24 November 2015. Overall the actual expenditure against budgeted for the period to date was slightly under budget.</li> <li>iv. To consider donations under the LGA 1972 s137 - following a short explanation on the workings of S137 and the type of donations that can be made under this power, it was agreed that the Council would support a donation to St Nicholas Hospice, aif.</li> <li>v. To receive an update on works to the Car Parking Area in Mere View - the meeting was informed that no further updates had been received from Havebury over possible other funding sources that might be approached for this project. An indicative cost for such a project was in the region of between £15- £20K. It was suggested that perhaps the Parish Council should consider an application for funding from St Edmundsbury RIGS and the Community Chest Funds at Havebury. It was agreed that Borough Cllr. Brown would follow up the possibility of the Parish Council obtaining a fixed price and scoping the work required</li> </ol>

	<p>and approaching the various organisations for funding subject to indicative approval from Havebury.</p> <p>vi. To receive an update on the purchase of a mobile VAS to be shared with Troston Parish Council - Council was informed that County Cllr. Hopfensperger had confirmed that she was able to match fund the purchase of the VAS and that the Clerk had requested funding in the sum of £1000 being £500 each for Troston and Great Livermere with the balance being shared between each council (£900 each). The Clerk confirmed that the order had now been placed with Radarlux.</p> <p>vii. To receive an update from Highways on flooding issues on The Street - it was reported that the entire drainage system from the junction of Troston Road had been cleaned at the beginning of the month. A number of problems had been identified: the bottle banks had been placed on top of the manhole that needed to be cleaned and that between the Old Post Office and No 1 Mere View there appeared to be a collapsed section of pipe which would require further works than anticipated. The Clerk had agreed to action the moving of the bottle banks and Highways had agreed to source a more accurate date as to when the work under the second problem could be carried out. It had been confirmed that the rest of the drainage system had been cleaned and was working well so it was hoped that there should not be any serious flooding in the interim.</p> <p>viii. Transparency Code Funding - following explanation on the type of financial assistance upon which the Council could claim, it was agreed that the hours that the Clerk had spent on ensuring that the Council was compliant with the Transparency Code should be reclaimed. It was agreed that the Clerk would work out the number of hours worked/to be worked for the financial year and submit such a claim.</p> <p>ix. Budget for 2016-17 - Council reviewed the previously circulated budget for 2016/2017. It was noted that the proposed precept would, as in previous years cover the running costs of the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council was minded to balance its books and set a budget of £6278. Taking into account the Borough Grant, the LCTS Grant and other known sources of income, this would set a precept of £4320 which, given the movement in the tax base, would have a nil increase on a Band D Property. It was noted that the balance, around £1300 would be funded from reserves. This would be finalised at the meeting in January once the Council's Approved Tax Base was known and the outcome of the Local Government Spending Review.</p>
11.0	<p><u>Councillors' reports:</u> the following matters were brought to the Clerk's attention:</p> <p>i. Cllr. Johnson made mention that, following the report of overhanging branches from trees on the Playing Field, he had cleared ivy from only one of the trees on the Playing Field just to ensure that there was no permanent damage to the tree. He asked all to check and ensure that the work he had carried out was acceptable prior to continuing.</p> <p>ii. Cllr. Johnson also made a request for a hard bristle brush to ensure the algae was removed from items on the playing field and the Clerk agreed to source long cable ties to erect on the top of the swings to prevent birds roosting on the top bar.</p> <p>iii. Vegetation deposited on the entrance to the field by the Playing Field - the Clerk was asked to chase up Strutt and Parker Farms for a response as to whether they had actually sanctioned this or would find this acceptable.</p>
12.0	<p><u>Correspondence:</u></p> <p>i. A number of emails and general correspondence had been previously circulated to all Councillors.</p> <p>ii. SALC - LAIS 1383 - Cities and Local Government Devolution Bid - Council noted contents including responses from the LGA on such bids.</p> <p>iii. Gt Barton Parish Council - Neighbourhood Plan for Great Barton - a letter had been received indicating that the Parish Council was in the early stages of designating the area and that official information will be sent from St Edmundsbury's Planning Department shortly.</p> <p>iv. St Edmundsbury's Borough Council - press release 'Are you part of Suffolk's Clean Sweep' - Council noted the contents.</p>
13.00	<p><u>Planning Issues:</u> <i>Having previously declared a Local Pecuniary Interest Cllr. Hudson left the room</i></p>

14.00	<p><i>for the remainder of the meeting and took no part in the discussions or votes that followed:</i></p> <p>i. Planning Application: DC/15/2002/LB - Listed Building Consent - i) Roof- strip roof, remove existing battens and replace with new, add insulation membrane, replace retained/matching ne slates ii) chimney - dismantle chimney and reconstruct to 1.1m using retained and matching ne bricks iii) bridging beam - fit steel flitch plate to strengthen joint between bridging beam and w plate @ Church Close, Church Road. There were no objections to this application which Council agreed to support as appropriate works being proposed.</p> <p>ii. There were no determinations coming forth.</p> <p>There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed 9.05pm.</p> <p>The next Parish Council Meeting would be on 26 January 2016 commencing at 7.30pm in the Village Hall</p> <p>Financial Transactions as agreed to be paid (see Agenda Item 10ii).</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 703 1435 934"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Chq No</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Power</th> <th>Nett</th> <th>VAT</th> <th>Gross</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>24/11</td> <td>394</td> <td>V Waples</td> <td>Salary &amp; Expenses</td> <td>LGA 1972 s111 &amp; 112</td> <td>115.80</td> <td></td> <td>115.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/11</td> <td>395</td> <td>D Thrower</td> <td>Cutting of Churchyard Grass</td> <td>Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9&amp;10</td> <td>200.00</td> <td></td> <td>200.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Chq No	Payee	Description	Power	Nett	VAT	Gross	24/11	394	V Waples	Salary & Expenses	LGA 1972 s111 & 112	115.80		115.80	24/11	395	D Thrower	Cutting of Churchyard Grass	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9&10	200.00		200.00
Date	Chq No	Payee	Description	Power	Nett	VAT	Gross																		
24/11	394	V Waples	Salary & Expenses	LGA 1972 s111 & 112	115.80		115.80																		
24/11	395	D Thrower	Cutting of Churchyard Grass	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9&10	200.00		200.00																		