

GREAT LIVERMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Great Livermere Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 31st January 2017
7:30pm in Great Livermere Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: J Hartley, P Johnson, B Clay, J Coates & T Clark.

1. **Apologies for absence** Cllrs a Hudson, C. Cllr R Hopfensperger & B. Cllr S Brown

2. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

2.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None.

2.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests. None.

2.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act. None.

3 **Minutes** - Minutes of the 6th December 2016 meeting agreed and signed as a correct record.

Meeting Adjourned

4. **Meeting open to the public**

None present.

5. **Report of County Councillor:** R Hopfensperger

Cllr Hopfensperger was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report: The County Council budget went to Cabinet last week and was recommended to go to full council in February, the budget itself had £31.5m worth of savings, which still leaves a budget gap which will mean that we will need to draw on £8m of our reserves. There is a proposal to have 0% rise in general council tax and an increase from 2% to 3% for the national adult social care precept, this is in line with the government's announcement to allow councils to raise the amount of precept for adult social care to 3% in any one year and a total of 6% over the next three years. This will add an annual amount of £11 to the average band d property and will raise £8.5m which will go straight to adult social care frontline services.

Everything with regards to devolution has gone very quiet, it doesn't look like the government are moving very quickly to talk to us about any further devolution deals. What with the merger of Suffolk coastal and Waveney to make the largest district council in the country it looks likely that more collaboration between councils will be encouraged rather than formal devolution deals. One thing is for certain, there is no new money on the table for local government.

6.Report from B. Councillor: S Brown

Cllr Brown was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report:

Since the previous meeting, there has been a Full Council meeting. At this meeting, key salient outcomes:

- **Abbeycroft Leisure** - The council has agreed to continue its investment support of Abbeycroft Leisure services, which has expanded its growth beyond West Suffolk, e.g., Cambridge and Felixstowe. This is successfully helping it generate income to continue its drive towards reducing the financial support it receives from St Edmundsbury Borough Council. There is also the new Skyliner Sports Centre on Moreton Hall by the new school development (adjacent to the Flying Fortress Pub). It has been offering membership for £1 for 12 months. Limited offer on a 1st come basis. Please check asap online to join, but the offer is still there at the time of sending this email.
- **Barley Homes Group** - has been formally approved to commence its 5 year housing development plan, by Councillors. Mildenhall and Haverhill are the main beneficiaries in the first instance. Additional locations will be looked into in due course.
- **Independent Remuneration Panel** – presented their recommendations for Member (Councillor) Allowances and associated factors. This was rejected by Councillors and advised for it to be reviewed, as there were a number of elements within it across the party spectrum that were objected to.

Local Matter(s)

I've been contact with the Housing personnel on behalf of residents at Mere View, wishing to move to another property in the cul-de-sac. The residents are required to register their interest in the property and pending the relevance/scoring of their criteria, they will be notified as to whether they can move into the property. I have spoken on their behalf as much as I can. We now need to await the outcome of the process and decision, if this has not already been informed to them. Jackie may have an update to this.

7.Report from Police

The Clerk has circulated the latest newsletter to the Councillors.

Meeting reconvened

8.1 Chairman

8.1.1 Footpaths

The Chairman has cleared the leaves from the footpath along the side of The Street.

8.2 Clerk:

8.2.1 General Power of Competence.

It was agreed that more information, regarding the benefits to the Parish Council, needs to be sought before a decision can be made regarding the Power. **Action Clerk**

8.2.2 Procurement Contract. Adoption of document.

The Councillors discussed the document and suggested a couple of changes. The Clerk will action this and the document will be adopted. **Action Clerk**

8.2.3 Future Events, letter from Mayor, Bury St Edmundsbury.

Great Livermere's fun day is going to be held on September 3rd, from 1-4.

8.2.4 Beacon for WW1

The Clerk will find out some more details. It was agreed that Gt Livermere would not have their own beacon but would be happy to join the celebrations at Troston.

9 Finance.

9.1 Payments The following payments were approved and the cheques signed by two signatories.

9.1.1 V Gay, Clerks wages for Dec/Jan	000428	£301.74
9.1.2 HMR&C Tax	000429	£75.60
9.1.3 V Gay, expenses	000430	£13.52

9.2 Transparency Code fund

The application to the Transparency Code fund was approved and the Clerk will be submitted by the Clerk. **Action Clerk**

9.3 Budget, to confirm budget 2017/18

Following discussion, it was agreed to precept for £4930 as to carry on using reserves to top up the expenditure is not sustainable in the long run. This is an increase of £200 on last year's amount and represents a 12.64% / £7.22 pa, increase on last year. This seems like a large amount but, due to the fact that we are no longer receiving a grant (to subsidise the amount received in precept) if we had no increase on last year there would still be an 8.07% / £4.61pa increase in the precept. The Clerk will submit the relevant paperwork to St Edmundsbury Borough Council. **Action Clerk**

9.4 Banking arrangements

The Clerk had some more forms for the Councillors to sign. She will send them off to Barclays for action. **Action Clerk**

10. Bus Shelter New noticeboards

There are some problems regarding the fixing of a board to the existing bus shelter structure. The Clerk is working on this and is hopeful a solution will be found soon.

Action Clerk

11. Welcome Pack. Update from Cllr Coates

Cllr Coates has worked hard to produce a new draft welcome pack. This will be sent to all the councillors for them to look at and add to as required. New photos would be welcomed.

Action All

12. Highway/village matters

C648 The Street, Great Livermere – From Livermere Road to Troston Road will be closed for carriageway repairs and drainage improvement from 06/03/2017 to 10/03/2017 (07:30-16:30hrs) - and return to site for associated works between May and July 2017. The alternative route will be Livermere Road, Green Lane, Honington Road, The Street, Livermere Road, Troston Road and vice versa. Concerns were raised regarding access for residents who live in that area as in the past they had to use to alternative route. The Clerk will enquire about this.

Action clerk

13. Village Hall

The kitchen is now finished and this is in part due to the generous contributions from SEBC, via Simon Brown and SCC via Becky Hopfensperger. The village hall committee is very grateful to them. A list of events has been agreed for the year ahead. The fun day is one of the main events planned but the auction is still going strong and a recent Burns evening was a great success. A new storage shed has been purchased.

14. Play Area 14.1 Update from Cllr Johnson.

Cllr Johnson had no report to make this month.

15. Planning Matters None received.

16. Councillors reports and items for future agendas.

The Chairman reported that the meeting to discuss flooding is yet to happen but we are on standby to provide local information if it is needed.

It was noted that the bus shelter could do with a clean. Cllr Coates will ask a local window cleaner for a quote. It would probably need to be done 3 times a year. **Action Cllr Coates**

Cllr Johnson and another resident, is trying to get the path, opposite the Village Hall, cleared with another resident.

It was agreed that a litter pick should be held. The clerk will liaise with the Councillors and Matthew Elliston outside of the meeting to arrange a date and organise the equipment.

Action Clerk

17. Correspondence for information

17.1 SALC, local Councillor. Circulated.

17.2 West Suffolk Home assistance grants. Circulated.

18. Date for next meetings: 28th March 2017 and then the AGM on 9th May 2017

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

19.1 Personnel Issues. None

19.2 Legal Issues. None