

GREAT LIVERMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Great Livermere Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 24th January 2018
7:30pm in Great Livermere Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: A Hudson, J Hartley, P Johnson, B Clay & B. Cllr S Brown

1. Apologies for absence Cllr J Coates

2. Co-option of new Councillor

There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council. Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should contact the Clerk at Greatlivermerepc@hotmail.com

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 28th November 2017 meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record.

Meeting Adjourned

5. Meeting open to the public

None present.

6. Report from County Councillor: R Hopfensperger

Cllr Hopfensperger was unable to attend the meeting but sent a copy of the SCC monthly newsletter, below.

Suffolk school travel consultation launched

Suffolk County Council has called for unity in efforts to find a long-term solution to providing affordable home to school transport as a major public consultation gets underway.

People who give their views as part of a consultation on the future of school travel in Suffolk will be listened to carefully and have the opportunity to influence the final outcome, the council has said. The two and half month consultation, which starts today (Tuesday 12 December), invites people to help the council shape the future of school and post-16 travel policies.

Suffolk County Council has already listened to headteachers and included additional options in the consultation document. The pledge today is to do more of the same as the authority seeks help to find a long-term solution to the funding issues facing home to school transport.

In Suffolk, £21 million of taxpayers' money is spent per year getting children to and from school.

Suffolk County Council has already introduced a number of efficiency changes to the service saving around £2.6 million.

Now, like many other councils across the country, the authority needs to consider making more significant changes. It is therefore consulting on changing its school and post-16 travel policies so the service can be affordable, sustainable, and capable of meeting growing demand in the future. The council's current school and post-16 travel policies go above legal requirements, which means around 2400 children and young people receive free/subsidised school or post-16 travel that Suffolk County Council is not legally required to provide and that they wouldn't get in many other parts of the country. In addition, around 2400 children receive free travel to schools further away than legally required to provide. The proposed consultation seeks views on changing these policies and includes three alternative options, pre-and post-16.

Option 1: In September 2019, change the school travel policy so that it is in line with the legal requirements. This would mean implementing all the changes in one go, including ceasing free travel to the transport priority area schools where it is not the pupils' nearest.

Option 2: From September 2019, introduce the changes year by year as a child joins or moves school so that it is in line with legal requirements. This means that we would introduce all the changes on a phased basis. This option would cost Suffolk County Council an estimated £8.8 million to implement.

Option 3: Make no changes to the school travel policy but make savings from other services provided by Suffolk County Council.

Suffolk County Council is also asking for feedback on several other matters, including using Rights of Way as part of the way distance to a school is measured and a range of local solutions, such as Local collection hubs and opt-in to travel, which we have developed with a range of schools.

Further details on these options can be found on the consultation website:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel (link to go live at 5.00pm)

Suffolk is chosen as one of only 10 pilot areas to retain 100% of business rates

The amount of money allocated to each Local Authority in England for the next financial year was announced today by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid.

As part of the announcement, Suffolk County Council has been named as one of the pilot areas for a new Government scheme to retain 100% of business rates from Council Tax in 2018/19.

In future, Business Rates will be an even greater income stream for all local authorities and this is an opportunity for Suffolk to influence how it will operate in a two-tier system.

Until more information is released from the Department for communities and Local Government it is not possible to say exactly how much additional income this could generate into the Suffolk system.

Fully funded first-time central heating systems for Suffolk residents

Suffolk's local authorities are now able to provide fully funded central heating systems* to 514 fuel poor households across Suffolk over the next three years. Around 4 million UK households are in fuel poverty, unable to affordably heat their home to the temperature needed to stay warm and healthy. As well as being on low incomes many of these households are also faced with the additional burden of relying on heating systems that are inefficient and expensive to run.

The local authorities working together as the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership have been successful in securing funding from the first round of the Warm Homes Fund for a project worth £4.3 million.

The Suffolk project is being managed by the County Council, administered by Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People based at Suffolk Coastal District Council and supported with further funding from Babergh, Mid-Suffolk, Forest Heath and Waveney District Councils plus Ipswich and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils. Alongside the first-time heating system, households will also be able to benefit from new insulation measures to make the homes more energy efficient as well as grants from the Suffolk Community Foundation's 'Surviving Winter Appeal' where eligible.

The new £150m fund was established by National Grid using part of the proceeds from the sale of the company's majority stake in its gas distribution business. It will fund the installation of affordable heating solutions in fuel poor households which don't use mains gas as their primary source of heat.

*subject to survey and conditions

High Needs Funding Consultation

On Wednesday 13th December 2017, Suffolk County Council is launched a consultation, to reform the way in which education providers are funded for delivering high needs support to children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities.

The proposal is to establish a fairer, more transparent and easily understood set of high needs funding policies. Funding is not being reduced, the consultation is to determine the fairest way to use the budget we have.

The proposals have been drawn up working with the Schools' Forum High Needs Funding Group.

The Group which has members from across a range of providers, have worked hard over the last six months, to ensure that the proposals put forward acknowledge and respond to the needs of providers.

To find out more about the proposals and consultation please go to:
www.suffolk.gov.uk/highneedsfunding.

The consultation will run from 13th December 2017 to 9th February 2018. Invitations for 1:1 meetings will be offered to those providers who have specialist provision.

If you have any queries, then please email highneedsfunding@suffolk.gov.uk.

7. Report from B. Councillor: S. Brown

West Suffolk Electoral Review - local considerations

Following the anticipated joining of Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils there will be a need for a new district level warding structure for West Suffolk. Ahead of this the informal view of Parishes are being sought and at this point they would like to know the local considerations that could influence how parishes are grouped together. Great Livermere feel that it is important to maintain the current ward arrangements as we have close association with our neighbouring parishes and feel it is important to retain these. Cllr Brown reported that the Bury Masterplan has been approved.

Action Clerk

8.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman feels it would be beneficial to have details of the utility networks in the village. The Clerk will contact Anglian Water, UK Power Network and BT and ask them to provide us with the details.

Action Clerk

The Chairman suggested that the Village Hall Committee should speak to Fit Villages about promoting activities in the village Hall. The Clerk will pass the Fit Villages contact details on to Cllr Bob Clay.

Action Clerk

8.2 Clerk:

8.2.1 Training, Onesuffolk website training

Onesuffolk are making changes to the website. The Clerk is going to attend some free training, so she is better able to administer the site.

Action Clerk

8.2.2 Defribulator, possible purchase for the village.

The Clerk is looking in to the possibility of purchasing a defribulator for the village. It would appear that the whole cost could be funded by the National Lottery. The Parish Council agreed that a questionnaire should be sent out to the residents to see if they feel that we would benefit from having a defribulator in the village. At the same time questions about fit villages, play equipment, an emergency plan and an oil syndicate will be included. The Clerk will prepare a questionnaire to this end and circulate it for approval. Any other ideas to be included should be forwarded to the Clerk.

Action Clerk

8.2.3 Emergency plan for Gt Livermere

The Clerk enquired if the Parish Council has an emergency plan. See above.

8.2.4 Possible Oil syndicate for the village.

The Clerk has been approached about the possibility of starting an oil syndicate in the village. See above.

8.2.5 Woodland Trust, Ancient tree audit

The Clerk asked if the Parish Council would like to be involved in the Woodland Trusts Ancient Tree Inventory. The Ancient Tree Inventory is a living database of ancient and special trees. More than 110,000 trees have been recorded by volunteers and partners. Old trees are not automatically 'protected' and can therefore be cut or felled by an owner at any time. If identified and considered to be at risk the tree could be given a TPO. The Councillors are keen to pursue this idea, but we need to know which trees are already protected either by virtue of being in a conservation area or by a TPO. The Clerk will look into this.

Action Clerk

8.2.6 West Suffolk Electoral Review - local considerations

See under Cllr Brown's report.

9. Finance. The following accounts were approved and signed by two signatories

Admin, including bench, play area and war memorial works	£512.12
SEBC, Grass cutting	£1081.12
SALC, training	£14.00
CAS, website	£60.00

9.2 Budget, to consider budget for 2018/19

Following discussion, it was agreed to precept for £5259. The increase is in part to help cover the costs of being compliant with the updated data protection law, which comes into force in May 2018.

9.3 Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk provided an up to date bank reconciliation.

10. Bus Shelter

The bus shelter has been cleaned and is looking good.

11. Footpath/Footpath leaflet

The Chairman at Troston has been unwell. He is hoping to pick the leaflet project up again in the spring.

12. Welcome Pack. Update from Cllr Hartley

This is still a work in progress.

13. Highway/village matters

Following a request, it was agreed that the Good Neighbour Scheme contact information should be included on the website.

Action Clerk

Works to bench, war memorial chains and play area

The bench has been repaired and is going to be painted. The chains have been refurbished but it was agreed that they need further work. The Clerk will contact the contractor and arrange a site visit to discuss the matter further. Cllr Hartley would be happy to attend. **Action Cllr Hartley/Clerk**

Roadworks.org

Roadworks.org is the new way SCC are notifying us of road closures and road works. The system often provides information after the event.

14. Village Hall

The notice regarding Non-domestic rates has been sent to the Clerk. She has passed this on to the village hall and asked that they arrange for the contact address to be updated.

The Clerk provided the village hall with some information regarding the new data protection laws.

15 Play Area to include: 15.1 Update from Cllr Johnson.

It was considered unnecessary to replace an item of equipment at the moment as we have been able to arrange a repair. The Clerk will see if there is any open spaces money available for future projects.

Action Clerk

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

9 Orchard Close Great Livermere Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 1JN

Proposal: Householder Prior Approval - Single storey rear extension which extends beyond the rear wall of the original house by 5.67 metres with a maximum height of 4 metres and a height of 2.53 metres to the eaves.

The Clerk will look in to the criteria for lawful development and we are unsure of the current laws.

Action Clerk

17. Councillors reports and items for future agendas.

Cllr Hudson provided some census information which may be useful for future use.

There are a number of issues in the village that need addressing, the wall in Bury Road is in a poor state of repair and the trees on the corner of the The Street and Troston road are becoming quite over grown. The Clerk will try to arrange a meeting with Ben Turner, as it is understood there is a 10-year plan for the village, and it would be helpful to have sight of this.

Action Clerk

We would like the VAS returned to Cllr Hudson's house, so we can put it up in the village.

Action Clerk

Church Road is in a very poor condition. The Clerk will contact SCC about resurfacing.

Action Clerk

Cllr Johnson cleared some footpaths before Christmas. There is a problem of ivy growing over the path outside The Old Rectory. Cllr Johnson is willing to clear the ivy but needs somewhere to leave the arising. The Clerk will write to the home owners to ask if they can either clear the ivy themselves or give Cllr Johnson permission to leave the arising on their bank.

Action Clerk

Cllr Hartley attempted to clear the path at The Paddock but experienced problems disposing of he arisings. He will return at a later date, with a trailer, to address the problem.

Action Cllr Hartley

18. Data Protection Act To discuss future arrangements to comply with new Data Protection laws.

Following advice, the Clerk can be appointed as DPO. The Clerk would like however to have the first year under the umbrella of an expert before taking over. LCPAS can provide the service and back up for an annual cost of £300. The Clerk has asked for a deal on this and they are willing to cover all 3 of her parishes for £700, with Gt Livermere being liable for £200. The Clerk has already begun putting in place procedures ahead of the May adoption date. Finance details in the minutes will change. She will be preparing templates for adoption and looking at IT security measures. A full audit will need to be undertaken, this will likely be time consuming and necessitate some additional hours.

19. Litter pick to confirm litter pick details for 2018

A date of 10th March was agreed for the next litter pick. The plan is to meet at 10:30 at the war memorial. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

Action Clerk

20. Correspondence for information

20.1 SALC, Local Councillors and change of CEO. Circulated

20.2 HMRC, changes to VAT arrangements. Noted.

20.3 Confirmation that the government intends to defer the setting of referendum principles for town and parish councils for three years. Noted

20.4 West Suffolk- Strategic Plan document. Noted.

21. Date for next meetings: 27th March 2018 and then AGM 22 May 2018

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

22.1 Personnel Issues. To discuss option of Clerk's pension.

It was agreed further information was required. The Clerk will provide this.

22.2 Legal Issues.