

Great & Little Whelnetham Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Monday 12 July at 7.30pm at the Community Centre (outside). Risk assessment undertaken to comply with Covid 19 guidance.

Present

Cllr Peter Royce, Chairman, PR

Cllr Howard Singh, HS

Cllr Tim Webber, TW

Clerk, Elaine Gorman, EG

3 members of the public

County Councillor Karen Soons, KS

1. **OPENING** – The Chairman declared the meeting open explaining that a risk assessment had been undertaken to ensure reasonable measures were taken to limit the transmission of Covid 19 in accordance with guidance from the National Assoc of Local Councils.
2. **APOLOGIES** – noted and accepted.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND LOCAL NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS** – none declared.
4. **MINUTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATED 14 JUNE 2021.** The minutes were approved and signed by PR as a true and accurate record, proposed by TW and seconded by HS.
5. **PUBLIC FORUM**
 - Chairman’s report – circulated prior to meeting. PR explained the difficulties re grass cutting and suggestion that alternative contractors be sourced to carry out the grass cutting. TW to let EG know details of possible replacement contractors. Also, as yet, no date set for flooding prevention work in the village to commence.
 - A member of the public reported that there had been some issues regarding fly tipping in the village and there had been a problem with people trying to set light to the playing field during the night. PR suggested EG notify WSC and Havebury of events.
 - Phillip Bowcher gave update on the work he is undertaking on the trees/hedgerow bordering the playing field between the Community Centre and the land he manages. The trees will be cut by a third which will improve growth and increase the wildlife. Work will start this coming winter. Cllrs unanimously approved the work and thanked him for attending. A tree surgeon will visit the area just off the playing field to assess tree which is overhanging property bordering the field and assess if anything can be done about another resident query re overhanging branches in their garden.
 - A member of the public asked the parish council about their stance on any further housing development in the village. PR explained That the Rural Vision 2031 identified that the village could support only limited development, and that the original limitation for the number of houses had already been exceeded. None of the new social houses had a preference set for accommodation by local residents, and indeed as the older residents of the village, who resided in the former Erskine Lodge, had been ‘evicted’ out of the village as Erskine Lodge was demolished to make way for the new development, the community of the village had been considerably disrupted contrary to intent of the Localism Act 2011. If any new development was to be considered, then it should done with a view to the provision of homes for older parishioners with friends and family in the Parish as well as homes that are affordable for young people who want to remain in the village, as the majority of the developments currently being built could not only be viewed as speculative but also too expensive for the local community. In conclusion in his opinion any new development of any number of houses could be met with understandable opposition in light of previous recent experience.
 - Clerk’s report circulated prior to meeting.

- Cllr KS joined meeting. Her monthly report had been circulated prior to meeting. KS reported in respect of flooding issues that improvements were to be made but as yet no date arranged. PR noted that road chippings being lifted from the road make the problem worse as drains fill and become blocked. A member of the public raised the issue of parking on Stanningfield Rd. PR explained the issue is now with Highways to decide how they wish to proceed. EG to copy in KS in email to Highways to confirm £1500 contribution from Locality Budget towards consultation. KS left meeting.

6. PLANNING

- a) To consider the following planning applications, DC/21/1258/HH a) single storey side extension; b) two bay garage outbuilding with garden store and basement, The Hall, Lt Whelnetham Rd, Gt Whelnetham, IP30 0DA, details emailed prior to meeting. Council unanimously agreed to support this proposal.
- b) DC/21/1324/FUL change of use of agricultural land for a dog walking field/playground, Skippers Farm, Cocks Green Lane, Gt Whelnetham, IP30 OUE, details circulated prior to meeting. The purpose is solely for dog walking and exercise. There will be no development on this site just dog jumps and weaving poles. There are no plans for residential, no flood lights and no playground. Council unanimously agreed to support this proposal.
- c) DC/21/1379/TCA, consultation on trees in a conservation area, Beech Cottage, Sudbury Rd, Sicklesmere, IP30 OTJ, details circulated prior to meeting. Council unanimously agreed to object to this proposal.
- d) DC/21/1343/HH householder planning application a) two storey side and rear extension b) single storey rear extension (incorporating rear balcony), 3 Brick Kiln Cottages, Bury Rd, Sicklesmere, IP30 OBS, details circulated prior to meeting. Council unanimously agreed to support this proposal.

7. FINANCE

- a) Payments since last meeting and bank reconciliation, the following payments were approved:

Detail	Cheque No	Net (of VAT)	VAT	Total
WSC Flail R/Walk May	838	96.80	19.36	116.16
E Gorman Exps	839	61.32		61.32
Total		158.12	19.36	177.48

- b) To approve bi-monthly statement for 14/06/21 – 12/07/21, and cheques to be issued. Circulated prior to meeting. Proposed by HS, seconded by TW.

8. UPDATES

- a) Website – PR reported that the Council now has a new website. PR and EG will undertake some training soon.
 - b) Deed of Dedication – PR reported EG is registering the playing field with Land Registry and once title documents have been received an application to Fields in Trust will be made.
9. **RAILWAY WALK** – a property bordering the walk has built steps down on the bank from their property. PR advised EG to write to owners requesting they be removed as permission not granted to access parish council owned land. The Railway Walk conservation to be scheduled for Sept meeting.
10. **ADULT GYM EQUIPMENT** – 3 ideas were forthcoming. 1) To have a swing and basket for children with disabilities to be able to access in the current children's play area and a wheelchair accessible roundabout. 2) To have adult gym equipment including a stepper,

cross trainer, pushbike, dip bars and pull up bar at the far end of the playing field next to the children's play area but not under the trees. 3) For children aged 7- 15 years old a metal caged area with goals and basketball. Also, a table tennis table and picnic tables. Plan is have grass matting and ideally metal fencing. One quote had been provided and other quotes are yet to be received. EG agreed to price up the suggested items from the information she has from the company Kompan. Long term maintenance needs to be considered in the form of what it is and how much it will cost. Agreed a proposal will be drawn up for September's meeting to go to consultation.

11. **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING** – Railway Walk conservation
12. **CLOSE OF MEETING** 9.20pm.
13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Monday 13 September at 7.30pm

Signed Chairman.....Date.....