

**GREAT CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of **GREAT CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL**

held at The Stevenson Centre at 7:10pm on Monday 13th February 2023

**PRESENT** Councillors Mr A C Bavington **Chairman**

 Mrs C J Baker Mrs M Bark Mrs S Bowman Mr K Graham Mr M D Newman Mr S M Sheridan Mr T M Welsh Mrs T E A Welsh Mrs P White Mrs J Wilson Mr C G Wright

Council Manager Mrs N Tamlyn

Council Administrator Miss E Skuce

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor D Young.

Councillor Keane did not attend the meeting.

1. **CHAIRMAN’S ADDRESS**

**NONE**

1. **To consider Declarations of Interests and Councillor Requests for Dispensations relating to items on the Agenda**

Councillor Bavington declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matter relating to Thomas Gainsborough School as he volunteers at the School and a family member is employed by the Trust.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

**NONE**

1. **To confirm the Minutes of the FULL COUNCIL Meeting held on monday 23rd January 2023**

**AGREED** that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 23rd January 2023 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**6.** **POLICE MATTERS**

**NONE**

The Council Manager advised that there have been reports of motorbikes using Shawlands Wood LNR, the Police have put up signs but these have been removed. Mrs Tamlyn will speak to the Police about better, more robust signage. **NOTED**

**7.** **TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS**

County Councillor Beer reported that he had recently met with Suffolk County Council Officers in Great Cornard regarding the new bus stop on Shawlands Avenue and had introduced the Council Manager to one of the Highways Officers.

Councillor Beer had attended the SCC budget meeting to discuss the increase in precept. An increase of 1.9% plus 2% for adult care levy was agreed. The Police and Crime Panel agreed an increase of 6% although Councillor Beer had voted against this. At least 2% was requested to increase IT support for young people to make it easier for them to contact Police with videos of crimes etc which would be acceptable to Courts.

There are not expected to be any facts and figures on levelling up before the local elections.

District Councillor Barrett reported that the Babergh District Council budget meeting is due to be held on 20th February 2023. BDC Cabinet is proposing an increase of 2.99%, equivalent to £5.05, and is the maximum amount they can request.

There is no sign in the Budget that parking charges will be introduced in Sudbury and as this is an election year the feeling is that it is unlikely to happen in the next year.

A feasibility study on moving the dustbin lorries from the former Delphi site to a depot in Mid Suffolk is in hand. Councillor Barrett expressed his concern that this was another erosion of Babergh District Council’s identity.

1. **TO CONSIDER ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – FOR NOTING**

The Items Brought Forward list was **NOTED.**

1. **DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**
2. **Confirmation and adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on**

**23rd January 2023**

**AGREED** that the Minutes of the Development and Planning meeting held on Monday 23rd January 2023 are confirmed as a correct record.

1. **Questions to Committee Chairman**

**NONE**

1. **FIFTEEN MINUTES FOR THE PUBLIC TO ASK QUESTIONS**

**At 7:25pm the Council invited electors of Great Cornard Parish Council to put questions to the Council.**

A Member of the Public explained that he has lived in Great Cornard for 40 years and has seen the erosion of local facilities in recent times. The village is looking generally untidy due to the lack of grass cutting and litter picking. On approaching the Parish Council about the lack of services he has been advised that the responsibility for these matters lies with Babergh District Council or Suffolk County Council. When speaking to BDC or SCC about the matters he feels that no one takes responsibility. An example is the hedge planted between Nursery Road and the tennis courts at the school which is now over 25 feet tall. When reported to SCC they felt this was acceptable even though householders have had to cut down parts of the hedge in order to gain satellite signal. The Member of the Public feels that the Parish Council should do more to ensure that Great Cornard receives the services it is due.

The Chairman explained the three tier system that exists with different Councils being responsible for different areas in the village and that the Parish Council does not have more clout and that the staff report any matters that are passed on to them by residents. The Chairman invited Babergh District Councillor Barrett and District and County Councillor Beer to speak.

Councillor Beer advised that grass cutting is now only completed four times a year, in the past it was every four weeks. As a Councillor he often challenges the decisions of the SCC Officers.

Councillor Barrett advised that the three tier system is a problem. Public Realm has been outsourced for some time but has now been brought back inhouse but this does not seem to have improved matters. BDC’s depot is based in Creeting which means staff and machinery have to be brought in from there. The large road sweeper which is based in Sudbury has not been available for some time as the HGV driver has been off sick.

The Chairman advised the Member of the Public to continue to report problems to the Council Manager who will ensure the relevant Council is notified.

**At 7:25pm the business of the meeting resumed.**

1. **TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE RESURFACING OF THE ALLOTMENT CAR PARK**

The Council Manager confirmed that the resurfacing of the car park is now complete and a profile of photographs taken during the works is being compiled. Once the invoice has been received from the contractor the Parish Council will be in a position to request CIL funding from Babergh District Council.

Councillor Newman advised he has received positive feedback from allotment holders except for an issue with the path linking the car park to the Country Park, the material used is sticking to shoes/boots and being carried onto the new surface and, in some cases, into cars and homes.

Councillor Wright expressed concerns about the run off in one of the corners which may cause puddling in the car park.

The Council Manager to speak to the contractors about the path and the run off before payment is made.

The Chairman thanked the District Councillors for their assistance in securing funding for the resurfacing work.

1. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**
2. **To approve the latest list of payments (Appendix A)**

Members reviewed and **NOTED** the latest list of payments.

**Meeting closed at 7:42pm**

**Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Chairman Cllr T J Keane**

**APPENDIX A**

**Summary of Income and Payments for**

**Great Cornard Parish Council up to 13th February 2023**

