

**Minutes of the meeting of Great Bealings Parish Council held on
Monday 11th November 2024 at 6.30pm at the Bealings Village Hall**

Present: Sue Prentice (Chairman) (SP), Colin Hedgley (CH), John Carter-Jonas (JCJ), Regan Scott (RS) Trevor Harris (TH), Rachel Lamb (RL), Caroline Saunders (CS)

In attendance: Mrs Dee Knights (DPK) - Clerk to the Council, Elaine Bryce (EB) – Suffolk County Councillor, plus one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence – None

2. Declarations of Interest

NRI, District Cllr – CH.

3. Declarations of Lobbying and Responses to Lobbying

None

4. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 4th September and 14th October 2024

The minutes were approved and signed.

5. Clerk/Councillor Updates not on agenda – None

6. Public Participation Session – none

Agenda Item 11 was discussed at this point and is reported further in these minutes

7. Reports by:

(i) **County Councillor Elaine Bryce** - a report has been circulated to Cllrs, and a full copy is attached to the minutes on the website. EB verbally reported that SCC have raised concerns about the Government's new housing targets and have stated that infrastructure must come first. SCC have launched a pothole prevention programme and recent trials of equipment have proved successful. She announced that SCC will offer interest free loans to residents to help with warmer homes, and also that it is SCC's intention to provide extra funding for flood prevention work – 96% of drainage gullies have already been cleared.

(ii) **District Councillor Colin Hedgley**

A report has been circulated to Cllrs and a full copy is attached to the minutes on the website. CH verbally reported on the ESC new recycling scheme which will require each property to have five bins. He warned that the traffic generated by the proposed gravel pit at Westerfield will have a detrimental effect on surrounding villages, and the PC must comment on the full application when this is submitted. ESC's Community Help Hub has put together for residents an information pack on Pension Credit.

8. Planning Applications:

- (i) **DC/24/3733/FUL – The Homestead, Boot Street** – Single storey side extension
After the applicant had outlined details of the proposed extension, Cllrs **RESOLVED** unanimously to support the application
- (ii) No other applications
- (iii) **Decision updates** – DC/24/3105/FUL re Aberfeldy has been permitted by ESC

9. Other Planning Matters:

- (i) **Review of Neighbourhood Plan** – no progress from ESC
- (ii) **Other Matters** – none

10. Consultation on holding remote meetings

Cllrs were all in favour of the ability to hold remote meetings. The Clerk will complete the survey on behalf of the PC.

11. Highways and Footpaths

- (i) **SAVID/SID** – JCJ advised that the SID at the junction of Grundisburgh Rd and Boot St is not working, CH will report this.
- (ii) **Grit Bin** – further investigation has revealed that there is not a suitable location to site a grit bin at the bottom of Lower Street.
- (iii) **SCC Flooding and Drainage Forum** - this was attended by a representative from the Bealings Community CIC Flood Group who has submitted a report. The PC noted the steps that the CIC are taking regarding the remodelling of the flood plain.
- (iv) **Other Highways matters** – a resident has raised the issue of speeding along the residential part of Boot St. This has been raised before and it has been ascertained that there is not a suitable place in that area to install a SID. CH mentioned the Speedwatch programme which had to be discontinued due to lack of volunteers to operate it. SP reported that the wall outside Annesley Hall has been damaged again. A request was put in to EB two years ago for the road by the wall to be whitelined – she will investigate this with SCC Highways.
- (v) **Footpaths** – nothing to report

12. Environmental Issues

- (i) **Trees** – nothing to report
- (ii) **Other matters** – JCJ has installed the depth gauge in the River Lark near the Lodge Road bridge.

13. Finance and Admin:

- (i) **NJC Pay Award** – Cllrs agreed to implement the recent national salary award for 2024/25 in respect of the Clerk's salary
- (ii) **Gov.uk Domain and new Website**
A preview of the proposed new website was commented on favourably by Cllrs. The domain name has been registered and the Clerk and Cllrs will all have new .gov.uk email addresses. CH has applied for a grant of £250 from his Enabling Communities Budget towards the cost. It was agreed that the current gmail addresses should be retained on record for at least a year. Cllrs agreed that the future updating and maintenance of the website should be outsourced to Suffolk Cloud. It is proposed to “go live” with the new details w.e.f 1st January.
- (iii) **Authorisation of payments** – The following payments were authorised; proposed by SP and seconded by CS:

Chq No	Payee	Description	Amount £
-	Mrs D P Knights	Office Expenses	16.60
-	Mrs D P Knights (dated 28.11.24)	November salary and back pay	401.62
-	HMRC (dated 06.12.24)	November PAYE	100.35
-	Mrs D P Knights (dated 28.12.24)	December salary	317.53
-	HMRC (dated 06.01.25)	December PAYE	79.30
-	ROPETH	Hire of Angela Cobbold Hall	32.50
-	Suffolk Cloud	New Website and Domain	520.00
-	Suffolk Cloud	Updating of website for one year	120.00

(iv) Mobile Phone:

The Clerk had made some preliminary enquiries about prospective costs of a suitable phone. It was debated whether this was the best way forward for emergency alerts, news etc. RL volunteered to do some research into this and investigate costs.

(v) Draft Budget 2025/26

The Clerk had circulated a draft budget which showed a shortfall of income over proposed expenditure of £600 if the precept remains the same, as well as the transfer to reserves. A final budget will be decided in January.

(vi) Provisional Precept Discussion

The Clerk has circulated the council tax base figures supplied by ESC, together with some calculations showing the effect of various increases in the precept. A final decision will be made at the January meeting.

(vii) Other Finance and Admin matters

- (a) The Bank Reconciliation was approved and signed
- (b) TH asked about the ring fenced amount outstanding for the Parish Planters Fund. It was agreed that this needs spending, CS volunteered to investigate some areas to spend the balance which will enhance the appearance of the village.

14. Correspondence – none

15. Date of meetings for 2025:

- Monday 13th January
- Monday 3rd March
- Wednesday 21st May – Annual Meetings
- Monday 14th July
- Monday 1st September
- Monday 10th November

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed.....
Chairman