

Meeting Minutes of Great Melton Parish Council

Monday 13 February 2023 at 7.30 pm held at Barford Village Hall

Parish Councillors present: Rob Richardson (Chairman), Bruce Fleming (Vice-Chairman), Mary Barnard, Peter Markham, Liesl Richardson and Ian Sears. Also present: Luisa Cantera (Parish Clerk) and Margaret Dewsbury (District and County Councillor) and 1 member of the public.

The Council met at Barford Village Hall due to maintenance work at Great Melton Village Hall.

The Chairman asked those present to acknowledge the lives of significant parishioners: Phyllis Curson, who had been a parish councillor for many years, and Geoff Dunn and David Minter, all of whom made significant contributions to the village.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Michelle Collins.

2 Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2022

The minutes of the meeting were approved without amendment and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave a verbal report. She was asked to provide dates of council meetings in the parish magazine.

5 Open forum for public participation

A member of the public raised questions concerning the condition of particular trees in the village. The Clerk was asked to contact the District Council to ask if they think a tree preservation order is appropriate for an oak tree.

6 Updates from councillors

Cllr Fleming attended the February Town and Parish Council Forum. Topics discussed were a shared prosperity fund; the greater Norwich growth investment programme, which includes the creation of a cycle path between Hethersett and the research park; flooding and water management; and the coronation grant scheme. Cllr Fleming plans to attend the next session in March.

7 Report from the County and District Councillor

Cllr Dewsbury reported that the County Council is working with the Government to have a directly elected leader. The South Norfolk District Council offices at Long Stratton have now closed and staff are temporarily based at Thorpe Lodge near Norwich.

8 Document from the Highways Working Group on reducing village speed limits

The main proposal is to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph from White Rails farm to the church and towards Hethersett. The Council gave their full support to the proposals in the report. County Cllr Dewsbury also gave her full support. It will be submitted to the Highways Engineer at the County Council prior to progressing the application to reduce the speed limits and applying for funding.

Cllr Fleming reported that the Highways Engineer is looking into the possibility of kerbing around the war memorial.

9 Planning

Applications received and comments to be sent to District Council

9.1 Church Lodge, Market Lane (2023/0109) - Convert roof space into study, including new staircase, roof lantern, roof light and part removal of chimney stack section: No objection.

9.2 Red Lodge, Hall Road (2023/0197) - Single storey rear extension with internal and external alterations: No objection.

9.3 Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan for Great Melton - nothing to report.

10 Update on the Equinor wind farm cable route

The Clerk reported that the application by Equinor for development consent is in the final stages. The Planning Inspectorate will be conducting a hearing in March 2023.

11 Finance

11.1 Update on the Council's finances up to early February 2023

The Clerk presented an update. The Council has received the expected income from land rents. Expenditure on employment, administration and grants are as expected for the time of year.

11.2 The following payments totalling £4,008.95 were approved by the Council:

Barford Village Hall	Room hire for February	£18.00
	Flooring for village hall refurbishment*	£3,600.00
L Cantera	Salary and related expenses**	£390.95

*agreed at item 11.3

**relates to 1 January to 31 March 2023

11.3 Request from village hall for donation towards refurbishment project

The village hall asked for a contribution towards the new flooring. The Council **RESOLVED** to pay £3,600 (including VAT) for the flooring. The Clerk will liaise with the village hall and organise for the contractor to be paid on completion of the work.

11.4 Discussion about any involvement in a village coronation event

Councillors would like to play some part in any village event being organised to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III in May. Cllr Sears will make enquires with the cricket club and report back.

11.5 Agreement of the budget and precept for 2023-24

The Clerk presented draft figures for consideration. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the budget. The precept will remain unchanged at £920.

12 Arrangements for the March litter pick

The litter pick will take place on Saturday 11 March. Cllr Collins printed flyers designed by her daughter to be posted through doors to encourage everyone to participate; a poster will go on the noticeboard.

13 May elections process

The Clerk explained that anyone eligible to become a parish councillor and who wants to be a councillor from May 2023 must complete a nomination paper and submit it by hand to the District Council by 4 April. The new Council will take office on Tuesday 9 May, the same date as the Annual Meeting.

14 Correspondence

Most correspondence had been picked up during the meeting. A notification had been received about a temporary road closure in Wramplingham in late February.

15 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 May 2023. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7 pm followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Meeting. The venue will be confirmed nearer the time (dependent on whether the village hall refurbishment work has been completed).

16 The Council RESOLVED to exclude members of the public and press (under the Public Admission to Meetings Act 1960) for the following confidential items:

16.1 To agree who to rent the allotment land to

The Council had previously received interest from two people, however, only one person put their name forward. The Council **RESOLVED** to rent the land to the applicant (the existing tenant).

16.2 To agree the rent for the allotment land for the coming year

The Council **RESOLVED** to increase the rent. The tenant plans to keep sheep on the land.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.