

Minutes of Great Ashfield Parish Council meeting
Thursday 23rd May

Held at Lord Thurlow Hall, School Road, Great Ashfield, IP31 3N

Councillors present

Mr M Taylor (acting Chairman)
Mr S. Miles
Mrs D. Stick
Mr N. Jones (took minutes)

There were 2 members of the public present

1. Election of Parish Council Chairman and Vice Chairman, and record absences

Mr M Taylor proposed and accepted as acting Chairman
County Cllr Mellen and District Cllr Winch sent apologies

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Agreement of Minutes of previous meetings

All present agreed previous minutes accurate & complete

4. Co-option of new councillors

Mr J Harding co-opted as Councillor, proposed and seconded by all. Mr S Miles to send forms

5. Future of the Parish Council, Parish Clerk vacancy, Councillor Vacancies & Meeting Dates

Current councillors agreed to proceed with rotating chair

Mr M Taylor will approach Emma Maynard, previous clerk, and propose returning as Clerk with a salary more representative of the time investment needed. If Ms Maynard declines to resume the post of Clerk then an application will be put through SALC.

With Mr J Harding co-opted, there are two more applicants pending. This will bring the number of councillors to 6 in total, making a solid quorum.

Next meeting date agreed for 21st August 2024

6. Reports received from Suffolk County Councillor Andy Mellen and District Councillor Richard Winch. Both read and acknowledged by all councillors.

Congratulation received from public forum on forming committee

7. Traffic issues

Dissatisfaction and disappointment expressed at Mark Dolman's lying to planning committee during Portable Space expansion hearing. Concerns voiced over impact expansion will have, although anecdotal evidence suggests volume of HGV traffic is down recently.

Discussion over A1088 bridge repairs and how it will result in additional traffic through Badwell Ash.

8. Community Speedwatch and speeding

Discussion around results of speed survey, which indicated an average speed of exactly 30mph on way into village. Given that sensor was positioned on the approach to a right-angle bend, and set up behind the 30 sign, the Council does not believe that the results are indicative of the speeds that vehicles actually take through the village. The speeds recorded by Speedwatch are regularly much higher. The concern is that there will not be a follow up survey, correspondingly no speed prevention measures, and the feeling is that there will be more accidents.

The Speedwatch team will continue to take recordings, and continue to submit reports. The hope is that this will build up and be considered down the line.

9. Planning application DC/24/02247

Council makes no comment

10. Finance

Cllr Miles proposed payment of all invoices, seconded by Cllr Jones. Mr Peake will arrange payment to be completed, pending transfer of mandate on the Council bank account to the new Councillors.

Councillors note that QLS locality funds cannot be returned to Andy Mellen until bank details can be provided.

11. Annual Review of Policies

Review was not undertaken

12. Correspondence

i) Email received from Highways questioning authorisation for Unsuitable for HGV signs through village. Cllr Taylor proposed sending a response indicating that prior approval was given, that existing poles were used, that signs do not state No HGVs.

ii) BMSDC notification of grants available for improvement of village facilities, passed to village hall committee for consideration.

iii) Acknowledgement received from SCC Highways of concerns about Portable Space.

Cynicism expressed that any follow up will occur, given past experience of zero response.

iv) Letter received expressing shock and dismay at Mr Mark Dolan's comments made to the Mid Suffolk Planning Committee, when he stated that he has received no complaints regarding Portable Space traffic. The letter notes that alongside recorded resident correspondence with Mr Dolman, Cllr Andrew Mellen did state that he personally had a meeting with Mr Dolman to discuss Portable Space issues.

The Council is sympathetic and similarly disappointed, given that it is formed of residents.

13. AOB

Access to GAC email address to be sought, given retirement of Chair and Clerk. Council will

pass to new Clerk once employed

Cllr Miles presented retiring chair Mr Peake with a gift for his time given to the Council, and also generously offered to provide a gift for resident Olly who has maintained the grass around the lower sections of the village including the area around the village sign.

With no further business, the meeting concluded 8:17pm.