



Minutes of the Meeting of Great Notley Parish Council Held on Monday 13th June 2022 at the Community Centre Great Notley

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Griffin (Chair) Butland, Crawford, Cunningham, Ricci, Sheppard and the Clerk
one member of the public was present

22/47: Apologies

Received from Councillor Pritchard

22/48: Declarations of Interests

Councillor Ricci declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Braintree District Council and as a member of the planning committee of that authority.

Councillor Butland declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Braintree District Council and as a member of Essex County Council.

Councillor Cunningham declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Braintree District Council and as a member of Essex County Council.

22/49: to consider and approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th May 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2022 were **agreed** by Councillors as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

22/50: Public Question Time

A member of the public raised a concern in relation to traffic on the A131 Great Notley bypass regarding speeding and noisy motorbikes and racing cars and she would like speed cameras installed along the road. It was confirmed that the Parish Council has been in liaison with the Police regarding the racing cars issue and that actions have been taken by them. It was **agreed** to bring forward the agenda item in relation to traffic to consider at this point in the meeting.

22/54.6 To consider traffic issues

22/54.6.1 To consider issue of speed limit of the A131 Great Notley bypass and whether to make any application in that regard

The Clerk confirmed that at Councillors request from the last meeting she had looked into the issue of speed limits and in particular whether emissions play a

part which at present they do not. Essex County Council deal with speed limits in accordance with its speed management strategy which requires it to assess the nature of the road, its route hierarchy and the density of surrounding housing together with traffic flow. After discussion Councillors agreed to apply to the Local Highway Panel with a request that the speed limit along the A131 be reduced to 50mph especially in view of additional traffic along the road in recent years, the construction of Horizon 120 and an additional limb on the roundabout by the Tesco store leading into Horizon 120. In addition, Councillor Ricci will follow up with the Safety Partnership as to actions taken by the Police in relation to racing cars.

At this point in the meeting Councillor Crawford arrived.

22/54.6.2 To consider the request for crossings at Bridge End Lane and whether to make any application in that regard

It was noted that any application for a crossing would be assessed by Highways with reference to the amount of traffic and number of pedestrians and that it is understood a previous application was unsuccessful in that location. It was noted that there is no tactile paving by the dropped kerbs near to the White Gates at Bridge End Lane so it was **agreed** to apply to the Local Highway Panel for the installation of tactile paving on both sides of the road in that location.

22/51: Reports

22/51.1 Report from County Councillor

Councillor Butland confirmed that the member led Pothole repair programme is back. The Clerk will provide a list of potholes reported by residents so he can bring them to the attention of Highways.

22/51.2 Report from District Councillor

Councillor Ricci confirmed that he had attended a levelling up meeting which stressed the importance of communities

Councillor Cunningham had raised the issue of the flooded underpass and received confirmation that the area has now been jetted so the situation will be monitored

22/51.3 Reports from Councillors attending external meetings

Councillor Griffin had also attended the levelling up meeting hosted by Braintree District Council which raised a number of Health and Wellbeing issues including social isolation, transport, obesity. She will attend the Community 360 roadshow this week which is coming to the Parish and it is expected that there will be more information about the issues raised to be fed down to the Parish sector. It was noted that the BDC forums with Clerks have proved useful in supplying certain information.

22/52: Parish Clerk's Report

The Parish Clerk reported as follows –

1. I have attended the following external meetings –
 - 10th May SLCC networking hour
 - 11th May – Zoom meeting with Country Park staff
 - 23rd May – online briefing regarding East Anglia Green pylon project
2. Bee Brook carried out the work to repair the ground in front of the Memorial bench. Perhaps you could take a look at the area and decide if you wish to add the issue to the agenda to consider other areas in the Parish?

Councillors agreed to monitor how this 'beds in' over the coming months and then for other areas to be considered in due course.

3. Regarding residents erecting posts on the greensward around the Parish I have provided photos to Braintree District Council (BDC) so they can decide what action to take. I have noted the very large white posts along Great Notley Avenue have now been removed.
4. The unused floodsax were donated to Terling and Fairstead Parish Council who have expressed their thanks.
5. The Digi go roadshow took place in the Parish on 24th May 2022.
6. I have received many complaints regarding flooding at the underpass. I have made an urgent report to Essex County Council and have also referred the matter to Councillors Cunningham and Butland in their capacity of County Councillors.

An updated has been received that the area has been inspected and jetted.

7. I have received complaints of more rats than usual around Panner's Pond. It appears that this is because residents are overfeeding the ducks as I have frequently observed loaves of bread left in the area. Having advised BDC they are looking to erect a sign to advise residents not to overfeed the ducks.
8. I have received complaints from residents regarding cars parked on greensward in front of 27 Cuckoo Way but I am still awaiting a response from BDC planning enforcement.

It was noted that this issue appears to have abated.

9. The travellers have moved on from the Country Park and I received a number of complaints that stronger measures should be taken such as bollards to prevent this occurring again. I have referred those comments to Councillor Butland.
10. I have applied for consent for erection of the new board near Notley Green school from Essex County Council as it transpires the existing board does not have the requisite consent.
11. Finally, I am listing some matters where no action is required by the Parish Council but where a response is awaited from others.

Issue	First raised
Transfer of land between developers and Braintree District Council – <i>agreement reached between BDC and Countryside Properties regarding land to be transferred and commuted sum. Only outstanding issue is the future of the Unity Hand sculpture</i>	May 2012
Parish Council application for a ‘warning pedestrians sign on A131 adjacent to Astronomer pub – the entire issue of a crossing and signage is being reviewed by Essex County Council.	January 2015
Tree Strategy for the Parish – await Braintree District Council – I have been advised that a tree officer has been engaged by BDC and will liaise regarding the issue shortly	July 2019
Application for 20mph speed limit within White Court section of the Parish – as Parish Council request was rejected, Councillor Butland has submitted a further application – response awaited from LHP.	July 2020
Complaints in relation to light pollution at the Gridserve site – BDC is seeking a report from an independent lighting expert and planning condition remains unresolved.	February 2021
Information from BDC regarding Electric Vehicle feasibility study – expected in July 2022	November 2021
Police liaison patrol in Parish – awaiting details from local Police	March 2022

It was noted that the Clerk and Chairman were not able to attend the liaison event at the Tesco store which will be rescheduled.

The report was otherwise **accepted**.

22/53: Financial report

22/53.1 Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation statement for May 2022 was **accepted**.

22/53.2 Payments for approval

The following payments were **approved**

Direct debits

10/5/22	BT phone and internet	79.95
12/5/22	ICO fee	35.00
16/5/22	RAC Allstar fuel	20.03
23/5/22	Lloyd’s card	
	Zoom subscription	14.39
	One Drive	1.99

Monthly fee	3.00	19.38
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Online banking payments made on 23rd May 2022

NGCA	Fete grant	1,930.00
Gallagher	Parish Council insurance	1,793.15
Ernest Doe	PPE	15.99
All Property Care	deep clean of hedges	268.80
NALC	Fee for Quality award registration	60.00

Online payments made 31st May 2022

Royal Mail	Door to Door distribution of magazine	328.31
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Online payments to make 25th June 2022

Salaries		4,213.51
Senior litter picker	car wash	30.00
HMRC	tax and NI	919.46
Essex Pension fund	pension contributions	998.40
Anglian Vehicle linings	recoating of interior of van	552.00
Sutcliffe Play	new bike springer	1,382.40
Bee Brook	installation of grasscrete	540.00
Seagrave inspections	Annual play area inspections	152.40
Heelis and Lodge	Internal audit	235.00
Green flag	Breakdown cover	95.00

22/53.3 To consider the internal audit report

The internal audit report was considered. It was noted that it is recommended that the amount of the precept be minuted. It was confirmed that the amount of the precept for 2022 – 2023 is £92,719 and the amount will be more clearly minutes moving forward.

22/53.4 To consider and approve the Governance statement on the Annual Governance and Accountability return form

The Governance statement on the Annual Governance and Accountability return was considered and **approved**.

22/53.5 To approve the accounts for financial year end 31 March 2022 and to approve the accounting statements on the Annual Governance and Accountability return form

The accounts for year end 31 March 2022 were considered and **approved** and the accounting statements on the Annual Governance and Accountability return were considered and **approved**.

22/53.6 To confirm the dates for the notice of exercise of public rights

It was **confirmed** that the dates for the exercise of public rights this year will be 17th June 2022 to 28th July 2022

22/54: Substantive Matters for consideration

22/54.1 To consider the issue of provision of allotments in the Parish

The Clerk had provided a report of progress and of the meeting with Braintree District Council where reports are to be undertaken to assess the feasibility of the site adjacent to Skyline. The Clerk has submitted the application to Anglian Water to assess the cost of provision of water. In addition, Councillors **accepted** the quote from Wellers Hedley Solicitors to deal with the leasehold legalities. The meeting with BDC this coming Wednesday has been cancelled but a further meeting will take place in July.

22/54.2 To consider play area issues

22/54.2.1 To consider the Annual Play inspection report

The contents of the report were **noted**.

22/54.2.2 To consider and approve costs of repairing the basketball hoops

Upon considering a report with various options, Councillors **agreed** that the harder stainless-steel hoops and nets are purchased from Online Playgrounds to replace the broken hoops.

22/54.3 To consider green issues

22/54.3.1 To consider suggestion for a Community Orchard in the Parish

Councillor Ricci has heard back from BDC that they are agreeable to the principle of the land being used in an informal way for a Community Orchard project and no planning permission will be required. A minimum of 5 trees will need to be planted to constitute an orchard. The issues that will need to be addressed are that it would be useful to sample the soil to make sure it is fit for purpose, to carry out utilities check and to be clear on maintenance obligations. Sources of funding for the trees could be the Orchard Trust and the Councillor Communities fund. It was noted that the volunteer Tree warden has resigned after some 12 years of service to the Parish so the Parish Council will need to look for a new volunteer and for volunteers generally for the project.

22/54.3.2 To deal with issues in relation to replacement of the Memorial Tree adjacent to the White Court Memorial

Councillors agreed to purchase a Mountain Ash and to purchase a 3-3.5-meter tree from Kings. It was **agreed** to submit an application to the District Councillors community fund to cover the cost of this purchase.

22/54.3.3 To consider quote for grass cutting contract

Councillors considered the 3 quotes and agreed to accept the quotation from the existing contractor Perspective Landscapes and the contract will last for a 3-year period.

22/54.3.4 To consider and approve licence for installation of a Christmas tree at the green and costs in relation thereto.

Councillors agreed the terms of the licence and that it may be executed and the reduced fee being charged by BDC. It was also agreed to purchase a 2.8-meter-tall tree from Kings. It was **agreed** to submit an application to the District Councillors community fund to cover the cost of this purchase.

22/54.4 To consider and approve costs in relation to repair of the storage unit

The quotation from John Slade to repair the broken tiles and guttering at the storage unit plus to pain the wall was **accepted**.

22/54.5 To consider participation in the Essex County Council salt bag scheme

It was **agreed** to participate in the scheme and to order fresh salt.

22/54.6 To consider traffic issues

22/54.6.1 To consider issue of speed limit of the A131 Great Notley bypass and whether to make any application in that regard

22/54.6.2 To consider the request for crossings at Bridge End Lane and whether to make any application in that regard

Both issues considered earlier in the meeting.

22/55 Planning applications, Tree Preservation Orders and other planning matters

22/55.1 New Applications within the Parish

Application No.	Application	Response
22/01324/TPO	35 Langdale, Great Notley – work to trees covered by Tree Preservation Order	Councillor Crawford will visit the site and report back to enable the Clerk to respond using delegated powers
22/01171/HH	192 London Road, Great Notley - Enlargement of roof form to	No comments

	create first-floor, two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension, and erection of single-storey detached double garage	
22/01433/TPO	5 Rydal Way, Great Notley – work to tree covered by Tree Preservation Order	Councillor Crawford will visit the site and report back to enable the Clerk to respond using delegated powers
22/01477/TPO	White Court School, Ennerdale Ave, Great Notley – work to trees covered by TPO	Councillor Crawford will visit the site and report back to enable the Clerk to respond using delegated powers

22/55.2 To note results of planning applications

The following results were **noted** -

Application No.	Application	Result
22/00305/HH	2 Coniston Close, Great Notley - Proposed extension of front dormer, erection of front porch and single storey rear extension	permitted
22/00640/TPO	12 Derwent Way, Great Notley – work to tree covered by a tree preservation order	granted
22/00733/HH	27 Crummock Close, Great Notley - Conversion of one half of a double garage into a habitable room, with fire door through into rest of garage.	granted
22/00824/TPO	20 Levens Way, Great Notley – work to tree covered by tree preservation order	granted
22/00881/TPO	136 London Road, Great Notley – work to tree covered by Tree Preservation Order	granted
22/00862/HH	14 Grantham Avenue, Great Notley - Single-storey rear extension and part conversion of	granted

	existing garage (revised scheme from 21/02556/HH)	
22/00827/PLD	19 Daphne Close, Great Notley - Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed development - Single storey rear extension	Refused

22/55.3 To consider response to National Grid East Anglia Green consultation

Upon discussion, it was agreed to object to the proposals. Although the pylons will not be within this Parish there will be a detrimental impact upon surrounding countryside including a visual impact, and impact on ancient woodlands and an impact upon public rights of way. It was also agreed to support the comments that have been submitted by Braintree District Council in opposing the proposals and a suggestion that an undersea route would be more appropriate.

22/55.4 To consider representations in relation to the Braintree District Council planning consultation

The new members forum proposals were considered. Councillors noted that the purpose of the forum was to provide more information on the larger planning applications and to act as an information gathering mechanism for not just the District Council but for Parish Councils as well who will be able to nominate up to 2 members to the forum. There were discussions on the issue of pre-determination and the importance of making sure that the conduct of the forum does not breach that obligation. It was noted that BDC propose to offer training and it was considered that there should be robust training in that area to make sure that any participants in the forum act in such a way as to avoid suggestions of pre-determination and to feed back these views to the District Council.

22/56: To consider any matters to be raised for next agenda

None. It was noted that some overgrown private hedges may be referred to Essex County Council and that broken street name plates are to be referred to Braintree District Council.

Meeting concluded at 8.45pm