**Glemsford Parish Council**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th Sept 2023 at Glemsford Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs: Plumb (chairman), Southgate, Mills & Postill

CCllr Kemp, DCllr Holt. The clerk.

9 members of the public

**01.09 Parish announcements**

There will be a part II meeting for councillors. Not for public inclusion.

**02.09 Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Brian and Ruth Stephens & Cllr Leopold

**03.09 Declarations of interest/dispensation requests**

Cllr Southgate declared a non-registerable interest in planning item DC/23/03847

**04.09 To adopt minutes of council meeting held on the 8th August 2023**

***It was resolved*** to adopt the minutes.

**05.09 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting**

No matters arising.

**06.09 Co-option of new Parish Councillor**

Cllr Plumb nominated Lesli Tunbridge to become a Parish Councillor.

This was seconded by Cllr Southgate.

***It was resolved*** to accept Lesli Tunbridge as a Parish Councillor.

**07.09 To receive reports**

CCllr Kemp –report can be viewed on the website. CCllr Kemp is chasing up reports from Gigaclear and County Broadband.

DCllr Holt reported – report can be viewed on the website. A Police forum has been arranged for councillors from the Chadacre ward, these will take place every three months.

DCllr Holt confirmed that BDC will come out to inspect any issues caused by Gigaclear.

**08.09 Planning: New applications:**

**DC/23/03847 – Land north of Newfield House, Bells Lane**

Erection of 9no dwellings and garages, access driveway and alterations to existing vehicular access

***It was resolved*** to recommend: No reason to object - subject to on-going discussions to be held with applicant regarding the building of bungalows only (as per comments raised by members of the public)

Cllr Southgate did not vote

Cllrs Plumb and Tunbridge abstained from voting

**DC/23/03902 – The Lavenders, Churchgate**

Erection of a greenhouse

***It was resolved*** to recommend: no reason to object

Cllrs Plumb and Tunbridge abstained from voting

**Granted applications:**

**DC/23/03/03266 – 16 Kings Rd**

Erection of a single storey rear extension following demolition of conservatory

**09.09 Public question time**

Concerns were raised about the condition of the village. Particularly issues with Parking, grass cutting, un-cut verges and vegetation overhanging the footpaths.

Parking near to junctions was discussed. There are various areas in the village that have parking near to road splays, blocking a clear view to exit junctions. The Parish Council had previously tried to get white lines installed in ten areas in the village, with no response. Cllr Plumb is to follow this up once again. Any parking issues are a Police matter and can be reported as such.

Cllr Southgate confirmed that the Parish Council are trying to engage with Babergh District Council with the intention of taking over the grass cutting of BDC owned land. This will give the Parish Council more control.

The verges are not being sprayed as often by Suffolk County Council, also a different type of spray is now being used which is not as effective. DCllr Holt stated that the local councils are trying to encourage people to do things for themselves as budgets are very tight.

Any vegetation overhanging a footpath which is causing an obstruction can be reported to the clerk.

Thanks were given for the cutting of the footpaths which are now much more accessible.

**10.09 Accounts for approval**

***It was resolved*** to agree the accounts.

Payments for authorisation Sept:

Main account:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | GD Elec Conts - lights office | 173.72 | | BDC -election chgs | 221.42 | | DB Security - VH keys | 160.5 |   Village Hall account:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Contact Magazine | 48 | |  |  | |  |

**11.09 Reports from working groups**

**Cemetery**

No report

**Finance**

No report

**Village Hall**

***It was resolved*** to install CCTV both inside and outside the village hall at a cost of £5,124.00 plus VAT. It has been confirmed that cameras are allowed to be used to show activity in the playpark.

Cllr Southgate has obtained a quote for the installation of solar panels. DCllrs Plumb and Holt will look into funding for this project. Further quotes are to be obtained once it is confirmed funding is available.

The quotation for the resurfacing of the car park, painting of speed bumps and disabled bay and repairing of the drain has not yet been received. Funding for this will be looked into.

***It was resolved*** to have the landscaping at the village hall completed at a cost of £1,740.00 plus VAT.

**Neighbourhood Plan**

The Parish Council approves the draft Neighbourhood Plan for the purposes of the Regulation 14 pre-submission public consultation.

The Parish Council delegates the approval of any factual, grammatical and typographic amendments of the Plan to the Chair.

***It was resolved*** to agree the above statement.

**Climate Emergency (Greening Glemsford)**

Lesli Tunbridge reported

**12.09 External audit – agreement of**

***It was resolved*** to agree the external audit

**13.09 Adoption of land at Orchard Way – possibility of**

It was agreed to look into the adoption of this piece of land.

**14.09 Repair to village sign**

It was resolved to have the village sign repaired at a cost of £285 inc VAT

**15.09 Gigaclear/County Broadband works – to discuss**

The Parish Council are awaiting a report with regards issues raised.

The following correspondence had been received from Suffolk County Council showing responses to email complaints:

*“…Thank you for your recent email, I am the Senior Network Coordinator in Network Assurance and I have been asked to investigate this matter on your behalf. Please see the below response in which we seek to answer the concerns raised by our residents.*

*Network Assurance will escalate the concerns raised by the residents regarding the works that have recently been undertaken by Gigaclear in Glemsford.*

*Gigaclears are a statutory undertaker which means they have the legal right to; place, adjust and maintain apparatus in the highway. Furthermore, in the County of Suffolk, SCC are the custodians of the highway and not the owners. As Gigaclear have the legal right to undertake works in the highway; they must also adhere to the current legislation and statutory Codes of Practices (CoP) which outline the methods in doing such activity.*

*The ‘Specification of the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways’ (SROH) outlines the standards for reinstating streets after doing street works.  Any person who carries out street works must reinstate the street once the work is finished, in line with these standards.*

*I can confirm that the Network Inspector has carried out a site inspection and raised defects for these works, some of the remedial works have been carried out at this location, however, following a further inspection of the site, further defects have been raised to Gigaclear and they will be required to take the necessary action to rectify these defects. The works will be monitored whilst in progress and once completed, Suffolk County Council will inspect the works to make sure they are compliant with the ‘Specification of the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways’ Code of Practice.*

*Network Assurance have been liaising with Gigaclear regarding these works and the defects raised, these are currently being investigated with their contractors.*

*The placement of the cabinet on the land adjacent to Tye Green, Glemsford is not maintainable highway and therefore Gigaclear would be required to seek permission from the landowner. We have confirmed with Highways Licencing that they have not given permission for the cabinet placement as it is not on highway land. I would recommend making contact with Gigaclear to investigate further….”*

Your additional report, specifically for Long Pastures (CR:419405) – raised 05/09 is still with Network Assurance for their response. However, the resident who sent in the photographs and email on your report had already raised this separately – CR:417914 & CR:415794. Network Assurance responded to both of these on 30/08. I’ve copied the response from our Senior Network Inspector below – as the issues raised are the same in all 3 reports:

*“…Gigaclear are currently working in Glemsford to install fibre into the network. It is the government’s ambition to deliver nationwide gigabit-capable broadband as soon as practicably possible (Building a Digital UK | Department for Digital, Culture, Media & and Sport (DCMS). Gigabit-capable broadband is important for all communities providing faster, more reliable connectivity for homes and businesses everywhere and government intervention is in place to target development of the broadband infrastructure. Gigaclear are installing superfast broadband/fibre, and this is also a major project covering many sites across the Glemsford area and surrounding areas.*

*Utilities have a statutory right to carry out their works and legislatively Suffolk County Council Network Assurance cannot unreasonably withhold permits for them to work on the highway, however, to help mitigate disruption, Network Assurance look to add conditions which have been set by the Department for Transport to works promoters’ permits, to reduce the impact of the works for all road users. The Traffic Management company are required to undertake an assessment of the location and work with the work promoter on the best and safest traffic management to be used. This is done on a case-by-case basis. When a permit is submitted to Network Assurance, we will assess the information submitted to ensure that the traffic management is suitable for the works being carried out. Road closures are the last preferred option of traffic management due to the disruption caused and other forms of traffic management will be considered before a road closure is processed. However, they must comply with the Safety at Street Works and Road Works code of*

*Practice (Department for Transport | Safety at Street Works and Road Works – A Code of Practice), whilst they are carrying out works on the highway. This is to ensure the safety of the travelling public and the safety of the workforce. When works are being carried out on the network, work promoters must allow residents access to their properties when it is safe to do so, sometimes there may be a short delay whilst the site is made safe to allow access.*

*Network Assurance do encourage joint working with all work promoters where there is an opportunity for this to take place. This is possible if we are made aware of multiple works at the same location. Whilst we endeavour for this option to be explored and utilised, there can be additional difficulties and it is not always possible.*

*An example of this would be safety issues of conducting electrical and water works at the same location.*

*All works carried out on the highway must meet The ‘Specification of the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways’ (SROH) as this outlines the standards for reinstating streets after doing street works. Any person who carries out street works must reinstate the street once the work is finished, in line with these standards:*

[*https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attach*](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attach)

*This document outlines that utilities have the option to place reinstatement into an interim status allowing them return at a later date or source materials for the final finish of the reinstatement (up to a maximum of 6 months from the initial interim completion). These requirements are outlined depending on where the excavation is undertaken (Footway, Carriageway and/or Verge), however, the interim reinstatement must be safe until such a time that the permanent reinstatement can be completed…”*

County Broadband have installed a green service type box on land adjacent to Tye Green within the Conservation area. This is Parish Council land and permission had not been given. County Broadband is to be told to remove this item.

**16.09 Correspondence to report**

Glemsford Local History Society has asked to liaise with the Parish Council to look at the Heritage/multi-function room with a view to assessing the possibilities for storage and display of artefacts. It was agreed that members could come along to the hall.

**17.09 Date of next meeting** – Tues 10th October 2023 at the village hall

Meeting finished at 8.15.pm

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