**Glemsford Parish Council**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 2023 at Glemsford Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs: Plumb (chairman), Southgate, Brian & Ruth Stephens & Tunbridge

The clerk.

6 members of the public

**01.11**

**Parish announcements**

Cllr Plumb gave thanks to all those who attended the Neighbourhood Plan drop-in event. Thanks also to volunteers especially Ron Medley and his crew for delivering leaflets.

**02.11 Apologies for absence**

CCllr Kemp, Cllrs Leopold, Mills & Postill

**03.11 Declarations of interest/dispensation requests**

Cllr Plumb declared an interest in all planning matters due to being a member of the planning committee at BDC.

**04.11 To adopt minutes of council meeting held on the 10th October 2023**

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

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

Responses have been received from Suffolk County Council concerning the use of an unauthorised bus stop at The Broadway and complaints of poor behaviour by students awaiting buses.

Suffolk County Council responded as below:

*We do empathise with resident’s complaints about student’s poor behaviour and language outside their premises. This is not a matter for either Suffolk County Council nor Chambers to pursue. We would suggest that the concerns are raised with Stour Valley in Clare and for the school to take responsibility on behalf of their students. This should include writing to the parents in the location to remind their children waiting for the bus to behave and respect property and moderate their language*.

Initial enquiries were made with regards a new designated bus stop. This would involve raising kerbs, no-parking markings of at least 23mts and signage. There is no money in the passenger transport budget for this; it would be a cost to the Parish Council of approx. £5000.00. This is to be an agenda item next month.

**06.11 To receive reports**

CCllr Kemp –report can be viewed on the website.

DCllr Holt reported – report can be viewed on the website. Feedback from the Police forum was good. It is hoped these will take place for local Parish Councils every 6mths.

**07.11 Planning New applications:
DC/23/04459 - 20 Bells Lane**

Erection of single storey front extension and chimney

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

**DC/23/04841 – Skates Hill House, Skates Hill**

Notification of works to trees in a conservation area – proposal to fell to ground and kill stump of small horse chestnut tree (T1), remove low limbs and remove decaying timber in crown of mature ash tree (T2) and fell to ground level dead cherry tree (T3)

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

**DC/23/04888 – The Pumphouse, Skates Hill**

Erection of garden office out building

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

*Standing orders suspended to allow for public inclusion*

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

Erection of 7no residential dwellings and garages, access driveway and alterations to existing vehicular access

***It was resolved*** to recommend: refusal - *–* types of dwelling not in keeping with area.  Lack of privacy and light to surrounding properties.

*Standing orders re-instated*

**DC/23/04640 – 5 Egremont St**

Replacement of windows and render and installation of roof lights to rear roof (corresponding application granted LBC DC/23/03110)

***It was resolved*** to recommend: approval

**DC/23/04817 – Tyneson, Bells Lane**

Erection of single storey rear extension and front porch

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

*Standing orders suspended to allow for public inclusion*

**DC/23/05127 – Land west of Boxted**

Construction of a solar farm with all associated works, equipment, necessary infrastructure and biodiversity net gains

***2 votes for approval***

***2 votes for refusal*** - the proposed development would cause significant harm to a valued landscape and special landscape area, and degrees of harm to a number of listed buildings

*Cllr Plumb did not vote*

*Standing orders re-instated*

**Appeal:**

**DC/23/01486 – 20 Tye Green**

Application for outline planning permission (all matters reserved) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) – severance of land and erection of 1no dwelling (following demolition of extension)

***It was resolved*** to recommend refusal: overdevelopment in a conservation area

**Granted applications:**

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

Erection of a greenhouse

**DC/23/02207 – 64 Tye Green**

Application under S73a for the removal of variation conditions following grant of DC/19/00752 and DC/21/01949 – Erection of 3no dwellings. Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) to vary conditions 4 (improvement to highway access), 5 (agreement of materials), 9&10 (landscaping), 11&12 (visibility splays), 13 (access improvements), 16 (refuse bins and collection area), 17 (parking and turning), 18 floor levels)

 **DC/23/04265 – 18 Bells Lane**

Notification of works to trees in a conservation area – fell 1no eucalyptus (T1) – BDC does not wish to object

**DC/23/04548 – 27 Old Silk Mill**

Application for works to trees in a conservation area – cut back field maple group of trees overhanging and encroaching growth to approx. 1m clearance from boundary fence line.

**08.11 Public question time**

No questions

**09.11 Accounts for approval**

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

Payments for authorisation Nov:

 Main account: payments

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| Wayman & Long | 5112 |
| Prettys Solicitors-Mixbrow | 45995.46 |
| Gardens ARB | 3213.69 |
| Gardens ARB | 510 |
| Christmas Tree Festival | 25 |

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| Main account: receipts:Cemetery £110Allotments £20VAT refund: £12,626.92Hall Hire £77 |  |
| Village Hall A/c:

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| Refund hall rental | 42 |
| Octopus-inc back payment  | 1307.86 |
| PRS licence | 398.23 |
| B Stephens (VH Blind) | 165.38 |

Village Hall receipts: Hall hire £416.00

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**10.10 Reports from working groups**

**Cemetery**

No report

**Village Hall**

Following a meeting with solicitors concerning the court claim made by Mixbrow it was confirmed that all monies certified by KHL Architects were due to Mixbrow as detailed in the contract . A counterclaim for replacing the floor, loss of earnings etc was not possible, again due to clauses in the contract. Cllr Plumb is seeking alternative advice.

It was agreed (Cllr Southgate did not agree) to send confirmation to the solicitor that these amounts will be paid.

**Finance**

**Mixbrow court claim**

Confirmed figures have been received with regards payment to Pretty Solicitors on behalf of Mixbrow.
Councillors agreed to file a defence in order to protect the Parish Councils position and to pay the sums outstanding totalling £45,995.46 being the sum of certified amounts plus VAT plus interest charges*.*

***It was resolved*** to pay these amounts. Cllr Southgate voted against. This was a retrospective vote due to time restraints.

Wayman& Long (PC solicitors) also submitted their invoice totalling £4,260.00 plus VAT.

***It was resolved*** to pay this invoice. Cllr Southgate voted against. This was a retrospective vote due to time restraints

**Budget figures and precept**

Budget figures were reviewed and agreed.

The budget is mainly in order with the exception of additional professional fees (solicitors) and additional works at the village hall.

***It was resolved*** *to accept the budget figures*

The precept was discussed.

It will be necessary to increase the budget for water rates as there has been a substantial increase. A salary increase is to be considered. Cllr Plumb will look onto figures. All other items are at present to remain as the previous year. Further discussions are to be held.

**Neighbourhood Plan**

There was a good turnout for the drop-in event.

Thanks were given to Tim Tunbridge for helping with the refreshments.

**Climate Emergency (Greening Glemsford)**

The possibility of a repair café was discussed. A trial will be held at the village hall, date to be confirmed.

**11.11 Standing Orders – to review and adopt**

***It was resolved*** to adopt the standing orders

**12.11 To agree clerk as responsible finance officer**

***It was resolved*** to agree the clerk as the responsible finance officer

**13.11 To review and agree effectiveness of internal control policy**

***It was resolved*** to agree the effectiveness of the internal control policy (inc financial regulations)

**14.11 To review effectiveness of internal audit**

***It was resolved*** to agree the effectiveness of internal audit

**15.11 Tress at old Cemetery, Hunts Hill – agree to reduce height/tidy**

***It was resolved to*** have works carried out at the Old Cemetery at a cost of £300 plus VAT

**16.11 Correspondence to report**

A request had been received to use the village hall for a collection point for food parcels near to Christmas. This was agreed.

Suffolk Highways have proposed the stopping up of a small section of U7339, Cutts Lane, Glemsford. The Parish Council confirmed they have no objection to this.

A volunteer has offered to keep the War Memorial clean and tidy. It was confirmed that the village cleaner maintains this area together with help from the WI at Remembrance time. Thanks are to be given from the Parish Council but due to insurance restrictions this offer cannot be accepted.

**17.11 Date of next meeting** – Tues 12th Dec 2023at the village hall

Meeting finished at 8.10.pm

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