

Minutes of the Meeting of Groton Parish Council held on Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 7.00pm in Groton Village Hall

Present: P Roberts (Chair), R Cheeseman, J Long, S Price, R Jones (Clerk)

Guests: J Finch (Suffolk County Council, B Hurren (Babergh District Council)

- 1. Apologies for absence – G Becker, A Dixon-Smith, N Chapman**
- 2. Councillors' Declarations of Interests in any item on the Agenda - None**
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting of 6th July 2022 - Approved**

4. Reports from

4.1. Suffolk County Council

Councillor James Finch informed the Council in advance that he would be arriving late and provided a report which was noted in his absence.

4.2. Babergh District Council

Councillor Bryn Hurren reported the following:

Planning Application Sand Hill, Boxford – The application for 64 homes had been refused and no appeal had been submitted so far.

The Council had been dealing with a huge increase in costs including an 8% pay increase for staff, costing an extra £638,000 annually. 'No strike' agreements had been made with certain staff to ensure essential services continued. Massive increase in electricity costs had hit Leisure Centres particularly hard.

Community Infrastructure Levy payments had been in place since 2008 and over £11,000,000 had been paid out.

Solar Together Suffolk scheme had been launched incentivising people to consider the use of solar energy. Fly Tipping was increasing across the district.

5. Questions From Members of the Public - None

6. Neighbourhood Plan Update

The next step was to do some face-to-face research or surveys within the Parish. It had been suggested that incentives should be offered to parishioners with a prize draw for completed surveys. It was agreed that the council should not provide any financial incentives or prizes but if a local business wished to do so this would be acceptable.

7. Planning Matters

7.1. Planning Applications - None

7.2. Planning decisions received and noted - DC/22/03493 Land And Agricultural Building, Parliament Heath. Prior Approval - Agricultural to Dwelling – Refused

7.3. Other Planning Matters - None

8. Re-siting of Noticeboard

It was suggested that for the Noticeboard to be sited at the old dog pound, the owner would need to be contacted. It was agreed to look at this again at the next meeting.

9. Chairman's and Clerk's reports and correspondence

8.1 Tree Felling in Groton Wood

Response now sent to the original correspondent explaining the Council's position as agreed at the previous meeting.

10. Highway and Footpath matters

9.1 Footpath Cutting – No concerns.

9.2 Highways Investment Fund – Footpath & Vegetation Clearance
Clerk to e-mail SCC regarding Butchers Lane.

9.3 Other Highway or Footpath Matters - None

11. Financial matters:

11.1. Statement of Finances and Orders for Payment were approved as follows:

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Unity Trust Current Account as at 31 August 2022 | £7,110.81 |
| Unity Trust Deposit Account as at 31 August 2022 | £2,700.68 |
| Total | <u>£9,811.49</u> |

Payments received:

Nil

| Cheque No | Amount £ | Payee | Purpose |
|-----------|-------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 300025 | £208.75 | Babergh DC | Bin Emptying Apr 22 – Mar 23 |
| 300026 | £69.99 | R J Jones | Clerk's Expenses Aug – Sept 22 |
| | | | |
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11.2. Other financial matters - None

12. To set future Agenda items – Noticeboard. Neighbourhood Plan

13. Next meeting – Wednesday 2nd November 2022 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.00pm