GROTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Groton Parish Council held remotely on Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 7.00pm via Video Link

Present: P Roberts (Chair), N Cox, G Becker, A Dixon-Smith, A Crane, R Jones (Notes)

Guests: B Hurren (Babergh District Council)

1. **Apologies for absence** - None
2. **Councillors' Declarations of Interests** - None
3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 4 November 2020** – Approved. It was noted that under item 7.2 D Lamming had not reported back regarding the Groton Parish Church Council's request to GPC for a contribution towards their purchase of a 'Tommy' for the Church' and therefore, it was agreed that the matter was now closed.
4. **Reports from Suffolk County Council and Babergh District Council**

   4.1 Councillor James Finch tabled a report on behalf of SCC, the contents of which were noted.

   4.2 Councillor Bryn Hurren on behalf of Babergh DC, reported the following:
   Council staff still working hard to maintain a quality service under trying circumstances, particularly within Housing.
   New Swimming Pool in Hadleigh nearing completion and refurbishment work almost complete in the Kingfisher Leisure Centre in Sudbury. The Council has provided grants and loans to these facilities to keep them going during lockdown.
   The Council had been discussing introducing increased parking fees across the District. Particularly affected would be Hadleigh and Sudbury where free parking for three hours was currently available. The proposals, if introduced, would reduce the free parking period to ½ hour with varying scales of payment thereafter. A group of Councillor's was arguing against these changes, in particular, the ½ hour free period, which was felt to be too short. GPC, whilst acknowledging the need for the Council to raise money, agreed that a ½ hour free period was too short to benefit anyone.
   Council refuse collection vehicles were switching to biofuel in an effort to reduce emissions but unfortunately, Brown Bin collections were being temporarily suspended to enable general waste and recycling collections to continue normally due to staffing problems caused by the pandemic.
   Still waiting to hear if the proposed local elections would be taking place in May but it would seem highly unlikely that they would go ahead.
5. **Reports and questions from Councillors and members of the public** - None
6. **Planning Matters**

   6.1. Planning Applications – None

   6.2. Planning decisions received - None

   6.3. Local Housing update – Slow progress being made. Councillor Hurren to continue to encourage expediency from the developers and GPC to keep a 'watching brief' to ensure things move forward. GPC discussed the reasons for the delay reported by Councillor Hurren and was keen to emphasise its support for the project and for construction to begin as soon as possible. Councillor Hurren was asked to convey this view to Hastoe should the occasion arise. Hastoe Housing had asked for the Parish Council to name the development and it was agreed that Church View was the name to be put forward. Clerk to write to Hastoe with this suggestion.

6.4. Other planning matters - None

7. **Chairman's and Clerk's reports and correspondence** – None

8. **Highway and Footpath matters**

9.1 Footpath Cutting for 2021/22 – Agreed to carry on as in previous years with Andy Adams. The Chairman to check if third cut was carried out in 2020 as the Clerk had not been invoiced.

9.2 Footpath Leaflet – Progress being made with Edwardstone and Boxford section of leaflet. The Chairman to have a conversation with Nick Bristow and Tristan Woods (Edwardstone PC) to agree Groton section of map.

9.3 Other Highway or Footpath Matters - None

9. **Financial matters:**

9.1.Statement of Finances and Orders for Payment – Approved as follows:

Reserve Account as at 31 December 2020	£3,532.21
Current Account as at 30 November 2020	£4,808.87
Total	**£8,341.08**

Payments received:
Interest on Reserve Account £0.09

Cheque No	Amount £	Payee	Purpose
000835	£152.03	Babergh DC	Bin Emptying
000836	£25.00	Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath Donation
000837	£154.28	CAS	Insurance
000838	£10.00	R J Jones	Clerk's Expenses Dec20 – Jan 21
000839	£488.14	R J Jones	Clerk's Salary Oct – Dec 20
000840	£122.00	HMRC	Tax on Clerk's Salary

9.2.Adequacy of the Budget for 2020/21 - Approved

9.3.Budget and Precept for 2021/22 – The Budget for 2021/22 was agreed as presented and a precept of £4,375 was agreed.

9.4. Other financial matters - None

10. **Future Agenda items** – Footpath Leaflet, Local Housing Development

11. **Next meeting** – Wednesday 3 March 2021 at 7.00pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm