



Great Bromley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2024 AT GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

In attendance: Cllr Nicholls, Cllr Fairley, Cllr Mander, Cllr Smith and Cllr Tovell

Also in attendance: TDC Cllrs Scott and Wiggins, and Lizzie Ridout (Clerk)

Members of the public: 0

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were submitted by Cllr Lord and ECC Cllr Guglielmi.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th December 2023, previously circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4. Public Participation

There was none.

5. Planning Determinations – for information only

REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
23/01481/LBC Mr J Connor - Inova (UK) Ltd	Alterations and extensions to facilitate the conversion of existing barns and cottages into residential use, including alterations to frontage wall.	Newhouse Farm Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TP	Approval - Listed Building Consent 05.12.2023 Delegated Decision
23/01704/AGRIC Mr Fairley - Henry Fairley and Son Ltd	Prior Approval Application under Part 6, Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for replacement barn.	Park Farm Hilliards Road Great Bromley CO7 7US	Determination prior approval not reqred 08.12.2023 Delegated Decision

The planning determinations were noted.

6. Planning Applications

REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
23/01712/FUL Mr T Fray - TND Drilling	Construction of Use Class B2 (Industrial) / B8 (Storage or Distribution) flexible commercial use building. Great Bromley Parish Council objected to the application for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overdevelopment;• No explanation of the flexible commercial use. More detail is required to enable to Council to make an informed decision;• Concern of impact on the highway, particularly the 40mph bend;• Close proximity to a residential area;• Not designated as an industrial area as per Local Plan; and• Not in close proximity to a main trunk road.	Pond Farm, Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TP

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<p>23/01713/LUEX Neil Naphine and Nico Miller - Larchcroft Trading Co. Ltd.</p>	<p>Application for a certificate of existing use or development for occupation of Building B as a community shop (use Class E a) and Building D for storage for the shop (use Class B8) for a period of 10 years or more.</p> <p>Great Bromley Parish Council objected to the application for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The village already has a community shop within half a mile; • There is no pedestrian or footpath access; • The site is adjacent to a Grade II listed building with Historic England, and is directly on the Listed Building curtilage. • The site is on a 40mph bend where several road traffic incidents, including a fatality, have occurred. 	<p>Oak House Farm, Harwich Road, Great Bromley CO7 7JG</p>
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7. Reports

- a) County Councillor's Report – previously circulated
 - b) District Councillors' Reports – previously circulated.
 - c) Parish Councillors' Reports
- **Cllr Smith** reported fly tipping on Badley Hall Road had been only partially cleared. A further fly tip had occurred and been collected by TDC. A credit card had been found in in the dumped rubbish and was passed to Cllr Scott. A commercial wheelie bin had been dumped and still not collected from Honeypot Lane/Stone Road.
 - **Cllr Mander** had been in contact with a resident who had a ditch issue at Hare Green. The ditch would need clearing in summer when the ground is firmer.
 - **Cllr Nicholls** asked the Clerk to make contact with a builders company to repair the War Memorial post and chain.
- d) Clerk's Report and Correspondence received
 - CiLCA qualification deferred to June 2024 due to personal circumstances.

8. Hamilton Lodge – S106 agreement

Councillors considered the S106 offer of land and subsequent maintenance obligations in the S106 agreement associated with Hamilton Lodge.

It was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Fairley, and **RESOLVED** to decline the offer of land as it was not possible to support the extensive maintenance required once the one-off S106 payment had been expended.

9. Church Meadow play area

Councillors considered fencing options for the proposed play area at Church Meadow. It was **RESOLVED** to choose a fencing option that enclosed the area with a sprung gate and for suitable safety signage to be affixed.

10. Accounts and Budget setting for 2024/25

The latest accounts had been circulated to councillors and were approved. Councillors considered the budget for 2024/25 and agreed the following statement:

Financial planning for Great Bromley Parish Council (GBPC) set a budget for financial year 2023-2024 of £37,433. The actual expenditure for same period is projected to be £40,040. This overspend is largely explained by higher expenditure on village maintenance, tree maintenance and the decision to provide a pension for the Clerk. The gap between income and expenditure has been closed from Parish financial reserves (in line with best practice recommendation) and this has been the case for the last 4 years, with only a minimal annual increase last year by £1.14. It should be noted that the reserves are now at a level where they cannot support the annual expenditure.

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In setting the budget for financial year 2024-2025, GBPC has studied our expenditure from past year. The net outcome of that exercise sees a projected expenditure of £32,000 for next year. It should also be noted that £8000 of the reserves is grant funding for a small play area proposed at Church Meadow.

GBPC can confirm that this budget will require an increase in precept tax of £14.98 to individual households, or £1.25 per month (based on an average Band D property). Whilst this increase is much higher than previous years, the Council has avoided making a substantial increase for as long as possible, using the large reserves for shortfall rather than burden the taxpayer. As stated above we do not hold sufficient reserves to support the expenditure – which in the past has been somewhat of a luxury, but taxpayers' money should not be used for 'savings'.

In reviewing the budget, councillors have pledged to review initiatives which it has control over such as the flower tub sponsorship scheme, reviewing our banking arrangements and investment opportunities. Regrettably, the budget for S137 grants will reduce in 2024-25 and GBPC is keen to advise local groups and organisations of this early so that they may have the opportunity to source other funding initiatives for their projects.

GBPC thanks Parishioners for their support and remains confident that expenditure is concentrated on what matters most to residents. A practical illustration being that almost half of the total expenditure is spent on Village Maintenance which for a 'Green' community is a priority.

It was proposed by Cllr Tovell, seconded by Cllr Fairley, and **RESOLVED** to increase the parish precept for 2024/25 by £14.98 (£1.25 per month on an average Band D property) for submission to Tendring District Council.

11. Adoption of Equality and Diversity policy

Councillors considered a draft Equality and Diversity policy and **RESOLVED** to adopt the policy with a review at each Annual Meeting.

12. Adoption of Health and Safety policy

Councillors considered a draft Health and Safety policy and **RESOLVED** to adopt the policy with a review at each Annual Meeting.

13. Action Sheet review and update

The actions from the last meeting were reviewed and noted.

14. Highways update

The kerbstones at the War Memorial kerbstone were still in need of replacement. The flooding at Frating Road remained a high priority following recent rainfall. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact ECC Cllr Guglielmi for an update on both issues.

15. Alternatives for the defibrillator cabinets

This item was deferred to next month's meeting.

16. To approve the following payments:

Clerk's salary	£419.26
HMRC	£114.20
Employers NI	£9.40
LGPS Pension Scheme (backdated payments to July 2023)	£1726.27
Great Bromley Village Hall (03.01.24)	£12.00
Great Bromley Village Hall (10.01.24)	£30.00
VCS Websites Ltd (GBPC Website hosting)	£110.00
Patisserie4U – Festive afternoon teas	£364.50

The payments were approved.

17. Climate Change and Carbon Footprint

Councillors considered the effect of any decisions on our Carbon Footprint and Climate Change in general.

18. Date of next meeting and items of business – Wednesday 14th February 2024

The meeting closed at 9.31pm.