

Great Ellingham Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at the recreation centre on Tuesday 15 March 2016 at 7.30pm

In Attendance: Cllr T Betts (Chairman) Cllr T Getley, Cllr S Banks, Cllr N Perkins, Cllr D Simpson, Cllr G Snelling

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner  
5 members of the public

- 1. Open Forum – An opportunity for any parishioner to speak on parish matters and to hear reports from District and County Councillors, if available** – Members of the public present only wished to comment on one issue, the Orbit Homes appeal. It was therefore agreed to allow public comments at the relevant point on the agenda.
- 2. To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs May and Mellor.
- 3. To receive any declarations of interest in any item on the agenda** – None to declare.
- 4. To confirm the minutes of the meetings of 17 and 19 February 2016** – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman.
- 5. To report matters arising not on the agenda and hear the Chairman's report** – The Chairman advised that, following a nomination by the Parish Council, Ann Reeve of the Chit Chat Club has been invited to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, in recognition of her work.  
Attendance at an "understanding planning" training session prompted the Chairman to ask Breckland District Council if they are holding any S106 funds on behalf of Great Ellingham. The District Council confirmed they are holding £13117.69 which can be used as follows: £4310 (play) and £8797.69 (outdoor sport). The Chairman will contact Breckland again to establish how the funds are claimed and details of the restrictions around spending. Further information from the same session suggested that development of a Neighbourhood Plan would mean that, once the plan was approved by Breckland District Council, they could not then act against it. This will be discussed as a full agenda item next month.  
The Chairman encouraged members of the public to access the parish council website at: <http://greatellinghamparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk> for up to date information. The clerk will ask the developer of the village site to put a link from the village site to the parish council site. **Action AR.** Finally, the Chairman reported of more complaints relating to Hingham Road. Our Highways Engineer has indicated that currently County Council funding has ceased for traffic management systems (speed limits, yellow lines etc) unless they form part of a new development or are as a result of a traffic study.
- 6. To consider information relating to the Orbit Homes appeal inquiry** – The Chairman reported that the Orbit homes planning appeal will be held as a public enquiry. This means that a planning inspector will be appointed to review the whole case, visit the site and make a total assessment. Interested parties can submit comments and the deadline is 13 April 2016. The Chairman suggested that it would be appropriate to have an extraordinary parish council meeting, in order to agree comments prior to submission. A member of the public voiced their disappointment at the comments made by District Councillor Smith at the meeting of 17 February and asked if the other District Councillor for Great

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Ellingham (Phil Cowan) could support the parish council with relation to the planning appeal. The Chairman advised that, whilst District Cllr Smith had been supportive to the parish council in the past, he disagreed with the parish council's stance towards one planning application; however, the Chairman hoped this would not have any bearing on this appeal. Breckland District Council has confirmed there is no conflict of interest between Cllr. Cowan and the Orbit Homes application.

Another member of the public suggested that part of the plot on Hingham Road be reserved for road improvements in the future.

**7. To consider if alternative or additional comments should be submitted in relation to a planning appeal in respect of 3PL/2015/0611/O – 4 Chequers Lane – Erection of detached bungalow and garage with access via existing vehicular access** – The Chairman gave a summary of the application and referred to the parish council comments for the original application, which were: "Councillors had no objections to this application, with a note that an adequate level of visibility must be maintained". The plans were discussed again and it was agreed unanimously to submit the same comments.

**8. To consider planning applications, including:**

- a) **3PL/2016/0026/F – Rear of 23 Long Street – erection of dwelling and detached double garage / carport** – Following discussion, Councillors **objected** to the plans on the grounds that this would appear to be backfill. Councillors also had concerns about the poor access. **Action AR.**

**9. To receive the financial report and consider the following payments:**

The financial report, having been circulated prior to the meeting, was unanimously approved. All payments listed were approved.

Chq no	Amount	Payee	Notes
100470	£151.19	A Rayner	March 2016 salary
100471	£113.40	Post Office Ltd	Q4 tax
100472	£361.20	Came & Co	Insurance Premium

**10. To consider and note correspondence received, including:**

- a) **HM Queen Elizabeth II 90<sup>th</sup> birthday commemorative medal** – An example of the commemorative medal was shown and the price confirmed as £1.99 per unit. The parish council were made aware that Attleborough Town Council are purchasing one for the local school children. Current numbers in Great Ellingham are 174 children at the primary school and 32 children at the pre-school. The parish council resolved to purchase 206 at a cost of approx. £410, to give to children at the primary school and the pre-school. **Action AR.**

**11. To consider adopting the general power of competence** – The clerk gave a brief explanation of the general power of competence, provided for in the Localism Act 2011. As well as giving wider powers, adopting the general power of competence removes the need for spending to be restricted to the parish council "powers and duties". It also removes the need to record spending under S137. The parish council meet the qualifying criteria, i.e CiLCA qualified clerk and at least two thirds of councillors were elected or elected unopposed. It was resolved to adopt the General Power of Competence. The clerk advised the resolution needs to be made annually (as long as the qualifying criteria is still met), normally at the annual meeting of the parish council.

Cllr. Getley left the meeting. 8.30pm.

**12. To consider the Computershare final payment cheque** – A cheque for £25.09 was received in September 2015, made payable to the parish council. Paperwork passed to the current clerk by the previous clerk made mention of small interest payments (twelve pence per quarter) but the current clerk could find no trace of these. Following investigation, it became apparent that the interest payments have been paid to the recreation centre bank account. Their treasurer confirmed that this was in respect of Government Bonds invested in after the war. Following discussion, it was resolved to pay the final payment of £25.09 to the recreation committee. **Action AR.**

**13. To consider adopting a Freedom of Information Publication Scheme** – Prior to the meeting, the clerk circulated a copy of the model publication scheme published by the Information Commissioners Office. It was resolved to adopt this, together with a schedule showing where the necessary information is available. **Action AR**

**14. To hear further information regarding a possible change of bank account to Lloyds Bank** – The Chairman advised that he has a meeting with Lloyds Bank next week, so further information will be available at the next meeting. **Action TB.**

**15. To consider dangerous driving issues in the village, with specific incidents on Long Street** – Cllr May sent a written report prior to the meeting of an incident on Long Street whereby the driver of a white van nearly forced a mother pushing a buggy off the road, leaving the mother quite shaken. Cllr May reported that the volume of traffic on Long Street seems to be increasing, as does the speed of the vehicles and the number of heavy lorries. Councillors discussed the issues raised and agreed that, whilst they were concerning, there seems to be few courses of action for the parish council to take. Advice from a previous SNAP meeting was reiterated, if parishioners witness dangerous driving, or lorries on road exceeding the weight limit, make a note of their registration, take a photograph if possible and call the information in to the police on the non emergency number 101.

Cllr Snelling has received a report of dangerous and inconsiderate driving on the recreation centre car park. It was acknowledged by all councillors that parking on the recreation centre car park at school pick up and drop off time is concerning. Parking is both inconsiderate (blocking people in) and certainly leaves no access should an emergency vehicle be needed to attend the actual centre. On top of this, the rush to leave the car park once children have been collected, can be quite dangerous. The recreation committee are considering yellow boxes but would welcome ideas from the parish council. Suggestions considered were: marked out parking spaces, considering other allocated parking areas for the school and also asking the PCSO to attend.

Cllr Simpson asked about the possibility of access around the triangle at the end of Church Street being one way. The Chairman reported that this was suggested to the Highways Engineer some time ago and it was suggested that a scheme would be put forward for an appropriate traffic study. The Chairman will follow this up. **Action TB.**

**16. To consider seeking a local green space designation for the three acres of plot 19 on the Breckland Local Plan** – Following the response from the parish council to Breckland, relating to the Local Plan, the Chairman reported that the landowner in question is open to the idea of donating an area of open space

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adjacent to Church Street. It was agreed to investigate this further, including the possibility of applying to have the land declared as a community asset. **Action TB.**

**17. To consider a standard lighting clause wording for planning comments** – The clerk provided an example of some wording provided by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England. It was resolved to include the wording in all appropriate responses.

**18. To give further consideration to the defibrillator project** – The Chairman reported that the British Heart Foundation fund for defibrillators is exhausted, however, the Chit Chat Club have agreed to make a donation equal to half of the cost of the defibrillator, leaving the parish council to pay the other half. Councillors agreed they would still like to proceed with this project. Councillors preferred location for the defibrillator is the village shop, as they feel this is the most central point. The Chairman will discuss this further with the representative from the Chit Chat Club. **Action TB.**

**19. To consider items from Councillors**

- a) Condition of the verges in the village – At some of the particularly bad points in the village, it was noted that agricultural vehicles appear to be responsible for the destruction of the verges. The Chairman will write to the landowners and appeal to them to ask both staff and contractors to respect the verges in the village. **Action TB.**
- b) Abandoned car in Long Street – As Cllr Getley had to leave the meeting before this item could be discussed, the Chairman advised he will speak to him directly, concerning a possible course of action. **Action TB.**

**20. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 20 April 2016 to be held at the Recreation Centre, commencing immediately after the annual parish meeting (estimated time 8.00pm).**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.