

MINUTES OF GREAT GLEN FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 10th December 2024, 7pm, Parish Office, Church Road, Great Glen

PRESENT Cllr Gascoigne (Chair), Cllr Parrott (Vice-Chair), Cllr Andrews, Cllr Fox, Cllr Hawes, Cllr Mackay, Cllr Scott, Cllr Mrs Scott

ALSO PRESENT Cllr Feltham (Leicestershire County Council)
Mrs Adkins (Parish Manager)
Eight Members of the Public

Cllr Gascoigne welcomed all Attendees, the meeting commenced at 7pm.

85/25 Public Recess

A question was raised by a member of the public regarding the accuracy of the Minutes of the November meeting in respect of the response to a question raised regarding the S106 application. Chair responded that this could be checked. No other questions were raised.

86/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received Cllr Mahal and Cllr Hallam. The Parish Manager reported that Cllr Russell had resigned prior to the meeting. Chair called for the apologies to be accepted, proposed Cllr Parrot, seconded Cllr Mackay, unanimously agreed. Grateful thanks were expressed to Mr Russell for all the work and support he gave to the Parish Council during his tenure. He will be much missed.

87/25 Declaration of Interests, both personal and prejudicial

None.

88/25 To approve and sign the Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting of 12th November 2024

The Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting of 12th November 2024 had been previously circulated in draft. The Minutes were accepted and signed as a true and accurate record. Proposed Cllr Scott, seconded Cllr Mrs Scott. Unanimously agreed.

89/25 Reports

a) Leicestershire County Councillor

Cllr Feltham reported upon the recent publication of plans under Regulation 19 which is a stage in the Local Plan review process, by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council. The consultation covers a period of six weeks which includes the Christmas holidays. The plans show considerable housing development earmarked for land close to Great Glen. Harborough District Council will publish their draft plan on the 19th December 2024. A discussion ensued as to the effect the anticipated development will have on Great Glen and the surrounding area, major concerns include infrastructure, traffic planning and the total number of dwellings. Cllr Feltham urged as many people as possible to comment during the consultation period.

Cllr Feltham reported that on 19th November 2024 the Government announced more funding for buses. Leicestershire County Council has been allocated a considerable sum and this can be used for both revenue and running costs.

Chair thanked Cllr Feltham for his report.

b) Harborough District Councillors

No reports were received, however Cllr Mahal had advised of her resignation from her role as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, to concentrate on her role as a District Councillor.

c) Sports Clubs Representatives

Mr Morrish advised that Glen Villa are still doing well with good results. The annual match between the football and cricket clubs will take place on 22nd December.

d) Community Liaison Councillor

Cllr Hawes presented her report, reproduced below:

There was a planning meeting on 30th November 2024. A very interesting meeting supported by Market Harborough Planning Committee including Matt Bills (Neighbourhood Planning) and Terry Begley and Tess Nelson (emerging Local Plan). Awareness of drop in events was raised. I came away from the meeting feeling quite knowledgeable and also sad that so much information is, quote, "a waiting game".

Tea, coffee and biscuits were provided. It was good to talk with other Parish Councillors. All had interesting opinions. Ann and Joanne also attended for Great Glen Parish Council.

A trim and tone fitness class has started in the Village Hall. It takes place on Tuesday mornings. It is excellent, I took part because I needed to get a feel of what was happening. Low aerobics and exercises which improve strength and mobility. Lifting bars to help with muscle building. Quite a few people attended.

Chair thanked Cllr Hawes for her report.

90/25 Financial Matters

a) To approve the Income and Expenditure Account as at 30th November 2024 as circulated

Chair referred to the Summary Income and Expenditure Account attached to these Minutes at Appendix 1, which had been previously circulated. The Account was accepted. Proposed by Cllr Parrott, seconded Cllr Mrs Scott, and unanimously agreed.

b) To approve the Bank Reconciliation as at 30th November 2024 as circulated

The bank reconciliation had been circulated. A motion to accept the accounting records was proposed by Cllr Parrott, seconded Cllr Andrews, unanimously agreed.

91/25 Planning Applications

Cllr Scott presented his report:

a) Applications

5 The Nook, Great Glen – Fitting of a flood barrier to the rear of the property which is a Listed Building – Councillors briefly discussed the application which was not considered to be controversial. A neutral comment will be submitted. Proposed Cllr Scott, seconded Cllr Hawes, unanimously agreed.

Chair thanked Cllr Scott for his report.

92/25 Committee Reports

a) Finance Committee

Cllr Mrs Scott presented her report, reproduced below:

This is my report as Chair of the Finance Committee Meeting held 25th November 2024

1. ***I propose that the Investment policy is now adopted*** given that the Full Council received copies to enable them to read in their own time at the meeting of 12th November last....

2. ***For Ratification***

a. ***Budget***

The Finance Committee are now content with the Budget Figures with the knowledge that virements may be required. I feel it is important to explain why we, the Finance Committee meticulously went through each and every probable expenditure for the year commencing 1st April 2025, and income, using the Budget set for the year 2023/2024 and monies spent in that category to date, calculating possible increases or decreases.

For example, grounds maintenance is our greatest expenditure. Last year £60k was budgeted, but we have decreased that to £53k taking into consideration of what we have currently spent in this Financial Year and what we expect to pay up to the end of this financial period. Necessary increases to the budget have to be made. For example, increased Employers National Insurance Contribution to HMRC as announced by the current Government. Waste collection and utilities to name but a few are expected to be higher too. Inflation which will always reflect on possible cost increases.

Each of us in the Finance Committee feel the enormity of this responsibility as I am sure the full council can appreciate....

*I propose that the Budget Figures for 2024/2025 is **now ratified** by the Full Parish Council*

b. Reserves and Savings

Whilst in full discussion at our Committee Meeting, the Parish Manager pointed out that whilst the Current Balance of reserves looks very healthy, much of these monies are in fact earmarked for projects such as traffic management, or contingencies for repairs and renewals around the village... She suggested that to show clarity within the Balance Sheet, the sums should be moved to named earmarked reserves. The Balance Sheet will be brought to each Finance Committee meeting and displayed as part of the financial reporting of each of the Full Parish Council Meetings.

Continuing, we discussed possible future potential contingences that could arise and that we must hold reasonable reserves for emergencies too. Future projects were also considered including the remodelling of the Parish council's garages into secure storage units.

We wish to establish earmarked reserves for surfacing (pathways and car parks) at £50k and works to the garages at £25k. Traffic Management Project already has £15k earmarked which we wish to increase to £15,450. Before I ask for ratification, do any of the Parish Councillors have any further suggestions.

We will monitor these figures/values in each of our future Finance Meetings, proposing increasing/decreasing as we think necessary.

I propose that this, the Reserves and Savings is **now ratified** by the Full Parish Council

c. Precept

I personally did not want an increase in the precept, but reality dictates that it must. I would like to point out that the precept affects every household.

We propose that the Precept is increased by 3%. The budget now set for 2024/2025 shows that our overheads to cover the cost of caring for our Parish is £265.6k. The suggested increase will give us £262,650, slightly less than the budget total. We discussed this deficit, but feel that to increase the precept higher than 3% would exacerbate the financial difficulties that many of our Parish Residents are under e.g. loss of fuel allowance, increase in NI Employers' Contribution which may cause unemployment, cost of living increase etc...

I propose that this Precept request is **now ratified** by the Full Parish Council

d. Change in Fuel Supplier

The Parish Manager in her report to the Finance Committee informed us that we had received an offer to allow Clear Utility Solutions endorsed by LRAC to take care of our fuel energy acting as a broker. After much discussion and debate, we feel that this offer will be acceptable even though our main concern being the 3-year term, but it is a fixed contract yet a probable saving of at least £900 per year.

I propose that this offer by Clear Utility Solutions is **now ratified** by the Full Parish Council

e. Donation Request

Also in the Parish Manager's report, we have received a request for a donation from Citizens Advice Leicestershire which has been circulated to all Parish Councillors for consideration. I understand that this has been received favourably. We have nothing but praise for this outstanding organisation, and suggest a proposal to donate £400.

I propose that this proposal is **now ratified** by the Full Parish Council

I'd like to take this opportunity in reminding the councillors that I would like help from yourselves in helping the Finance Committee in the new year in identifying our Assets as requested in my last report of 11th November. May I see a show of hands?

All hands raised.

My thanks again to the Parish Manager and to the Finance Committee Members that attended

The date of the next Finance Committee is planned for 9th January 2025, with the understanding that should we learn our S106 application to be successful, I will call an earlier meeting.

However, as this is our last Full Parish Council meeting of this year, may I wish each and every one of you a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year with good health.

The various matters within the report were discussed during the presentation. Cllr Gascoigne commented that the Precept is diluted by the number of houses built, and the level of Precept increases to reflect this.

Cllr Gascoigne led a discussion regarding traffic calming. The last quote received for the design element which included Stretton Road, was circa £120,000. It was suggested that the Earmarked Reserve be built up to cover at least this figure. Though he commented that the Parish Council continue to struggle to engage with the County Council to undertake the design, a push on this will be made in 2025. Cllr Mackay commented that the scheme should be undertaken in stages to reduce disruption and spread costs. Cllr Feltham commented that Section 106 monies from the proposed new houses could be used for improvements in traffic calming as had been done in Kibworth.

92/25/1 Investment Policy proposed to be adopted Cllr Mrs Scott, seconded Cllr Scott, unanimously agreed.

92/25/2 Budget proposed to be adopted Cllr Mrs Scott, seconded Cllr Andrews, unanimously agreed.

92/25/3 Reserves proposed to be adopted

- I. Surfacing Contingency £50,000 – proposed Cllr Mrs Scott, seconded Cllr Parrott, unanimously agreed.
- II. Garage Project £25,000 – proposed Cllr Mrs Scott, seconded Cllr Scott, unanimously agreed.
- III. Cllr Parrott suggested that, following advice received at the Harborough District Council Planning Workshop, a sum be earmarked for planning matters for the village including revision of the Neighbourhood Plan at £50,000. Proposed Cllr Parrott, seconded Cllr Andrews, unanimously agreed.

92/25/4 Precept Request 2025/26 It was proposed that a request be sent to Harborough District Council in respect of the year 2025/26 in the sum of £262,650. Proposed Cllr Mrs Scott, seconded Cllr Parrott, unanimously agreed. The Precept Calculator is awaited to confirm the number of Band D properties, and the percentage increase the request creates.

92/25/5 Change of Fuel Supplier proposed Cllr Mrs Scott, seconded Cllr Andrews, unanimously agreed.

92/25/6 Donation to Citizens Advice Leicestershire £400 proposed Cllr Mrs Scott, seconded Cllr Parrott, unanimously agreed.

93/25 Chair's Report

Matters noted around the village included that recently laid gravel chippings on the resurfaced roads had been washed off or away in recent bad weather. The state of the village footpaths especially between The Mere and London Road was discussed, these will be checked in the New Year.

94/25 Parish Manager's Report

The Parish Manager requested Councillors consider the appointment of the Internal Auditor for the year ended 31st March 2025. Two suggestions were made, Ireland and Company who have been previously engaged, and LRALC. A brief discussion resulted in a decision to engage LRALC, a request will be made. Proposed Cllr Mrs Scott, seconded Cllr Scott, unanimously agreed.

Bench for Chestnut Drive – The Parish Manager reported that the location of the bench had been decided by Cllr Hallam, and details for the licence application had been received. She then suggested that this bench be purchased with the grant monies received in respect of a memorial to King Charles III coronation, this was agreed and Councillors chose between two alternatives. This work will now be undertaken in the New Year.

Following on from Chair's Report and the mention of the state of the footpaths, the Parish Manager reported acceptance of an offer from a Rights of Way Officer of Leicestershire County Council to include certain footpaths in the village within a planned scheme of hard surfacing when/if funding becomes available in 2025. This scheme will be very limited, and Councillors were resoundingly pleased with the offer.

95/25 Correspondence Received

An email received from the Property Database Officer of Harborough District Council requesting suggestions for the naming of the newly developed cul-de-sac opposite The Yews on London Road. Councillors were asked to give this some thought.

96/25 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Full Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday 14th January 2025, 7pm at the Parish Office. This was noted.

The meeting closed at 7.43pm

Signed : _____
Cllr Tim Gascoigne, Chair of the Parish Council

Dated : _____

APPENDIX 1

EXPENDITURE

RENT	1850.00
RATES	453.00
PHONE/INTERNET	237.42
OFFICE SUPPLIES	445.58
OFFICE CANTEEN	0.00
WEBSITE	0.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS	65.96
COMPUTER SUPPORT	0.00
ACCOUNTS SUPPORT/SYSTEM	0.00
MISC	188.00
GRANTS/DONATIONS	25.00
UTILITIES	793.85
TRAINING	35.00
R&R/MAINTENANCE	20586.84
PLAY PARK EQUIP	0.00
BANK CHARGES	41.85
SALARIES	2922.65
PAYROLL CHARGES	132.00
HMRC	0.00
PENSION	600.58
INSURANCE	0.00
PWL REPAYMENT	223.67
PAVILION PROJECT	0.00
	<u>28601.40</u>

INCOME

INVOICES	7032.35
VAT REFUND	6492.35
INTEREST - CURRENT ACCOUNT	351.93
INTEREST - SAVINGS ACCOUNT	54.92
	<u>13931.55</u>