

## **GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

### **JANUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The Parish Council meeting was held in the Village Hall on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January with six Parish Councillors in attendance along with eleven parishioners. The County Councillor Stuart Dark and the Borough Councillor Alistair Beales gave their apologies for his absence.

#### **Casual Vacancy**

Prior to the January Parish Council meeting Jon Cole handed his resignation to the Chair, following time served as a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council thanked him for all of his time that he had made available and all that he had contributed during his time on the Council.

The Local Election Rules 2006 require the Casual Vacancy to be advertised on the Notice Board and Parish Council Website for a period of 14 days. If within the 14 days of the date of the notice a request, in writing, that an election should be held to fill the vacancy, signed by ten local government electors of the Ward is given to the Proper Officer (BCKLWN), then an election will need to be held.

If no such request is received by the Proper Officer (BCKLWN), the Parish Council will take the necessary steps to fill the vacancy by co-option.

#### **Parish Councillor Vacancy to be filled by Co-option**

The necessary period under the Local Election Rules 2006 required to advertise the Casual Vacancy has concluded and the Parish Council have been advised by Electoral Services (BCKLWN) that they are able to co-opt in order to fill the vacancy left by Mark Eldridge.

#### **Are you interested in joining the Parish Council?**

A councillor is a member of the council and is normally elected for a term of four years. People of any political or religious persuasion are eligible to become a councillor for Great Massingham, although both their personal and political views should not extend into their parish council work.

Becoming a parish councillor is a rewarding and valued form of public service. All councillors contribute to the work of the Parish Council by:

- Having a say about the things they care about
- Putting forward ideas for better services
- Responding to the needs and views of parishioners
- Seeking the best outcome to local issues
- Getting involved in decision making
- Helping to make Great Massingham a better place to live!

We normally meet on the second Monday of the month. Meetings commence at 7.30 pm lasting around 2 hours at the Village Hall. Councillors are expected to attend meetings on a regular basis.

Co-option for the vacancy will take place at the 12<sup>th</sup> February meeting and application forms should be returned to the Parish Clerk by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. For further information or to obtain an application form please visit the Parish Council website (News) or contact Sarah Harvey (Clerk) by email [gmparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:gmparishclerk@gmail.com) or telephone 01328 823391.

#### **Finance**

As, is always the case in January, the Parish Council is required to agree the Precept for the next financial year, 2024/25 by 31<sup>st</sup> January. Therefore, the annual Budget and Precept were considered by the Council and it was agreed to increase the Band D contribution by around 49p per month (over a 10 month period) which will result in a new annual payment of £71.39.

Donations were also agreed for organisations inside and outside of the village, including the Community Car Scheme (£500), St Mary's Parochial Church Council (£350) and the Biodiversity Group (£250).

## **Potholes**

More potholes seem to have appeared on the roads primarily because of the winter weather. A combination of heavy rain and freezing temperatures has caused the road surfaces to crumble.

If you are being troubled by potholes that maybe aren't being attended to, please make Highways aware of the issue so it can be repaired. Anyone can report a highways problem including potholes to Norfolk County Council via their website <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem>

## **Additional Bus Stops – Station Road**

The Parish Council has been advised by Norfolk County Council that the 'bus stops were provided at these locations to allow sufficient and convenient access to bus services for the residents of Walcup Lane and Summerwood Estate. The distance from these areas to the existing stops outside the church exceeds 400m (NCC's recommended maximum distance to access a bus stop) whereas the new stops fulfil this requirement. It's important we provide all residents with equal opportunity to access sustainable modes of travel.'

NCC have further confirmed that 'policy dictates that the installation of bus stops on public highway does not require consultation with residents.'

They further explained that 'the position of the bus stop opposite No.49 is on a minor bend, however, with the speed limit at 30mph, it's felt there is sufficient visibility and time to allow a car to pass safely. NCC recommend that approaching a stationary bus, drivers exercise additional caution when overtaking. It's also important to note the maximum time a bus could stop at this location is 6 times per day, with an average dwell time of 10 seconds. Proportionally, this is a very small amount of time and therefore significantly reduces any risk.'

The Parish Council were not made aware of the work in advance and have raised these concerns with NCC. The Parish Council have also requested that in the future should further projects be planned the Council are consulted in advance so that these can be communicated to residents.

## **Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm.

Members of the public are very welcome to join the meeting and there is an opportunity to make comments or ask questions of the Council during the first part of the meeting.

To contact the Clerk, Sarah Harvey you can telephone 01328 823391, email [gmparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:gmparishclerk@gmail.com) or write to Byanoak, Leicester Road, South Creake, NR21 9PW.

**Please note that Facebook is not a recognised mechanism of communication so any comments, complaints or compliments should be directed to the Clerk via the contact details provided.**