

GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

JUNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council meeting began at 7.30pm on Monday 17th June, with seven Parish Councillors in attendance, eight members of the public along with the Borough Councillor for the Massingham with Castle Acre Ward, Alistair Beales.

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY: 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.

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 will take place at the 8th July meeting and application forms should be returned to the Parish Clerk by 5th July. 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 or telephone **01328 823391**.

Finance

The annual accounts for the year ending 31st March, 2024, along with the internal audit report will be made available on the Parish Council website for anyone who wishes to review this.

External Audit (Limited Assurance Review)

For the financial year 2023/24 the gross income or gross expenditure for the Council exceeded £25,000 therefore the Parish Council must complete Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and submit this to the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP.

The Parish Council must publish various documents on a publicly available website as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.

These include:

- Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/22
- Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2021/22
- Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22
- Analysis of variances
- Bank reconciliation
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and declaration that the accounting statements are as yet unaudited.

Through the new grant awarding policy, the Parish Council intends to set aside £1,000 each financial year to provide assistance and support to local community organisations, groups or individuals which benefit part or all of the local community. Details regarding the application process and a application form are available

on the Parish Council website – www.greatmassingham-pc.info, on the 'Documents' page. Applications for grants will be considered four times per year, in May, August, November and January. This year so far, we have already awarded £250 to the Massingham Historical Society.

Can you put dog poo in a litter bin?

While most dog owners are caring, responsible individuals, there are still some people who do not clean up after their pets.

Please be aware that dog owners can use any bin to dispose of their pet's mess. Whilst the Parish Council does provide some dedicated dog-fouling bins in the village, any public litter bin can take the waste.

Notice to All Parishioners: Support Needed for Play Area Enhancement Project

The Parish Council is currently investigating options and pricing to replace the existing platform roundabout with a modern equivalent. We aim to complete this upgrade during the current year. To assist with the costs associated with the supply and installation of the new roundabout and the necessary safety surfacing, we intend to apply for funding from the National Lottery Awards for All programme.

Community Support for Funding Application

A crucial part of our funding application requires us to demonstrate strong community support for the project. While we will be reaching out to various community groups, County Councillor, and Borough Councillor for their letters of support, additional letters from residents will be particularly valuable.

Invitation for Letters of Support

We invite all parishioners, especially those with children or grandchildren who regularly use the play area, to support our funding bid. Your letters of support will significantly strengthen our application and help us succeed in securing the necessary funding.

Please email your letters of support to: gmparishclerk@gmail.com

Alternatively, you can send your letters to: **Byanoak, Leicester Road, South Creake, NR21 9PW**

Privacy Note

Please note that names and addresses will be redacted unless you expressly give consent for your information to be shared.

Range of Options and Pricing

We are considering three different options for the new roundabout, with equipment prices ranging from approximately £8,344 to £12,090. Further information and images of each of the options are available on the Parish Council website – www.greatmassingham-pc.info, please follow the link on the 'Home' page

Your support is crucial for the success of this project. We appreciate your participation and look forward to your enthusiastic backing to enhance our community play area.

Thank you for your support.

Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 8th July at 7.30pm. Members of the public are very welcome to attend the meeting and there is an opportunity to make comments or ask questions of the Council during the first part of the meeting.

Please note that the Parish Council will not respond to posts on social media and would ask that any comments, complaints or compliments be directed to the Clerk via the contact details provided.

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