

GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

JULY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council meeting began at 7.30pm on Monday 8th July, with seven Parish Councillors in attendance, twelve members of the public along with the Borough Councillor Alistair Beales and County Councillor Stuart Dark.

New Parish Councillor: The Parish Council would like to welcome our new Parish Councillor – Peter Harries – to the Council. Peter was successfully co-opted on to the Council at the meeting and we look forward to him joining us at the August meeting.

Public Right of Way's

The Parish Council has received concerns from parishioners regarding the public rights of way (PROW) in the village and the frequency of cutting. Norfolk County Council have advised that 'PROW's are cut twice per year usually with the first cut in May/June and the second cut in July/August. The commencement date of each round of cutting varies from year to year as officers try to anticipate the optimum cutting period based on growth and weather patterns. Contractors have 6 weeks to cut all the routes they are allocated, and they generally cover a large number of parishes so it is not possible to predict exactly when in that six week period any particular PROW will be cut.

In relation to Great Massingham, the first cut has been completed. The second round of cutting is due to start on 8th July and the PROW should be cut within 6 weeks of that date.

The amount of growth between cuts varies year to year, and this year after a cold spring and early summer the weather has warmed up and we have had a lot of rain so regrowth is very vigorous, and some routes may become overgrown before we can get round to them again. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to cut any more frequently, though some landowners and parishes undertake additional cutting.'

The Parish Council raised concerns about the PROW's with County Councillor Stuart Dark at the meeting who agreed to look into this further. If you wish to report a specific issue on a PROW the best way to do it is via this link: <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/> Any issues will be sent directly to the correct team for follow up. You can set up a My Norfolk account which will allow you to be kept updated on the status of the issue you are reporting.

Play Area

The Parish Council has recently had the play area equipment deep cleaned to remove both a build up of detritus and bird excrement (something which is causing a real issue). The Council intends to consider whether a regular cleaning programme would be beneficial going forward and is also hoping to provide covers for swing seating that can be replaced when not in use.

Village Ponds

Following a working group meeting to help formulate a plan of action to manage vegetation and establish 'fishing pitches around Scotsman's Pit the Council agreed a number of actions. The swims created by local residents are to be maintained by the grounds maintenance company moving forward. Two additional swims for fisherman will be created, the first on the station road side of the pond and the second opening a small swim on the village green side of the pond. This work will be completed by the Friday Volunteer Group. It is hoped that this will improve the swims and remove some of the vegetation around the pond and open up the view. The Council will also agree to pay for some work to cut down and tidy areas highlighted by the working party along with the Friday Volunteer's to help manage the Nettles, Dock and other unwanted plants, while maintaining the great work the Volunteer's are doing to improve the bio diversity and preventative work on bank erosion.

Work has also been agreed to cut back and clear the vegetation, brambles and small saplings from around both Post Office Pit and the Weasenhams Road ponds outer edges.

Parish Council Website – www.greatmassingham-pc.info

Please do, if you are able, visit the Parish Council website in order to access agenda's and minutes of past meetings, current news items and both helpful information to assist you with reporting things such as streetlighting, highway or dog fouling issues. If you can't find what you are looking for please do contact the Clerk Sarah Harvey, who will happily assist you.

Classics on the Green – 1st June

Following the event on the 1st June, the total raised from the event was £1,175 for Wings for Life and £525 which will be allocated to local causes within the village.

Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 12th August 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.