

## GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### AUGUST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council meeting began at 7.30pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August, with eight Parish Councillors in attendance along with seven members of the public.

#### **New Christmas Lighting for the Village**

We're pleased to confirm that a supplier has now been chosen for our new Christmas lights. Following a quote from Cozens (UK) Ltd, the project will see 350 metres of warm white LED lighting installed in the large tree opposite the village pub. The lights will be wrapped around the branches from the crown, covering around two-thirds of the tree's height, creating a striking festive display.

The installation, including materials and labour, has been quoted at £3,132 (including VAT). The work will take place during the autumn to ensure the lights are ready for December.

Plans are now being made for a Christmas Lights Switch-On Event in December, and further details will be shared nearer the time.

#### **Playground Redevelopment Plans**

We're delighted to announce that CAP.Co has been appointed as the supplier for our new playground project. CAP.Co are specialists in designing and building inspiring outdoor play spaces, and their creative plans promise to transform our village playground into a vibrant, safe, and exciting place for children of all ages to enjoy.

To make this happen, we have the opportunity to secure a £100,000 grant from FCC Communities Foundation. Before this major funding can be unlocked, we must raise a local contribution of £10,750—known as "Contributing Third Party" support.

We're delighted to share that, thanks to the generosity of a local business, £1,000 has already been pledged. This leaves us with £9,750 still to raise. Every donation, large or small, will bring us a step closer to delivering this much-needed facility for children and families in our community. **To donate, please contact the parish clerk at: [gmparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:gmparishclerk@gmail.com)**

To help reach this target, we're excited to announce a **Fundraising Village Fete** on **Sunday 12th October** at the Village Hall. It promises to be a fantastic day full of fun, food, and activities for all ages, with every pound raised going directly to the playground fund.

Please support if you can – together we can make it happen for our children. **If you'd like a stall, please contact the Clerk at [gmparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:gmparishclerk@gmail.com)**

#### **Parish Council to Support Neighbourhood Plan**

When the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group was first established, the Parish Council agreed to provide financial support if needed. Until now, much of the work has been funded through grants (mainly from Groundwork UK) and by the time and effort of community volunteers.

However, in April 2025 the Government announced that no further grant funding would be available for the development of Neighbourhood Plans. To ensure that the important work on our own NDP can continue, the Steering Group requested financial support from the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has now agreed to provide this support. For 2025/26, funding of £1,900 has been allocated to cover:

- Specialist consultancy from Collective Community Planning to review progress so far and advise on next steps.
- Printing, hall hire and other costs linked to consultation activities.

Further support may be required in 2026/27 to cover technical advice, consultation costs, and the referendum process.

This decision ensures that work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan can move forward without interruption.

#### **Overgrown Hedging**

We kindly remind all residents to regularly trim any hedges or vegetation that overhang pavements.

Overgrown hedges can obstruct sidewalks, forcing pedestrians, including children, the elderly, and those with disabilities, to step onto the road, which poses a significant safety risk. By keeping hedges neatly trimmed, you contribute to the comfort and safety of everyone in our community. Well-maintained pavements ensure that pedestrians can use the paths without obstruction, promoting a safe and pleasant environment for all.

We appreciate your cooperation in this important matter.

**Next Meeting:** The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> September 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](mailto:gmparishclerk@gmail.com) or write to Byanoak, Leicester Road, South Creak, NR21 9PW.