

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 13th day of JANUARY 2020 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Rayner (Chair), Lambert (Vice-Chair), Cock, Cole, Edwards, Storey and Studd, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Bane and Mrs McGeeney. Also present 4 members of the public and Squadron Leader Turnbull.

APOLOGIES: None received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None received.

MINUTES: Mr Cole pointed out the following inaccuracies: Item 3 - Changed 'two waste pipes' to 'one waste pipe' and 'cut off' to 'cut in half'; Item 25 - Changed 'Mrs McGeeney said' to 'Mrs McGeeney advised by email' and Item 52 - Changed 'visibility is poor when pulling out of this junction' to 'they are churning up the grass'. Amendments were made minutes were then taken as read, agreed and duly signed by the Chair.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The meeting was suspended for 1 minute to allow members of the public to speak.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – Sqn Leader Turnbull wished everyone a Happy New Year and went on to say that American tension with Iran has not had an effect on the local American airbases and that residents should rest assured that there has been no threats and none are anticipated although direct action will be taken should any be posed. The Chair then read out a letter received from a resident raising two concerns, the first of which was the noise level of the most recent explosions which she considered to be louder and more ferocious, and her request for a siren to be sounded before each one took place. Sqn Leader explained that these explosions appeared to be louder due to low cloud cover and were actually delayed by two hours to account for this. He has asked the EOD to seriously consider climatic conditions before the explosions take place. He had made enquiries but there was no explanation regarding the Sulphur emissions as nothing unusual was carried out that day. Mr Storey strongly pointed out his belief that the explosions were getting louder and the fact was that until the demolition activities are moved to a battle area such as Stanta, then residents are always going to complain. He said urgent action is required and tests needed to be carried out to identify damage caused to residents' property by these explosions because until this happens, residents will not be satisfied. He said the effect was not only on humans but buildings and animals too. Sqn Leader said they are licensed for a maximum amount of 5lb of plastic explosives and regulations are being adhered to. He had heard nothing further on moving these to Stanta. Mr Storey asked if the Parish Council could view the document that permitted the explosions to take place near residents and said he would rather speak to someone directly responsible for them. Mr Cock stated that the RAF came to Feltwell, not the other way around therefore consideration must be given to these concerns. Mr Storey said that over the years the relationship has been extremely respectful and problems have always been addressed but that urgent action is now required on this particular issue. The resident's second concern regarded the junction of the base with Wilton Road and how Americans are often seen not looking left when pulling out. The resident suggested signage is displayed to remind drivers to look left. Sqn Leader said he would respond directly to the resident on both issues however did point out that drivers also drove on the left hand side when inside the base therefore this sign was probably not going to make a difference. He also reiterated the junction is being redesigned to eliminate this issue amongst others. Sqn Leader departed the meeting at 7.50 pm.

2. **SNT** – Police Connect emails circulated but nothing relating to Feltwell has been received.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

3. Risk Assessment – Mr Edwards carried out the inspection and agreed that the brambles surrounding the field, although not much of a hazard to playing field users, should be removed. Clerk said Rangers have been asked to cut these back. The vent on the Changing Rooms needs replacing as all the flaps have been broken and the cap on the guttering has been removed. There is still graffiti on the teen shelter. Baby swing seats need cleaning. Clerk to speak to Handyman. Parts of the chain link fence around the tennis court have come away from the bottom wire. Waste pipe from the scout hut still needs attention as it is leaking grey water. Clerk to speak to Claire Scarff. The floor of the purple shelter needs filling and matting laid. Multiple handles are loose on the play equipment and some grab handles are rusting, one of which has split. Wooden bench needs preservative. Clerk said this is programmed for the Spring. Edge of skate park is a trip hazard and skate park itself has lots of cracks, also where the metal edge of the flat top meets the curve. He believed major work was required. Mrs Bane thought there was a 20-year warranty and will speak to Canvas Spaces who installed it. Suckers need to be cut from the tree stumps. Clerk said S P Landscapes are pricing for the complete removal of the stumps and she would obtain other quotations. ‘No Dog’ signs still need to be put up. Rings in the ground near the kissing gate and on the car park (used to tie aeroplanes to in the past) are trip hazards. Clerk said Handyman is obtaining a new plastic casing to replace the damaged part on the zip wire. He has cut the ivy away from the entrance near the Scout hut and this should now die back. Signs have all been cleaned. Clerk is in the process of obtaining prices for a new basketball hoop. Clerk said she was waiting to hear from CNC Building Control re the damaged chalk wall. Clerk said following the annual operation inspection, she will obtain prices for any work required on the play equipment. Mr Storey to carry out the next inspection.

4. Balance Sheet – No queries.

5. Allotment Pest Control – Reports received for November and December.

6. NALC – NALC bulletins circulated as received.

7. Briefing sessions (i) Local Plan – Site Allocations & Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (ii) 5 year land supply – Mr Storey said the local task group meet regularly and this is moving at a reasonable pace.

8. Street Light Replacement – Mrs Bane proposed replacing the remaining 13 street lights on the Oakfields Estate, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. Clerk to arrange.

9. Ranger Visit – No report as yet.

10. Parish Partnership Scheme – Decision will be advised mid-March.

11. Locality Budget – Mr Storey will speak to Andy Wallace who he is meeting in due course.

12. Village Sign – Clerk said new crook is now in situ.

13. T T Jones Electrical Ltd – Column Replacement & Electrical Testing – Transfer took place 19/12/19, Clerk to check if redundant column has been removed.

14. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey said a public consultation is in progress regarding the creation of 142 new learning places at ten mainstream schools for children with disabilities, details of which are on the Citizen’s Space and NCC websites. He said NCC is doing a lot more in respect of adult social care and urged people to visit their website to view the report instead of reading the press. Another consultation is taking place on Lorne Green’s (Police & Crime

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

Commissioner) proposed budget for Norfolk and Mr Storey advised viewing how the figures had been arrived at. He said the NCC cabinet had met earlier regarding the general budget which is ongoing, and a breakdown of the whole budget can be found on the website. A final decision of how money will be spent will be made when the consultation finishes. Mr Storey enquired if any decision had been made on whether Feltwell Parish Council wished to draw up at Neighbourhood Plan. This was discussed and the Clerk will arrange a meeting with Alan Gomm (Planning Policy Manager at BCKLWN) so that the Councillors can obtain more information.

15. Tree - Old Methwold Road – Clerk said NCC has confirmed they own the trees around the Oakfields Estate. She will request a survey on these trees and also obtain a price for a survey of the two Parish Council-owned trees (opposite the Chequers and Old Methwold Road).

16. Fence – No update.

17. High Street/St Mary's Junction – Mr Studd believed that 'SLOW' should also be painted between Mulberry Close and the One Stop. Clerk to speak to Highways.

18. Doctors' Lease – Clerk read out response from Practice Manager stating that due to an increase in their patient list, money will have to be spent on either up-skilling staff or employing a new salaried GP to cope with this, therefore they cannot afford an increase in rent. This was discussed at length and concluded with Mrs Bane proposing charging £300/annum for a six year lease with the Surgery having responsibility for maintaining the car park, Mr Cock seconded, six in favour, two against. Clerk to write to Surgery and Solicitor. The response from the Practice Manager regarding the recent emergency situation was thought to be disappointing.

19. Budget/Precept 2020/21 – Clerk presented budget proposals for consideration. Clerk to ask for volunteers to water the planters via the Facebook Community Page. Mr Lambert proposed £1000 be allocated for the Clerk's new office equipment, Mrs Bane seconded, six in favour, two abstained. Clerk to obtain quotes for internet providers as she has currently been funding this herself but felt the Parish Council should be contributing towards this. Further discussion can take place at the next meeting regarding the budget figures.

20. Memorial Garden – Ongoing.

21. Resignation – See Item 45 re Closure of Meeting.

22. Allotment Shed Break-Ins – Mr Cole said a tenant had asked him for an update on the chain link entrance barrier. Clerk to arrange a meeting with Mr Lambert and Mr Ayres to discuss.

23. Dog Bins – Mrs McGeeney said more bin bags had been left by the dog bin outside Oakfields. Mr Cock kindly said he would dispose of these.

24. Review Grass Maintenance Contract – Clerk will advise quotations at the next meeting.

25. Hythe Road – Mr Storey said he would discuss this with Andy Wallace.

26. Online Banking – Clerk said Bank Manager had confirmed she could have 'view only' access to online statements however the Mandate Team said payments would have to be set up by another Councillor and then another Councillor would need to authorise them. Chair did not believe this to be correct so Clerk will clarify.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

27. Enquiry from Feltwell United U12 Team – Manager was not present therefore this was carried forward to the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

28. Police Connect - Emails received and circulated

29. NCC – Emails – ‘Norfolk unwraps a new reuse shop in time for Christmas’, ‘Make 2020 the year you quit smoking’

30. EOD Operations Section, RAF Lakenheath – Email – Five demolitions at RAF Feltwell on 18/12/19 between 0800 hrs and 1400 hrs

31. PC Lee Anderton – Email – Newsletter (December)

32. TWR Accountants – December Tax Tips & News

33. Community Action Norfolk – Emails – Jobs Newsletter

34. West Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group – Email – Newsletter & Winter Briefing

35. Rural Services Network – Weekly bulletin 07/01/2020

36. E.ON – Email – Monthly Marketing Report (November)

37. Early Help Children’s Services – Email – Christmas Holiday Activities, January Directory

38. Oakhill Trees & Landscaping – Email – Promoting Suffolk-based company

39. Brochures – Parish Magazine

40. **CHEQUES** – Cheques were signed for the following – S Sargent £101.86, E.ON £498.04, Viridor £134.47, T T Jones Electrical £190.68 & £1747.20, John Rolph £100.00, URM £5.40, D G Waters & Sons £600.00, HMRC £183.71, Cash £50.00, Harry Stebbins Workshop £210.00. Standing order to J Martin £846.47, direct debit to BT £51.24.

41. PLANNING

TB Construction: Reserved Matters Application: Construction of 4 dwellings at 34 Nightingale Lane – Amended. Mr Cole said the properties still have two floors and the applicant had not met the required criteria. Mr Storey and Mr Cock abstained, 8 against - REFUSED.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

42. Highways – Pothole at the entrance to Oakfields, Clerk to speak to Highways and chase outstanding potholes. Chair and Clerk meeting with Jay Moorise (Highways) 31/1/2020. Clerk read out email from resident regarding speeding and size of vehicles using Paynes Lane. Clerk said it is unlikely Highways will do anything as there is no accident history here. Mr Studd asked if local parishes share resources (ie SAM2) and if so, whether other parishes could use them in their speeding campaigns. Chair to look into this. During Public Speaking, a resident reported a broken drain cover opposite his property on Lodge Road, Clerk to report to Highways.

43. Memorial Bench – Paul Cole suggested changing the wording on the bench to commemorate other Parish Councillors.

44. Church Wall – Mr Cole reported a hole in the church wall at St Mary’s on Bell Street. Mr Rayner said the Church Warden had said there was no funding available at present.

45. Proposal to Close the Meeting to the Press and Public – Mr Rayner proposed the motion, that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as applied by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting at this

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point as the matter next being discussed is a confidential issue relating to the Casual Vacancy, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour. Members of the public departed the meeting at 9.30 pm. Mr Edwards said the notice put up by the Clerk was not correct and believed this invalidated the whole process. Clerk said the notice was received from the Borough Council and therefore it was correct. Two applications were received. Mr Cock declared an interest and departed the meeting at 9.35 pm. Mr Storey believed each applicant should be invited to an informal interview with the whole Council. Mrs Bane proposed the vote take place that evening without interviewing the two applicants, Mr Lambert seconded, 6 in favour, 1 against. Mrs Peckham received the majority of votes therefore she is the new Parish Councillor for the Anchor Ward. Clerk to notify Mrs Peckham and invite to the next meeting.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 10th February 2020 at 7.30 pm at the British Legion.

Meeting declared closed 9.42 pm.
