

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 9th day of MARCH 2020 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Rayner (Chair), Lambert (Vice-Chair), Cock, Cole, Edwards and Storey, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Bane, Mrs McGeeney and Mrs Peckham. Also present 5 members of the public and Squadron Leader Turnbull.

APOLOGIES: Apologies received from Mr Studd.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None received.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, agreed and duly signed by the Chair.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The meeting was suspended for 8 minutes to allow members of the public to speak.

MATTERS ARISING

1. RAF Feltwell – Sqn Leader Turnbull said availability for the Base Tour had been increased to 20 to accommodate more people and a second date will be scheduled if further people are interested. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation confirmed that the USAF boundary is the fence line and land between the fence and the road is unadopted however the USAF are willing to clear it for safety reasons and he will liaise with residents regarding necessary work. USAF are adhering to advice from Public Health England and taking all necessary precautions against the Coronavirus. He is meeting with Suffolk Resilience PHS to ensure all measures are in place. All newly returned personnel from Northern Italy are being self-quarantined and there are currently no cases on any of the USAF bases within the UK. All new personnel receive driver training on road safety upon arrival. If residents are concerned about any USAF personnel speeding and driving dangerously then they should report registration plates to him. Mr Storey raised concern again regarding the queuing traffic at the entrance and vehicles dangerously overtaking and Sqn Leader reiterated what he had said at a previous meeting that the gate was being redesigned and he hoped this would be in place within the next two years. Sqn Leader Turnbull departed the meeting at 7.47 pm.

2. SNT – Police Connect emails circulated, no reports regarding Feltwell.

3. Risk Assessment – Mr Rayner carried out the inspection. He said the small black pedestrian gate is bent down the side and the asphalt surface is breaking up near the Changing Rooms. One of the five stepping platforms on the multiplay equipment has become detached from its base fixing and the matting is lifting up under the cantilever swing. The screws at the bottom of the basketball hoop are loose and need attention. He said the football teams appear to be banging their boots against the Changing Room walls. Clerk to write to all Managers to reiterate that players must not do this. There is graffiti inside and outside the teen shelter. Clerk to chase Handyman to fix the guttering as Mrs Peckham said the wall is suffering. Mrs Peckham also felt the briar bush at the entrance to the field near the cub hut should be completely removed now that it is bare. Clerk to ask Handyman to remove. Mr Storey said he thought the briars around the outside of the perimeter fence should be removed. Mr Rayner said all the tree work had been carried out by S P Landscapes. Mr Lambert to carry out the next inspection.

4. Balance Sheet – No queries.

5. Allotment Pest Control – Reports received for January and February together with a complete annual report of vermin control measures undertaken by Mr Rolph.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

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 this is ongoing.

8. Street Light Replacement – All 13 street lights have been installed on the Oakfields Estate and Clerk said the entire village was now lit by LED street lights. Mr Rayner thanked Mrs Bane and the Clerk for all their efforts with this.

9. Ranger Visit – Mr Rayner said he had met with Mark Sharman who said not much of the verge around the playing field is owned by Highways, just a small piece near the road therefore they wouldn't touch any overgrowth from the field.

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

11. Locality Budget – Mr Storey said he had requested a date for the sign to be installed but has had no update.

12. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey attended the NCC Budget Meeting, exact figures/details of which can be found on the NCC website www.norfolk.gov.uk. Details for increases in Council Tax can be found on the reverse of each bill. The disability allowance has been reduced again which Cllr Storey didn't agree with and therefore couldn't vote on the budget itself. Clerk said new date for the Neighbourhood Plan meeting is Monday 16th March.

13. Tree - Old Methwold Road – Clerk said date for the tree survey by S P Landscapes was w/c 2/3/2020 but she had had no correspondence from them as yet.

14. Fence – Mr Rayner said J M Ayres and T B Bonnett had priced for this work. Both recommended completely removing the pedestrian gate to make the entrance wider. J M Ayres quoted for moving the post so the gate would swing in the existing way at £732 + VAT or with powder coating £887 + VAT or two coats £982 + VAT. T B Bonnett said the gate would have to swing in the opposite direction as the post was not strong enough for a longer gate therefore quoted £1086 + VAT in black paint and for two people to move the post for a total of two hours, any extra time would be charged at £50/hour per person. T B Bonnett also quoted for a hoop top gate at £1346.00 + VAT. Mr Edwards questioned why the gate was so extravagant and suggested a galvanised farm gate. Mr Rayner said it had to be a specific specification as the panel would need to be removed. Mr Cock added that it should match the existing fence. Mr Rayner said the gate needed to be widened as it was just wide enough for the fire engine to pass through during the fete last year. He said he would check the legal width of a gate for access by emergency vehicles for next month's meeting.

15. High Street/St Mary's Junction – Mr Lambert said a resident had suggested having an island encroaching onto the road to the left of the entrance to Mulberry Close to slow down vehicles and prevent drivers pulling left out of this junction.

16. Doctors' Lease – Clerk said the Surgery had asked if they could pay the rent before the end of their financial year. Mrs Peckham said consent had not been granted yet from the Secretary of State so questioned the legal implications of this. Mrs McGeeney proposed the lease be signed before accepting the rent payment, Mr Storey seconded, all in favour. Clerk to contact Practice Manager.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

17. Memorial Garden – Mr Rayner met with three different companies but has only received one quote to date of £1850 + VAT. This is to renovate the general area and as the step is broken, to put in a small ramp down the left hand side. A lot of replacement grass work is required as the grass is infested with a type of weed. Mr Rayner will wait for the other quotations. Mr Edwards asked if there could be another flagpole as he felt the Union Flag should be flown at all times. Clerk to obtain a price for a Union Flag.

18. Allotment Shed Break-Ins – Mr Lambert met with J M Ayres who quoted £798 + VAT for a triangular gate plus installation at £370 + VAT. Mr Lambert said a chain link gate is not an option as it would not be seen in the dark thus posing a health and safety risk. It was felt two other quotations should be obtained as a comparison and Mr Edwards agreed to do this.

19. Dog Bins – Clerk said permission must be granted from the Borough Council for a dog bin to be placed on their land and so will submit an application for a street licence. Mrs Peckham proposed disposing of the open topped litter bin beside the bench and replacing with an enclosed-type bin, the post from the original bin could be used for the new dog bin, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour. Clerk to obtain prices.

20. Online Banking – Mr Rayner said this was ongoing.

21. Enquiry from Feltwell United U12 Team – Clerk said the Manager is unsure yet whether the team is continuing. The container will be repaired and painted when the weather improves.

22. Highways – Mr Rayner said he had spoken with Linda McDermott and as the Parish Council only part-own the SAM2 all sites have to be approved before it can be deployed.

23. Fete Donation Request – Mr Edwards questioned whether profit from the 2019 fete could be invested in the 2020 fete. Mr Lambert said it was a successful fete run by volunteers and it would be respectful for the Parish Council to support them again. Mrs Bane said the money raised was being spent on playing field facilities therefore the Parish Council should support it. Mrs McGeeney commented that it had been a great success and had brought the community together and believed the Parish Council should be community-spirited. Mrs Bane proposed donating £300 towards the fete, Mr Storey seconded, Mr Cole and Mr Edwards against, rest in favour therefore Parish Council will donate £300 towards the fete.

24. April Meeting – Mrs Peckham proposed holding this meeting a week before on Monday 6th April 2020. Mr Storey seconded, all in favour.

25. Appointment of Internal Auditor – Clerk read out two quotations. Mrs Bane proposed appointing TWR Accountants to undertake the internal audit, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. Clerk to contact TWR Accountants.

26. Street Light Energy Renewal – Clerk had been advised to obtain an updated Unmetered Supply Certificate from UKPN which had proven to be quite difficult and wanted it noted that K&M Lighting had been very helpful with this. As the Certificate had only been received today, she was still waiting for quotations. These will be circulated and a decision made via email.

27. Review Allotment Committee Terms of Reference – One amendment to venue of meetings which was changed to 'British Legion'. Mr Storey proposed making the amendment and then adopting the Terms of Reference, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

28. Review Financial Regulations – No amendments were made therefore Mrs Bane proposed re-adopting the current Financial Regulations, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour.

CORRESPONDENCE

25. NCC – Emails – £919,000 boost for 153 parish schemes; Proposals to lower A149 speed limit in West Norfolk

26. BCKLWN – Email – Carers Conference

27. EOD Operations Section, RAF Lakenheath – Emails – 5 demolitions at RAF Feltwell on 27/2/2020 between 1000 hrs – 1600 hrs

28. PC Lee Anderton – Email – Monthly Newsletter

29. TWR Accountants – Email – February Tax Tips & News

30. Community Action Norfolk – Emails – Funding, Sector, Training & Jobs Newsletters

31. West Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group – Email – Merger update

32. Rural Services Network – Emails – Rural Strategy Roadshow; Rural Bulletin

33. E.ON – Email – Monthly Marketing Report (January)

34. Early Help Children's Services – Email – March Bulletin; Service Directory

35. UKPN – Email – Roadshow 25/3/2020

36. Anglian Water – Email – Information re future pipelines from Bexwell to Bury St Edmunds

37. Brochures – Parish Magazine

38. **CHEQUES** – Cheques were signed for the following – J Martin £291.72, S Sargent £65.70, Viridor £133.27, E.ON £465.91, URM £23.40, T T Jones Electrical £3124.15, J Rolph £100.00, BCKLWN £831.17, S P Landscapes & Trees £1800.00. Standing order to J Martin £846.47, direct debit to BT £51.84.

39. **PLANNING**

There were no planning applications.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

40. Highways – Leaves on the pavement outside a property on Hill Street are slippery, Clerk to contact resident. Clerk has been chasing Highways re various potholes that are still present, some having been reported in December 2019 but still has no answers. Mr Storey said this was not good enough and that he would speak to Tom McCabe at County Hall. Mr Rayner said that if they are not repaired within the next two weeks then the Clerk should instruct Mr Storey to do that. Mrs Peckham said the group needed clearing opposite her property, Clerk to report.

41. Potential Land Lease Opportunity – Proposal received from Infraland to lease approx. half an acre to an acre of parish land for an electricity generating (or storage) station with an offer in the region of £50,000 per acre per annum for a 15-20 year lease.

42. Feltwell United FC – Mrs Peckham advised that this year is the club's 100th Anniversary.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 6th April 2020 at 7.30 pm at the British Legion.
Meeting declared closed 9.35 pm.

On 20/3/2020, planning was approved for the following applications by 9 Councillors:-
- Mr & Mrs C Peckham: **Single storey side and rear extension, and front porch at 28 St Nicholas Drive.** Mrs Peckham declared an interest and abstained, Mr Storey abstained.