

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held virtually via the Zoom platform on Monday the 14th day of DECEMBER 2020 – commencing 7.00 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Rayner (Chair), Lambert (Vice-Chair), Cock, Cole, Storey and Studd, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Bane, Mrs McGeeney (joined 7.30 pm) Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson. Squadron Leader Turnbull was also present.

APOLOGIES: None received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Mrs Wilson declared an interest in Planning.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last meeting held Monday 9th November were approved. Mr Studd proposed, Mrs Arnold seconded, all in favour.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: There were no members of the public present.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – Sqn Leader said Covid-19 rates continued to be low on Base. He thanked the Parish Council for their interest in the Civic Leaders Presentation and Mr Cock for attending. Verges have been cut along Short Lane and if this was undertaken by the Base then he would arrange for cuttings and debris to be cleared promptly. The detonations meeting between Col. Camilletti, the Chairs of the Hockwold and Feltwell Parish Councils and Mr Storey has been rescheduled for Friday 8th January 2021 at 2.30 pm. Money for VE Day is still available for next year. Sqn Leader wished everyone a Merry Christmas and departed the meeting at 7.06 pm.

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

3. **Risk Assessment** – **Inspections:** Clerk said Handyman was continuing to carry out weekly inspections and no additional issues have been reported since the last meeting. Clerk said Fenland Leisure carried out the quarterly inspection on Friday but no report received as yet. **Grab Rails:** Clerk said she had another quotation from Online Playgrounds at £667.00 + VAT but had been unable to obtain quotes from anywhere else due to the work being bespoke. She advised waiting for Fenland Leisure to ascertain whether the other grab rails needed replacing before proceeding with ordering new ones. **Skate Park:** Clerk said Canvas Spaces have replied stating that they haven't been in the area and asking if our Handyman could repair it. She has insisted they come out to assess the concrete and Mrs Peckham said they should be responsible for paying any costs attributed to its repair. **Boundary Wall:** Clerk wrote to the owners requesting more fencing be erected but had had no response. Clerk read out email from Environmental Health Officer which stated that it would be sensible for the owner to repair the wall now rather than wait for further deterioration. Although the EHO did not believe the wall was sufficiently dilapidated to require formal action, he will write to the owners to follow up on advice previously given by Building Control. Mr Studd said that on that basis, the Parish Council had done everything it could reasonably do in this instance.

4. **Balance Sheet** – No queries.

5. **Allotment Pest Control** – Reports received from October, November and December.

6. **NALC** – NALC bulletins circulated as received.

7. **Ranger Visit** – Next Rangers visit is scheduled for January and Clerk asked for issues to be advised within the requested timescale. Mr Cole said the road sign at the top of Lodge Road needed cleaning and Clerk will also request verge around playing field is cut where necessary.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

8. Parish Partnership Scheme – Clerk has submitted bid for village gates at £2960.60 (£2585.60 for supply of gates + £375.00 for installation by Highways) and repairs to Falcon Road alleyway (costed by Andy Wallace to be a total of £7300 + VAT therefore £3650 applied for).
9. Locality Budget – Mr Storey is still to attend a virtual meeting with Andrew Wallace.
10. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey the NCC Covid-19 support scheme offering financial help for vulnerable families across Norfolk opened 2/12/20 and will run until end March 2021. Covid marshalls are being recruited across Norfolk. Vaccines have been delivered to Norfolk & Norwich and James Paget Hospitals and one GP surgery that he knew of. Gritting began 3/11/2020, covering 2200 miles; there are currently 49 gritting lorries in total with 7 new ones recently been named by primary school children. Information regarding free school meals, reopening of Norfolk museums and libraries could be found on NCC website along with a wealth of other information.
11. Tree - Old Methwold Road – Work to lift the tree canopy at Old Methwold Road and remove a dead branch from a tree at the playing field scheduled for w/c 1/2/2021 by S P Landscapes.
12. Fence – Mr Rayner said this had been put on hold due to the Covid-19 situation.
13. Dog Bins – Clerk said base has been laid and new bin will be installed by Handyman. Mr Rayner said the new bin looked scuffed and was not the spec he believed was chosen. Clerk to investigate.
14. Online Banking – Chair will continue to pursue.
15. Playing Field Gates – Mr Lambert suggested bolting the bottom of the gate to a socket in the ground so that it does not sink. Mrs Peckham agreed but thought it would be okay for the Winter.
16. Bell Street Bin – Clerk said base has been laid but will investigate condition of the bin.
17. Small Business Grant – Clerk to apply for additional grant if eligible.
18. Weight Restrictions and 'No Right Turn' from Wissington Factory – Ongoing.
19. Wildflowers – Carried over as Mrs McGeeney was having internet connection issues.
20. Operation 'London Bridge' – Ongoing.
21. Precept & Budget – Information had been circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting regarding present and forecast financial situation to end of March 2021. **Falcon Road Alleyway Repairs:** Clerk has applied for this to be 50% funded by the Parish Partnership Scheme (see Item 8). **Planters:** Mr Cole felt that due to the current Covid-19 situation, this ought to be carried forward and Mr Rayner agreed. **Tennis Court Resurfacing:** Mrs Peckham said a grant may be available from the Mick George Community Fund and the Clerk had registered an interest on line. Mrs Peckham asked if the Council would agree to apply for funding to replace the perimeter fence as well and pointed out that it wasn't something that had to be purchased if the grant was not successful. Mr Lambert asked for some idea of cost and Mrs Peckham said the Playing Field Committee will get resurfacing and fencing quotations in the New Year. Mrs Bane said there was money in the Feltwell Community Fund raised by the Village Fete intended for new equipment and Mrs Wilson, Chairman of the Fund, said that she would have no issue with this being put towards the tennis court. Therefore the Parish Council agreed on principle to apply for funding for fencing as well. **New Street Light Columns:** Mrs Bane felt another street light was a necessity for Oak Street and suggested all Councillors look at the existing situation here and at Munsons Lane.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

Mr Lambert said the new Hall may already have conditions to install new street lights at Munsons Lane and Mr Storey said he would look into it. Mr Rayner urged all Councillors to look at the existing situation so that a decision could be made next month. **Other Items:** Mr Lambert thought the war memorial wall would cost in the region of £1000 to repair and paintwork for the railings and bench about £500. Mr Rayner said grass cutting is being considered under the budget consultation which ends today but that the NCC Finance Manager was almost certain grass cutting schedules would be reduced from 5 cuts to 4 on A and B roads and twice to once a year on C roads. Mr Rayner felt at least a £5K increase in precept would have to be considered and asked everyone to be open-minded next month when this is decided.

22. Junior FC – Clerk said the Manager was happy to keep the rent at £15/game.

23. Christmas Tree in Churchyard – Mr Rayner said the tree was in situ and donations had been received from Mr Cock, Mr Lambert and The Fish Piper as well as the Parish Magazine, the Senior FC, S Peckham Haulage and Mr Studd. The tree was donated by M J Storey & Sons and the One Stop had been exceptionally generous and paid for all electrics. Mr Storey thanked Mrs Arnold, Mr Rayner and his brother for all their assistance with the tree and Mrs Arnold for decorating the tree in the Church. Mrs Arnold felt donations should be acknowledged via the Parish Magazine and Mr Rayner said he would do this.

24. Fly-tipping – Clerk said Orbit had acted quickly and all fly-tipping has been removed.

25. Street Light – Clerk to investigate ‘old style’ street light on the Oakfields estate that should have been replaced with an LED version.

26. Bus Shelter Cleaning – Mr Cock said he felt the bus shelters needed cleaning as sticky marks were left from fly posting and the perspex was looking dirty. Clerk presented three quotes but two were for cleaning of the perspex only and Mrs Peckham felt that the whole shelter should be cleaned to minimise Covid-19 contamination. Clerk to obtain firm prices for regular cleaning.

27. Play Equipment Cleaning – Clerk to obtain firmed up price for regular cleaning.

28. Review of Grass Maintenance Specification – **Playing Field:** Mrs Peckham said herbicide should also be applied to the slabs around the Changing Rooms twice a year. **St Nicholas Churchyard:** Mr Lambert said herbicide should only be applied to the footpaths and nowhere else unless agreed. Clerk will update specification and obtain prices for February meeting.

29. SAM2 Battery Replacement – Mr Rayner asked if he could purchase a spare battery at £80 + VAT plus £7.50 delivery unless already delivery in the area in which case it would be free. Mr Studd proposed purchasing another battery at £80 + VAT, Mrs Peckham seconded, all in favour.

30. Request by Resident for ‘No Vehicle Access’ sign at Munsons Lane – This was requested by an extremely concerned resident as numerous vehicles continue to drive along here. Mr Lambert proposed changing the wording on the proposed ‘No SatNav’ signs to read ‘No Through Road’ or ‘No Vehicles’, Mr Rayner seconded, all in favour. Clerk to contact Highways.

31. Street Lighting Enquiry from Consultants acting for Developers of site at Long Lane – Enquiry received asking whether the Parish Council wish for the developers to provide street lighting. This was discussed and it was felt that the Parish Council could not finance any more street lights although there would be a requirement for them here and they should be maintained by NCC. Mrs Peckham proposed the Parish Council do not undertake supplying or maintaining street lights at Long Lane, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. Clerk to respond.

CORRESPONDENCE

32. BCKLWN – Email – Weekly Covid-19 Response from Cllr Stuart Dark
33. NCC – Email – It's essential – Norfolk must follow Covid restrictions to halt rise in cases; Cabinet to take next steps on £635k homelessness funding
34. RAF Lakenheath – Emergency Demolition Notifications for 10/11/20 – one detonation between 1pm - 4pm; Annual Civic Immersion *Virtual* Invitation (attended by Mr Cock); Smoke Training Operation at Feltwell EOD Range 24/11/20; Emergency Explosive Notification 24/11/20 - up to five detonations from approximately 12pm - 4pm.
35. PC Lee Anderton – Online Area Inspectors Briefing
36. Rural Services Network – Rural Bulletins
37. Early Help Children's Services – Email – West Norfolk Early Help C-19 Round up (weekly)
38. Freebridge Housing - Email - Plans to support community during winter months
39. London Hearts – Email - Parish and Town Councils £200 grant
40. Cloudy IT - Email – Introduction to their IT support service
41. Brochures - Parish Magazine
42. **CHEQUES** – Payees list was approved and cheques will be signed by the Chair, Mr Lambert and Mrs McGeeney for the following – J Martin £411.56, S Sargent £89.23, T George £72.00, Viridor £147.53, E.ON £357.42, K&M Lighting £103.27, URM £25.20, Fenland Fire Appliance £42.06, Norfolk Tractors £504.00, Wybone £673.18, MWM (Anglia) £600.00, RBL Poppy Appeal £50.00, BT £54.36. Standing order to J Martin £846.47.

43. **PLANNING**

Planning Appeal - **Construction of one dwelling at 24 Long Lane** - Mr Lambert proposed that the Parish Council's decision of no objection should remain, reiterating the need for the access road to be adopted by NCC and that a letter should be sent direct to Highways requesting this, Mrs Arnold seconded, 6 in favour, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson abstained.

Planning Breach – **26 Oak Street** – Clerk has logged planning breach but will chase.

New Dwelling to the rear of 47 High Street – Applicants' response to Parish Council's comments (in bold) was discussed as below (in italics).

1. The Highways Officer states in his letter of 4th November 2020 that "Paynes Lane is not heavily trafficked" and is "generally accessed by local traffic" which is not true. Paynes Lane is extremely busy especially during the morning and later in the afternoon as it is used as a through road by many. Clerk to strongly request a traffic survey is conducted between 7-9 am and 3-6 pm, so that a true account of traffic usage can be obtained. *In February, the Parish Council approved application 20/00121/O at 50 Paynes Lane for 3 new dwellings (later changed to 2) with no objections – 50 Paynes Lane has frontage and visibility and the road here is wider so no fair comparison can be made here. Clerk to write to Richard Smith of Highways to enquire what time the survey was carried out and to urge him to carry out another during rush hour periods.*

2. When exiting the site to the left, visibility is greatly reduced due to the boundary line of the adjoining property and even more hazardous if the two vehicles belonging to No.5 are parked there (which is the case at the present time). *This is incorrect as when exiting our site the adjoining property to our boundary is on the right hand side. In the 6 years we have owned this property we have never had any vehicle incidents/ accidents when entering and exiting our property on to and from Paynes Lane which we use daily – When exiting the property, there is a wall belonging to a derelict house to the left and there is no visibility here thus presenting a serious safety hazard.*

PLANNING (CONT)

This access is in a narrow part of Paynes Lane. *The Highways Officer states “constraints of the road width experienced at this locality result in drivers taking additional caution”. He is satisfied and has approved the application –* One Councillor said recently she had to sit in her vehicle at the entrance to Vincent Close to allow 8 vehicles to pass before she could proceed.

3. The floor plans/elevations show only one on-site parking space for the new dwelling as one vehicle is parked on the highway. At least two parking spaces should be available for a 3-bedroomed house. *The elevation drawing TL-4451-20-3B showing a car on Paynes Lane is for illustration purposes only, I will ensure it is removed from the drawing, as can be seen in the Proposed Site Layout Plan TL4451-20-2A this area to be used for the bins –* There should be at least two on-site parking spaces for a 3-bedroomed property and only one can be seen on the plans. Clerk to enquire where the other on-site parking space is allocated.

Two parking spaces are shown for No.47 but if the new dwelling is sold then these spaces may not be available which would then cause parking issues. *We have absolutely no intention of moving or selling 47 High Street or the proposed new dwelling, we would never block off the right for 47 High Street to have vehicle access and parking to the back of the property hence our design for the Drive Through –* A condition should be added to ensure that access is not denied to 47 High Street should the new dwelling be sold.

Clerk to respond with comments.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

44. Highways – Mrs Peckham reported Bell Street footpath needs repair and Clerk said resurfacing had been programmed. Mrs Arnold reported pothole on entrance to Clough Drive. Clerk to report.

45. Bollards – Mr Cole queried bollards that had been installed along Long Lane. Clerk had made enquiries and these were requested by the resident to protect the property following a previous incident.

46. Allotment Entrance – Mr Storey said this had been levelled by Mr Mayes who had done a very satisfactory job. He also mentioned the recent outbreak of Avian Flu and Clerk said she had informed all allotment tenants of this and the measures they should be taking.

47. High Street Repairs – Mr Rayner advised he had been informed High Street was to be closed for six days from 3/1/2021 for road resurfacing. He showed the plans to the meeting and said he was liaising with NCC to ensure the least amount of inconvenience and chaos is caused

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The Chair wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Next Parish Council meeting to be held virtually on Monday 11th January 2021 at 7.00 pm via the Zoom platform. Meeting declared closed 9.20 pm.

On 5/1/2021, the following planning application was APPROVED by 10 Councillors. Mr Storey abstained: **Mr J Craigen - Construction of outbuilding at 42 Wilton Road**

On 5/1/2021, the following planning application was APPROVED by 9 Councillors. Mr Lambert declared an interest and abstained, Mr Storey also abstained: **Mr E Lambert - Enlargement of existing detached garage and outbuilding to form a 'cart lodge' at Hill Farm, 38 Hill Street**