

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held virtually via the Zoom platform on Monday the 8th day of FEBRUARY 2021 – commencing 7.00 pm

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

APOLOGIES: None received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None received.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last meeting held Monday 11th January were approved. Mr Lambert proposed, Mrs Arnold seconded, 8 in favour, Mr Studd abstained as he had been absent from the meeting.

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

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – Sqn Leader said the hedge cutting was continuing and Mr Storey thanked him for the excellent work carried out. He also asked if the trees on Portal Close which were overhanging onto his neighbouring farmland could be cut back and Sqn Leader said this could be included in this £200,000 boundary clearance contract for Feltwell and Lakenheath. Sqn Leader said the groups now needed a good clearance and Clerk will contact Highways. He advised the US schools on Base that had closed in line with UK Government guidelines were now open following a Base-wide vaccination programme in which all teachers and support staff had been included. After an initial two-week period to ensure Covid-19 precautions were in place and corresponding with Rt. Hon. Matt Hancock MP and Rt. Hon Elizabeth Truss MP, US schools opened on 25th January. Daily temperature checks are being carried out. Sqn Leader said parents/guardians of all US school children on Base are critical care workers. Mr Cole asked if more notification could be given following an emergency demolition last week which the Clerk had only been informed of two hours beforehand. Sqn Leader said the emergency operation was to clear a blocked gun on an F15 on night sortie but that it should have been possible for more notification to have been given. Sqn Leader departed the meeting at 7.09 pm.

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

3. **Risk Assessment** – **Inspections:** Handyman is continuing to carry out weekly inspections and no issues have been reported since the last meeting. He will remove all suckers from the base of the trees and ivy from the concrete posts around the perimeter. No installation date as yet for the four new grab rails. **Skate Park:** Canvas Spaces have repaired the concrete. **Boundary Wall:** Clerk has written to the letting agent to advise the owners to contact their insurance company. Handyman has removed growth from the stump and will continue to do this on a regular basis.

4. **Balance Sheet** – Mr Cole asked what the UKPN payment of £83.11 was for and Clerk advised it was a wayleave for the electricity pole on the playing field. Mr Lambert asked if the Christmas tree donations covered the cost of displaying the tree (£588.10). Clerk advised banked donations totalled £340.00. Chair said the tree was also donated and One Stop had paid for all electrical work which along with the purchase of the stand, lights and decorations, were one-off costs.

5. **Allotment Pest Control** – Report received for January.

6. **NALC** – NALC bulletins circulated as received. Chair drew attention to the training courses available and Clerk will speak to the Handyman about the Play Equipment Inspection course.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

7. Ranger Visit – Clerk said the January visit had not taken place due to services being scaled back to essential work only due to Covid-19.
8. Parish Partnership Scheme – No further news.
9. Locality Budget – Mr Storey said Andrew Wallace will help prioritise his budget and they are meeting on 10th February to confirm finer details. He said a greater sum will be available in future.
10. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey gave an update on Covid vaccinations. NCC Budget Meeting is taking place 22nd February and over 500 people had responded to the consultation. Flooding has been an issue in recent weeks and helpline numbers are on Borough Council and NCC websites. The IDB have set up a management forum and a report will soon be available for consultation. The B1112 between Hockwold and Feltwell is to be resurfaced June 2021. The Chair and the Clerk had thought it best not to publicise this until the official order is received however it was felt residents should be given greater notice so Clerk will post on the village Facebook page.
11. Tree - Old Methwold Road – Work was completed last Monday.
12. Fence – On hold due to Covid-19.
13. Dog Bins – Clerk said the original litter bins had been disposed of. Mr Cole said the new litter bin on Addisons Close had been emptied.
14. Online Banking – Chair will continue to pursue.
15. Small Business Grant – Clerk advised the Parish Council was eligible for the Additional Restrictions Grant and has applied for both November and January payments. Mrs Peckham said the Playing Field Committee had withdrawn their interest in the Mick George Community Grant for resurfacing the tennis court as quotes could not be obtained in the present climate in time for the deadline and if interest was not withdrawn, future applications could not be made. The next round of applications is in August therefore this could be discussed at the next meeting when grants would hopefully be confirmed and there would be a clearer idea of the financial position going forward.
16. Weight Restrictions and 'No Right Turn' from Wissington Factory – Mr Storey said he and the Chair had discussed this matter and felt it was just not feasible. Other Parish Councils have requested similar restrictions in the past but had been unsuccessful due to costs and practicalities. Mr Studd asked if plants could remind their drivers to drive cautiously through the village and Mr Storey said the Factory does instruct drivers to be mindful of their driving. Chair said the campaign is nearly over but the Parish Council should look to write to the Factory before their next campaign. Clerk to inform resident.
17. Wildflowers – Mrs McGeeney circulated the information but was in agreement with the Chair who felt this idea should be shelved due to constraints on next year's budget, all in favour.
18. Operation 'London Bridge' – Chair said the first draft is still being considered by the Church.
19. Fly-tipping – Clerk said this had been dealt with quickly by Orbit and had been cleared.
20. Street Light – Clerk said K&M Lighting had ordered the LED light for Fair Close and would advise installation date when received.
21. Bus Shelter & Play Equipment Cleaning – To commence this week. Mr Lambert said a record of chemicals to be used should be supplied. Clerk to obtain from Mr Sparkle.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

22. Review of Grass Maintenance Specification – Clerk had circulated details of the five quotations received to Councillors prior to the meeting. Mr Lambert felt the current contractor, Hamill Landscapes had provided an excellent service last season; the graveyard and village greens were immaculate and the only issue that had arisen had been dealt with efficiently and amicably. He had not had any complaints and although Hamill were not the cheapest, they were competitive at £3600 + VAT and had not increased their price. Mr Studd agreed and said the two cheaper prices were from companies whose services had generated complaints in the past. On this basis, Mrs Peckham proposed Hamill Landscapes be awarded the contract, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour. Clerk to advise Hamill Landscapes.

23. Woodland Creation Project - Feltwell – Clerk circulated information from Brown & Co who are undertaking this project on behalf of E W Porter & Sons and carrying out an initial consultation as part of the Forestry Commission Grant process. The proposed planting site totals 4.57 ha and is located at IP26 4DH. This was felt by all to be a really positive project. At this point, Mr Storey advised that two allotment tenants had kindly planted hedges along Hythe Road in front of the allotments and had done an exceptional job. This was purely at their own expense, although financial reimbursement was offered, and he had thanked them both personally for undertaking this.

24. CIL Funding Opportunity – An invitation for groups and organisations, including parish councils, to apply for CIL funding for local projects. Mr Lambert said this could help towards the tennis court and Mrs Peckham asked if it could be discussed at the next meeting when there would be a better idea of accounts going into the next financial year.

25. Annual Playground Inspection Quotes – Clerk said she had received four quotations, the most competitive being from Fenland Leisure who employ the services of The Play Inspection Company at £135.00 + VAT. This is an independent inspection to the services they offer when carrying out the quarterly inspections. Mr Studd proposed Fenland Leisure undertake the inspection at £135.00 + VAT, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. Clerk to book them in.

CORRESPONDENCE

26. BCKLWN – Email – Weekly Covid-19 Response from Cllr Stuart Dark

27. NCC – Email – Norwich Western Link project update; Temporary closure of Brandon Road in Weeting with Broomhill 31/1/21 and 5/2/21 for carriageway resurfacing

28. RAF Lakenheath – Virtual Briefing Invitation 11/2/21; Notification of Emergency Explosive Operations 4/2/21 10.30 am – 4 pm

29. PC Lee Anderton – Virtual SNAP Briefing 27/1/21

30. Rural Services Network – Rural Bulletins

31. London Hearts – Email - Parish and Town Councils £200 grant

32. Brochures - Parish Magazine

33. CHEQUES – Payees list was approved and cheques will be signed by the Chair, Mr Lambert and Mrs McGeeney for the following – J Martin £50.51, S Sargent £62.78, T George £80.00, Viridor £192.91, E.ON £369.34, K&M Lighting £103.27, John Rolph £50.00, Anglian Water £47.68, Westcotec £96.00, BT £54.36, SSE £105.87. Standing order to J Martin £846.47.

PLANNING

- **Hemingford Construction Ltd: Reserved Matters – Residential development of 19 dwellings at Long Lane Farm, 30 Long Lane** – Unfortunately, due to the deadline being the next day, it was felt by all that an objection should be made and reconsidered when the following questions had been answered:-

PLANNING (CONT)

- a) The planted areas are only to be maintained for 10 years so who will be responsible for them after this?
- b) What are the proposals for the chalk barn and surrounding area which are currently not included in the scheme?
- c) This area is being developed by Flagship and there is no social housing, is this because it's 'Affordable Housing'?
- d) If it is classed as Affordable Housing, will there be a CIL payment?
- e) Once developed, are the properties to be rented or sold?

There were also concerns that no parking allowance had been made for visitors to the dwellings or the Chinese Takeaway, therefore encouraging drivers to park along the verges within the new development causing congestion issues. There are also no footpaths which is a safety issue.

Mrs McGeeney lost her internet connection at 8.30 pm and therefore had to depart the meeting.

Planning Breach – 26 Oak Street – Email from Planning Enforcement Officer implied a new planning application was being made.

Proposed new dwelling to the rear of 47 High Street - Mrs Peckham said that it was now too late to respond to the email received from Planning regarding this application. Mr Lambert said the website stated that following sifting panel, the application could be approved under delegated powers. Mrs Peckham said she was annoyed about that as Cllr Adrian Lawrence had told the Chair he would not call it in because it would automatically go to the Planning Committee if the Parish Council's decision differed to that of the Borough Council. The Chair asked Mr Storey if he could find out why that wasn't the case with this application and Mr Storey said he would.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

35. **Highways** – Clerk has asked Highways to refresh some areas of white lining around the village and asked other Councillors to inform her of any other areas they may notice.

36. **Litter** – Email received re litter along the verges of Southery Road and the Blackdyke junction which Clerk will report to the Borough Council. The sender also asked if a small amount of litter could be cleared from St Mary's Churchyard and if this area could be added to the Litter Collector's route but it was felt this should be undertaken by the PCC.

37. **Overgrown Hedge** – Clerk said concern had been expressed by a resident re the boundary hedge at 2 Newcombe Drive and asked Councillors to take a look before the next meeting.

38. **Sanitizing Stations** – Mrs Peckham had been informed the new sanitizing station on the footpath in Hockwold was obtained via the Borough Council's EU funding pot. Clerk to make enquiries.

39. **Dog Fouling** – Mrs Wilson asked if a post could be put on the village Facebook page reminding owners to pick up after their dogs as this issue had worsened lately. Mr Lambert said horse fouling should be mentioned too.

Next Parish Council meeting to be held virtually on Monday 8th March 2021 at 7.00 pm via the Zoom platform. Meeting declared closed 8.56 pm.

On 1/3/2021, the following amended planning application was APPROVED by 8 Councillors. Mr Storey abstained: Mr & Mrs Hawes - Single storey rear extension at Mo-Lee, 43 Addison Close