

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held virtually via the Zoom platform on Monday the 11th day of JANUARY 2021 – commencing 7.00 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Rayner (Chair), Lambert (Vice-Chair), Cock, Cole and Storey, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Bane, Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mr Studd.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None received.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last meeting held Monday 14th December were approved. Mr Cole proposed, Mrs Arnold seconded, all in favour.

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

MATTERS ARISING

1. RAF Feltwell – No update available as Sqn Leader was not present but Mr Storey said he thought an excellent job had been made of cutting the hedges and greenery along the Base boundary and that a letter of thanks should be sent to Sqn Leader. Clerk to write to Sqn Leader.
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 had circulated the quarterly inspection report from Fenland Leisure prior to the meeting and the only items presenting a safety risk were the missing grab rails on the Multiplay equipment and the trip hazards around the skate park concrete. Fenland Leisure confirmed four grab rails needed replacing and their quotation of £570.68 + VAT included all four. Mrs Peckham proposed Fenland Leisure replace all four rails as per their quotation, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. **Skate Park:** Mrs Bane said Canvas Spaces would be on site tomorrow to repair concrete. Mrs Peckham said the sides needed building up around the concrete edges and Clerk will speak to Handyman. **Boundary Wall:** Clerk circulated letter received from the owner's letting agent stating their belief that the damage was caused by the roots of the tree stump on the playing field. Mrs Peckham said she had accompanied a tree surgeon to have a look who said the stump is still alive but would eventually die if the growth protruding from it is removed regularly. It was agreed that it would be very difficult to remove the stump without damaging the wall further. Mrs Peckham said another tree and a bush were growing on the playing field further along the wall and action should be taken before they too caused damage and it was agreed to monitor them. Mr Cole said the line of Leylandii trees neighbouring the whole length of the wall on the owner's side must be causing similar damage and Mr Storey agreed. Mr Rayner proposed writing back to the agent, advising the owners to contact their insurance company to deal with this matter, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. Clerk to reply to letting agent and ask Handyman to remove growth from the stump on a regular basis.
4. Balance Sheet – No queries.
5. Allotment Pest Control – No report received as yet for January.
6. NALC – NALC bulletins circulated as received.
7. Ranger Visit – No January report as yet.
8. Parish Partnership Scheme – No further news expected until March.
9. Locality Budget – Mr Storey is still to attend a virtual meeting with Andrew Wallace.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

10. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey said upgrades to 15,000 streetlights across Norfolk is the next step in a scheme to cut CO₂ emissions which have already been reduced by 1200 tonnes over the last two years by moving to LED technology. For each street that is upgraded to LED, the average energy saving is over 70%. BCKLWN and NCC meetings will continue to be held virtually. NCC and Police Commissioner elections are still going ahead as scheduled for 6/5/2021.
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 – New bin has been installed. Clerk to ask Handyman what happened to redundant bin as Mr Cole said this could be put near the new bench on the playing field.
14. Online Banking – Chair will continue to pursue.
15. Bell Street Bin – New bin has been installed.
16. Small Business Grant – Clerk said the Parish Council was not eligible for the new grant but will apply again if new eligibility terms come into force.
17. Weight Restrictions and 'No Right Turn' from Wissington Factory – Mr Rayner and Mr Storey to discuss virtually after the meeting but the general consensus from the other councillors was that Feltwell and surrounding areas are farming communities and therefore lorries had to access the village. Mr Lambert said Highways had already stated they would not put in weight restrictions along a main route and as High Street is a main route, they are unlikely to agree to anyway.
18. Wildflowers – Mrs McGeeney said she would circulate the information after the meeting.
19. Operation 'London Bridge' – Mr Rayner said he and Mr Studd had written the first draft of the policy which was now with the Church for their input. It would then be presented to the Parish Council for their thoughts.
20. Precept & Budget – It was felt that under the current climate, the Parish Council must be conservative with its expenditure next financial year. It was agreed that some items considered for the 2021/22 budget could be shelved until 2022/23 such as new street lighting, war memorial wall repairs and painting of railings. Mr Lambert said he would like to have at least £10K in reserve as the emergency repairs to the play equipment had meant that these was low and if an emergency situation occurred next financial year then there would be insufficient reserves to accommodate it. Mr Rayner said other increased costs must also be factored in such as electricity, grass maintenance and staff wages. Mr Storey questioned whether the tennis court should be resurfaced this year as it would only benefit a few people but Mrs Bane argued that if this was to be shelved then the village gates should be too as they were not a necessity and Mr Storey agreed. Mr Lambert said the tennis court resurfacing costs were covered by the Small Business Grant for the most part and Mrs Peckham said the resurfacing would not have to be pursued if a large enough grant could not be obtained. Mr Rayner stated that other village precepts, not as large as Feltwell, were already considerably more. Mrs Peckham said a realistic view had to be taken and Mrs Arnold commented that any increase would be difficult for some residents. Mr Lambert proposed putting the precept up to £45,000 but there was no seconder. Mr Lambert then proposed increasing the precept to £42,500, Mr Cock seconded, five in favour, Mrs Arnold, Mr Cole and Mr Storey against. Clerk to complete paperwork.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

21. Christmas Tree in Churchyard – Mr Rayner regarded the tree a big success, having received lots of positive comments and a request for it to be bigger and brighter next year.

22. Fly-tipping – Mrs Bane said there has been more fly tipping, Clerk to contact Orbit.

23. Street Light – Clerk said the street light at Fair Close had been missed and apologised for this oversight. She had obtained a quote from K&M Lighting for a new LED light which was £210 + VAT. Mr Cock proposed purchasing new LED light from K&M at £210 + VAT, Mr Cole seconded, 6 in favour, Mr Lambert and Mr Storey abstained.

24. Bus Shelter Cleaning – Clerk read out five quotations, the most competitive from Mr Sparkle for both a deep clean (inc Covid-19 disinfect) and Covid-19 disinfect only at £89 and £36 respectively. Mr Lambert felt the Parish Council should be seen to be contributing to the control of the Covid-19 virus and proposed Mr Sparkle carry out a deep clean (inc Covid-19 disinfect) every other month and a Covid-19 disinfect every month as per his quotation, starting February 2021, Mrs Peckham seconded, 7 in favour, Mr Cole abstained. Clerk to organise.

25. Play Equipment Cleaning – Mr Sparkle was most competitive at £100 including plastic picnic bench for deep clean and Covid-19 disinfect, and £25 for a Covid-19 disinfect only. This was proposed by Mr Lambert, in line with the cleaning schedule agreed in Item 24, Mrs Peckham seconded, 7 in favour, Mr Cole abstained. Clerk to organise.

26. Review of Grass Maintenance Specification – To be discussed next meeting.

27. Request by Resident for 'No Vehicle Access' sign at Munsons Lane – Clerk said Highways would not install another sign as this road was not their responsibility. Another two complaints had been received and both mentioned one particular 4X4 vehicle regularly speeding along it, believed to belong to an allotment tenant. Mr Lambert felt there was nothing more the Parish Council could do since this is an Occupation Road, meaning that it is only for the use of the occupiers of certain land. Mrs Peckham agreed and suggested the registration number of the speeding vehicle be reported to the Police. Mr Rayner felt the Allotment Committee should write to the tenant as well.

28. High Street Repairs – Mr Storey said High Street would remain closed pending an investigation due to be carried out tomorrow into alleged damage caused to a property by the recent roadworks. Clerk said residents were extremely concerned about vehicles travelling along Hill Street the wrong way and Mr Storey said he had been told by Paul Donnochie at Highways that Hill Street is temporarily two-way. Clerk said there was no signage illustrating this and Mrs Peckham said that if this was the case then traffic lights needed to be installed. Mr Storey advised the Clerk to contact Karl Rands at Highways to clarify this. Mr Lambert felt Mr Storey should also contact him and Mrs Arnold suggested Mr Storey speak to someone during the investigation tomorrow.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

30. NCC – Email – Stick to Tier 2 restrictions to Protect Norfolk; Temporary road closure of High Street - resurfacing works 3/1/21 - 8/1/21; Temporary road closure in Weeting with Broomhill - 3/1/21; Temporary closure in Weeting with Broomhill - 10/1/21; Norfolk to enter Tier 4 restrictions; 'Start or grow a business with the help of your local library'

31. RAF Lakenheath – Liberty Ledger newsletter

32. Alive West Norfolk – Email - Newsletter

33. Rural Services Network – Rural Bulletins

34. Transport East – Email - Survey to help shape the future of transport in the East of England

35. Brochures - Parish Magazine

36. **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 £81.73, T George £64.00, Viridor £147.77, E.ON £369.34, K&M Lighting £103.27, John Rolph £150.00, Fenland Leisure Products £7278.12, DM Carpentry & Building £60.00, BT £54.36, HMRC £359.42, Mrs M Morris £50.00. Standing order to J Martin £846.47.

37. **PLANNING**

There were no planning applications.

Planning Breach – 26 Oak Street – Clerk said she had received an email stating that the breach had been allocated to a Planning Enforcement Officer who should respond within 3 to 6 weeks.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

38. **Highways** – Mr Rayner asked if anyone had seen any potholes along Bell Street as mentioned in a recent post on the Facebook Village Community Page but no-one was aware of any. Mr Rayner said a new ‘Long Lane’ road sign was required near Blackdyke Road entrance. Clerk to speak to Highways.

39. **Trespassing** – Mr Cock wished to remind the general public that there is no public access to the cut-off channel riverbanks.

Next Parish Council meeting to be held virtually on Monday 8th February 2021 at 7.00 pm via the Zoom platform. Meeting declared closed 9.15 pm.

On 1/2/2021, the following amended planning application was APPROVED by 10 Councillors. Mr Storey abstained: **Mr J Nunn - First floor side extension over the current double garage with a pitched roof at Red Wing Cottage, Mundford Road.**