

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held virtually via the Zoom platform on Monday the 12th day of APRIL 2021 – commencing 7.00 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Rayner (Chair), Lambert (Vice-Chair), Cole and Storey, Mrs Arnold, Mrs McGeeney and Mrs Peckham. Also present 1 member of the public and Squadron Leader Turnbull.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs Bane, Mr Cock and Mrs Wilson.

The Chair led a minute's silence to mark the recent passing of HRH the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None received.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last meeting held Monday 8th March were approved. Mrs Arnold proposed, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: No issues were raised.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – Sqn Leader said this was his penultimate meeting as he was starting a new post at RAF Cranwell on 4th June 2021. Applications for the vacancy will close on 15th April. He would like to hold the face-to-face EOD Meeting (originally scheduled before the Covid outbreak) with the Base Commander, the Chairs of Hockwold and Feltwell Parish Councils and Mr Storey before his departure and would ensure the link to the tour video filmed in preparation for this was circulated after the meeting. He said the Parish Council's letter to Elizabeth Truss MP had been received by the Defence Minister who has solicited information from the USAF with a deadline of 24th April so he thought a response should be received by the end of April. Mr Cole asked if there was any reason why the last two sets of detonations had taken place on two consecutive days and the Sqn Leader said he would investigate this. Mr Storey said his trees needed cutting back further and Sqn Leader will ensure this is dealt with. Clerk has spoken with Ross Jack who confirmed the street light at Portal Close was their property. Sqn Leader said he would be happy to assist in any proceedings following the death of HRH Prince Philip for which the Chair thanked him and said he would liaise with him if necessary. Sqn Leader departed the meeting at 7.08 pm.

2. **SNT** – Police Connect emails circulated, no reports regarding Feltwell. Mrs Peckham reported a caravan had been stolen from Wilton Road recently.

3. **Risk Assessment** – **Inspections:** Handyman is carrying out weekly inspections and no issues have been reported since the last meeting. He has removed both bushes obstructing visibility either side of the entrance to the car park and new growth from the stump near the chalk wall, and replaced the vandalised catch on the electric box. **Quarterly Inspection:** Clerk had circulated Fenland Leisure's report together with their quote for the work required. Mrs Peckham proposed replacing the baby swing at a cost of £70.00 plus preliminaries, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. The bottom of the see-saw requires attention but Mr Lambert felt money should not be spent on equipment that may be replaced or moved unless it was for safety reasons. Mrs Peckham said the playing field group had no intention of replacing or moving any items this year. Clerk to ascertain if the repair work on the seesaw is cosmetic or safety related. The surface under the cantilever swing needs renewing and Mrs Peckham said the group would take a look at this and discuss the work required. Clerk said Fenland Leisure had quoted £50/inspection to carry out the next round of quarterly inspections. Mrs Peckham proposed accepting this quote, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. **Annual Operational Inspection:** To be carried out in June. **Boundary Wall:** No correspondence from owner's insurance company received as yet.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

4. Balance Sheet – No queries.

5. Allotment Pest Control – Reports received for February and March together with annual risk assessments and insurances.

6. NALC – NALC bulletins circulated as received. Mr Rayner proposed renewing the NALC subscription at £401.80, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour.

7. Ranger Visit – Clerk said the next visit scheduled for April is yet to take place.

8. Parish Partnership Scheme – Bids to renew Falcon Road footpath to the playing field and to install village gateways were both successful at £3650 and £2960 respectively. As the footpath is an access point to the playing field, Mr Rayner proposed renewing the footpath and allocating the fourth lockdown grant of £2096 towards this cost, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour.

9. Locality Budget – Mr Storey did not comment due to purdah.

10. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey did not comment due to purdah.

11. Fence – On hold due to Covid-19.

12. Online Banking – Chair will continue to pursue.

13. Small Business Grant – Clerk confirmed a fourth grant of £2096 had been awarded and as stated in Item 8, this was allocated to Falcon Road footpath. Mr Lambert questioned whether some of the grant money which totalled £19,907.43 should be kept in reserve but it was felt that with the VAT reclaim of approx. £6K, a carryover of approx. £10K was sufficient and Mr Lambert was satisfied. Mrs Peckham said there was also a chance the Restart Grant would be awarded.

14. Operation ‘London Bridge’ – Chair proposed approving final draft for Operation ‘London Bridge’, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. Chair said Operation ‘London Bridge’ is aimed at the Queen and adapted for other royals therefore Operation ‘Fourth Bridge’ is currently in force for HRH Prince Philip, although Covid-19 has caused several adjustments and the decision of whether to have a physical or online Condolence Book was discussed at length. Although the Government and royal family were not encouraging a physical book due to the current Covid-19 situation, the Chair had obtained a quote for an official Condolence Book consisting of black edged paper and ring-binder which was £283.50. Mrs Peckham asked if an alternative book with a royal seal of approval could be purchased but the Chair said a ring-binder is preferred so that if anyone abused it then pages could be easily replaced. Mr Storey felt it was important to have a physical record, particularly so that those without internet access could pay their respects and proposed purchasing an official Condolence Book at a cost of £283.50 however there was no seconder. Mrs McGeeney proposed situating a post box somewhere in the village for residents to put their pre-written messages in which could be collated into a photo-book or ring-binder at a later date, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. The Chair said it was unlikely this could be situated in St Mary’s as the Diocese of Ely would not allow a Condolence Book to be held there due to Covid-19 restrictions. Clerk to enquire if the post box could be situated in the Methodist Church.

15. Bus Shelter & Play Equipment Cleaning – Westcotec have some suggestions for removing sticky residues which the Chair will try during the week.

16. CIL Funding Opportunity – Mrs Peckham said she was assisting the Clerk in applying for a grant to resurface the tennis court and replace surrounding fencing. Some of the grant conditions were unclear but an application would be made for £10K and if successful, only £3K would have to

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

be allocated from the lockdown grants towards this project. The work has been pencilled in for the second week of September.

17. Overgrown Hedge – Clerk asked for confirmation that letters should be sent as the Chair had visited the owner of 2 Newcombe Drive two years ago and agreed not to cut the hedge back as it would kill it. However, it was agreed that the hedge is obstructing the pavement and therefore letters should be sent, perhaps hand delivered by the Chair or Mr Storey.

18. Sanitizing Stations – Clerk said these were being delivered shortly but that street licences are required. Although they can be bolted to the ground, the Borough Council had advised attaching them to an existing asset. Clerk to obtain street licences when locations had been decided.

19. Review Financial Regulations – Chair proposed changing the lower limit to £750 and the higher to £3000 and rewording the Clause so that if three quotes cannot be obtained as is often the case then the council are adhering to the regulations, Mr Storey seconded, all in favour. Clerk will make necessary amendments for approval at the next meeting.

20. Year 6 Prom “Litter Pick” Fundraiser – Mrs McGeeney proposed donating £100 to this cause as the students had done an excellent job of tidying up litter for the benefit of the village, Mrs Peckham seconded, 4 in favour, Mr Cole against. Clerk to advise Prom Committee.

21. Implications of Virtual Meeting Legislation Due to Expire 7th May 2021 – Chair said the British Legion is remaining closed until August/September. Mr Lambert felt it was too premature for physical meetings to take place anyway and suggested bringing the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council forward so they can be held virtually to adhere to this legislation. Chair proposed the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council be brought forward and held virtually on Thursday 6th May 2021, Mrs McGeeney seconded, 4 in favour, Mr Storey abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE

22. BCKLWN – Email – Weekly Covid-19 Update; Business & Tourism toolkit

23. NCC – Email – Rescheduled start date for carriageway resurfacing works on B1112 Feltwell Road set for 10/05/21; Share your views on latest city transport plans; Temporary traffic restrictions of multiple roads in Feltwell on 6/4/21; ‘1 Million Trees for Norfolk’ Update; Temporary closure of Main Street in Hockwold on 16/04/21; Covid-19 Briefing

24. RAF Lakenheath – Notification of demolition operations 24/3/21 & 25/3/21 at RAF Feltwell, 5 detonations 10.00am – 3.00pm; “Liberty Ledger” Newsletter; News Release

25. Norfolk & Waveney CCG – Email - Healthwatch Norfolk & Suffolk - Patient Cancer Survey

26. Active Places - Email - Newsletter

27. Office for National Statistics - Census 2021 – Email - Census Support Events

28. Myneighbourhoodplan.co.uk – Email - Act Now to Control Aggressive Planning Applications

29. Visit West Norfolk – Email - Reopening West Norfolk

30. Brochures - Parish Magazine

31. **CHEQUES** – Mr Lambert proposed approving the payments list, Mrs Arnold seconded, all in favour. Cheques to be signed for the following – J Martin £64.55, S Sargent £104.63, T George £92.50, Viridor £147.77, A Stannard £61.00, BT £57.60, K&M Lighting £103.27, J Rolph £100.00, HMRC £223.98, Fenland Leisure £684.82, NALC £401.80, Environment Agency £42.84, E.ON £369.34. Standing order to J Martin £846.47. Clerk advised a direct debit of £101.30 had also been taken in March by SSE.

32. PLANNING

Applications:-

Mr J Porter: Extension to rear of dwelling at 7 Lodge Road – Mr Lambert proposed APPROVING this application, Mrs Arnold seconded, all in favour.

Mr S Watson: Retrospective construction of garden building at 26 Oak Street – Application has been permitted with a condition that *“The garden room building shown on dwg No. 13748A hereby approved shall only be utilised for purposes incidental to the needs and personal enjoyment of the occupants of the dwelling....”*. Clerk to contact Stuart Ashworth in the Planning department to ascertain what this means as the building is being used as an occasional dwelling and has an upstairs bedroom with no fire escape. No planning permission has been obtained for the fence at the front of the property which is beyond the 1m height limit and is another breach of planning. Mrs Peckham proposed lodging a breach of planning against the fence, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. Clerk had had no response to two emails sent to Andrew Wallace at Highways regarding preventing vehicles from parking opposite the resident of 11 Oak Street’s driveway and Mr Storey advised contacting Jason Moore.

Hemingford Construction Ltd: Reserved Matters – Residential development of 19 dwellings at Long Lane Farm, 30 Long Lane – Chair advised another revised application had been submitted as Planning are not satisfied with the size of the gardens. Clerk said she had contacted Flagship to accept their invitation to meet but had not heard back as yet.

Other Matters:-

Mr D Bayley: Replacing boundary hedge with 6’6” fence at 2 Oak Street – An application had been approved to remove the hedge but another application has been made to install a fence.

Sifting Panel - Chair said he had expressed his dissatisfaction to Claire Dorgan regarding the actions of the delegated powers used by the Sifting Panel in relation to some recent applications in Feltwell and she has passed on those concerns to Stuart Ashworth.

Training - Chair said he had enquired about training courses run by the Borough Council and the next round of available dates would be late Summer/early Autumn.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

33. Temporary Events Notices (TENs) – Cllr Tom Ryves had emailed a copy of a letter sent from the Chair of Northwold & Whittington Parish Council to BCKLWN objecting to Parish Councils not being involved in the consultation process for TENs, for Feltwell Parish Council to consider and potentially support. To be discussed next meeting.

34. Public Right of Way – Mr Lambert advised of a complaint he had received earlier in the day regarding a local farmer who had widened his dyke and put the spoil onto the neighbouring public right of way. Clerk had contacted David Mills of NCC who instructed the farmer to remove the spoil and to widen his dyke no further than 1ft onto the public right of way.

Next meeting to be held virtually on Thursday 6th May 2021. Annual Parish Meeting will start at 7.00 pm followed by the Annual Meeting of Parish Council.

Meeting declared closed 9.22 pm.