

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 12th day of JULY 2021 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Rayner (Chair), Cock, Cole, Fenn, Lambert and Storey, and Mrs Arnold. Also present 2 members of the public and Squadron Leader Geary.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs Bane, Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None declared.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last meeting held Thursday 14th June were approved. Mrs Arnold proposed, Mr Cole seconded, 3 in favour, Mr Fenn and Mr Lambert abstained as they had not been present.

The Chair welcomed new Parish Councillor, Mr Jonathan Fenn, to the meeting.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The meeting was suspended for 1 minute to allow members of the public to speak.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – Sqn Leader said he was in receipt of the structural damage reporting procedure but had not yet sent it to the Clerk. Mr Lambert said a resident had already asked for a copy and would forward their contact details to the Clerk. Sqn Leader is meeting the Head of EOD this week to discuss their operations and assured everyone that he would take all questions and concerns raised at the last meeting forward. He said the EOD are considering moving the storage facility temporarily to Feltwell which would give them greater flexibility over the days the activities are executed, ie. if low cloud cover, they can be postponed to the next day or day after etc, as currently the explosives take two weeks to deliver to Feltwell so there is limited room for adjustment. Mr Storey asked if the Parish Council could lodge a complaint on behalf of the residents and Sqn Leader said structural damage must be reported by the individual. Sqn Leader said he had not been able to attend when the last set of explosions were carried out but hoped to attend next time. He emphasised that looking after the best interests of Feltwell residents was a key element of his job and the issue was high on his agenda. Squadron Leader departed the meeting at 7.50 pm.

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

3. **Risk Assessment** – **Inspections:** Handyman is carrying out weekly inspections and has replaced a U Bolt on the multiplay unit. He did not have the missing dog sign and when the Clerk asked Borough Council to supply a new one, she was told dogs are only forbidden on enclosed play areas and not entire playing fields therefore a sign could not be provided. Chair believed there was a bylaw in place for the playing field but Clerk advised Borough's statement that all bylaws have been rescinded and taken over by the Public Space Protection Order which has no restriction on banning dogs. Mr Lambert suggested reinstating the bylaw and Mr Fenn confirmed that owners can issue bylaws on their own land. Mr Lambert also suggested registering a similar bylaw on the allotment land. Clerk to make enquiries. **Seesaw:** Voting will take place in the Brandon store 12/7/21 to 30/9/21. **Fence:** Mr Cock said he had four fence panels. To be discussed further next meeting as Mrs Wilson was not present. **Annual Operational Inspection:** Carried out 1st July and report circulated. All issues were Low or Very Low Risk apart from one Moderate Risk being a damaged iron fence panel which Chair believed was caused by the wheelie bin fire a while ago. Clerk suggested using one of the fence panels Mr Cock was storing to replace it therefore Mr Cock will liaise with the Handyman and look at the loose fence posts which were also highlighted in the Report. **Boundary Wall:** Clerk said Zurich (Parish Council's insurers) had had no contact from owner's insurers and read out their reply email. She had furnished them with copies of

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

Borough Council's Building Control report (21/10/20), invoice from Denver Trees who felled the tree and Environmental Health Department's report (11/12/20) as requested. Zurich believed there might be a liability on the council's part for that area of the damaged wall only since the tree was felled and not completely removed although stated the Leylandii trees are most likely the main culprit and the issue would be determining what element is due to the tree versus the Leylandii. Mr Lambert said the wall was in a poor condition before the tree was removed. Mr Storey said this was not an isolated case as all villages have issues with Leylandii trees and Mr Fenn agreed they were a menace. Zurich also highlighted the council's duty of care to cordon off the wall and display signage warning of the potential danger which was agreed by all, Clerk to purchase orange fencing, wooden posts and signs. Chair proposed meeting with the owners to discuss this issue, Mr Cock seconded, all in favour. Clerk to write to owners.

4. Balance Sheet – No queries. Clerk explained the difference of £103.27 was due to the duplicate payment to K&M Lighting by Standing Order and cheque which would be rectified asap.

5. Allotment Pest Control – No report yet for June or July. Clerk will continue to chase.

6. NALC – NALC bulletins circulated as received. Chair asked all Councillors to attend the NALC webinar scheduled for 15/7/21 entitled "Right Tree Right Place" regarding NCC's plans to plant 1 million trees in five years in order to obtain information on trees and funding paths.

7. Ranger Visit – Remains of dead weeds have not been removed and are unsightly. Mr Storey said the quad bikes used to carry out the spraying work were not effective and that he would be voicing his opinion to the Borough Council and Highways that weed spraying would be more effective if personnel were to walk and spray. Clerk to ask Rangers to clear the dead weeds.

8. Parish Partnership Scheme – Clerk said Falcon Road alleyway repairs programmed for 11/10/21.

9. Locality Budget – Mr Storey said he would be discussing projects with the Highways Officer and welcomed ideas from the council on what his budget could be spent on.

10. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey said meetings will continue at Norwich Showground for the foreseeable future, the next one being 19/7/21. Staff are very busy as many are still working from home therefore issues are taking longer to resolve. He would be enquiring why traffic lights remain in place for so long after work is completed and encouraged the council to lodge a complaint. Mr Fenn commented that traffic lights are no longer managed inhouse and traffic management companies make a big income from charging hourly or daily rates for them, so leave them in situ until told otherwise. The Local Plan was adopted at last month's BC meeting.

11. Fence – Chair said gate would be installed shortly following a delay with the groundworks.

12. Online Banking – Chair said he was expecting information from Barclays.

13. Small Business Grant – Clerk said the Restart Grant was again not showing on the bank statement so presumed it was not going to be awarded.

14. Operation 'London Bridge' – Ongoing.

15. Bus Shelter & Play Equipment Cleaning – It was questioned whether Covid spraying and deep cleaning was still required after restrictions are lifted on 19/7/21. Mr Cock proposed continuing monthly Covid spray and bi-monthly deep clean of play equipment and ceasing all bus shelter cleaning as of 19/7/21 unless required, Mr Storey seconded, all in favour. Clerk to advise Mr Sparkle. Chair had spoken with the owner of the land behind Lodge Road bus shelter last week

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

who apologised for the overgrowth and said it would be cut back in the next fortnight. The owner also said the relocation of the bus shelter was included in his planning and discouraged the council from paying to have it removed. He said Phase 1 of the planning should commence in two months and the roadway must be done as a priority. Mr Storey proposed writing to him, requesting as a goodwill gesture the bus stop be removed imminently as it is not fit for purpose or alternatively offering to undertake the work at his expense, Mr Fenn seconded, all in favour. Chair said he would speak to the owner regarding this. Mr Storey volunteered to ask the owner of 53 High Street to refrain from leaning her business signage against the High Street bus shelter as it is damaging it.

16. CIL Funding Opportunity – No further news but Clerk said tennis court is programmed to be resurfaced and fencing renewed w/c 13/9/21.

17. Overgrown Hedge – Chair said he was awaiting quotations to cut the hedge at 2 Newcombe Drive. 2 Oak Street and 50 Wilton Road have been trimmed back although it was questioned whether 50 Wilton Road needed trimming back further. Clerk wrote to owners of 14 and 21 Curtis Drive following a complaint received regarding greenery from their properties encroaching the alleyway to Archers Avenue. Since writing, 14 have cut the hedge but 21 have done nothing and as this property is rented, Mr Lambert proposed obtaining land registry details and writing to the owner, Mr Storey seconded, all in favour.

18. Sanitizing Stations – Clerk said Handyman had moved the station outside the One Stop to the right of the entrance. Mr Lambert to monitor use of sanitiser here and Mr Cole said he would monitor the station at the Londis.

19. Audit – Approve Accounts – Clerk said AGAR ‘Notice of period for exercise of public rights’ will be displayed on the noticeboard and website until 26/7/21 when the notice period ends.

20. Parish Council Facebook Page – Clerk has set this up and there are currently 140 members.

21. Roadsweeper – Clerk said roadsweeper had been in the village w/c 12/6/21. Mr Cole said he could not believe the grass cutters had been the very next day and blown grass all over the road.

22. Grass Cutting – Clerk said weed spraying and clearing of Falcon Road alleyway has been done. Chair asked Clerk to instruct Hamills to cut the grass shorter at Crosshill as it gets overgrown very quickly and looks unsightly.

23. Review Rates Paid for Changing Rooms & User Agreements – Ongoing. Rates to be reviewed in September. Clerk said season will start earlier this year in August.

24. Highways – Mr Cole reported a list of properties with overgrown greenery and streets that needed weeding. Chair also had a long list. Mr Cole suggested putting a post on Facebook asking people to cut their greenery to within their boundaries. Clerk to put a post on Facebook and in the Parish Magazine. Mr Cole said the verge along The Beck opposite the primary school needed attention and Mr Lambert advised this had always been the owners’ responsibility. Clerk to write to Borough regarding the overgrown verge at the front of Hall Farm Close. Clerk said Highways will look at the 40mph sign to the left of the exit from Breckland Farms onto Lodge Road and the missing lettering on the road signs at the top of Lodge Road when in the village tomorrow.

25. Oak Garden – Clerk said she had intended to measure the cracks earlier that day but weather had not permitted. She will ensure this is done asap.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

26. Bin Lorry – Clerk read out email from Serco which stated that following investigation they were unable to ascertain any staining around the drain. It said garden waste collection vehicles have a juice tank at the rear which is normally drained at the end of the day so there would be no need to dispose of the juices during the day. Mr Lambert deduced the cap may have been loose.

27. Street Light Maintenance Renewal Contract – Clerk said current contract expires 12th August. She is expecting quotations from three companies but has only received one from the current contractor, K&M Lighting. Clerk to circulate prices via email when received.

28. Felling at Little Ouse/Brandon Bank – Email received from Forestry Commission regarding Felling Licence for trees at Little Ouse/Brandon Bank. Mr Cock said the area highlighted on the attached map was not in our parish and therefore did not affect us which was agreed by all. Clerk to respond to Forestry Commission.

29. ‘The Food Pantry’ Enquiry – Email received from The Food Pantry, who are setting up an independent food bank based at the Methodist Church to cater for Feltwell and surrounding villages, requesting funding. Mr Cock queried what the funding was for as food banks run on donations of food and asked if there was even a need for a food bank since only approx. £70 of the £1000 offered by the council to the Feltwell Local Action Group (FLAG) had been requested which was to cover flyer printing costs. Mr Lambert said the primary school are actively involved with FLAG and the Atmere Charity had also made donations to those in need. As the council was unable to ascertain whether the food bank was a necessity, Mr Cock proposed refusing the request for funding, Mr Cole seconded, 4 in favour, Mr Storey abstained stating there was not enough information for him to vote. Clerk to write to The Food Pantry.

30. Invitation to Bid for Parish Partnership Scheme 2022/23 – Clerk advised NCC were repeating this Scheme for 2022/23, deadline for bids is 10th December 2021.

31. The Armed Forces Covenant & Pledge – Chair proposed carrying this item over to the next meeting due to time constraints, all in favour.

32. Email from Cllr Jo Rust re Support for the QEH Campaign – Email received from Borough Councillor Jo Rust regarding the need for a new Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King’s Lynn. Cllr Rust stated a motion was passed at County Hall and she hoped the Parish Council would support her motion to the Borough Council along with her community campaign. The Chair asked councillors if they would like to support this individually or as a council and as many said they had already signed the petition, it was decided to support individually. Clerk to advise Cllr Rust.

CORRESPONDENCE

33. BCKLWN – Emails – Weekly Covid-19 Updates; Local Plan Review Briefing Session; Love West Norfolk, Love the QEH, Sign the Petition

34. NCC – Emails – Public surveys to help support a new art trail for Norfolk; Norwich Western Link project update; Emergency road closure in Feltwell - burst water main

35. RAF Lakenheath – Email - Notification of multiple explosions 23/6/21, 9am – 3pm; Media Advisory - RAF Lakenheath celebrates 4th of July with fireworks display

36. Isleham Parish Council – Email - Consultation on Draft Isleham Neighbourhood Plan

37. Rural Services Network – Rural Bulletin

38. TWR Accountants – Email – July Tax Tips Newsletter

39. Brochure - Parish Magazine

40. **CHEQUES** – Mr Lambert proposed approving the payments list, Mr Cock seconded, all in favour. Cheques to be signed for the following – S Sargent £91.20, T George £143.98, R H Landscapes £600.00, A Stannard £189.00, Fenland Leisure Products £1603.78, I Rayner £150.00, HMRC £247.51. Direct Debits to E.ON £529.84 and 446.23, Viridor £157.01 and BT £57.68, Standing Orders to K&M Lighting £103.27 and J Martin £897.58.

Jo – don't forget to list August cheques in September minutes.

41. **PLANNING**

There were no planning applications.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

42. **Highways** – During Public Speaking, a resident asked if the groups could be cleared at Old Brandon Road. Mrs Arnold asked who was responsible for weeding between private properties and footpaths. Clerk to speak to Highways. Mr Lambert felt the deep pothole along St Mary's Street was extremely concerning and needed investigating as a tunnel runs beneath it. Clerk to contact Highways and Mr Storey said he would also speak to them.

43. **Cllr Adrian Lawrence** – Mr Cock asked if the agenda was circulated to the other Borough Councillor, Mr Adrian Lawrence. Clerk said she had always in the past sent him one but as he never acknowledged it or attended a meeting, she had ceased to send it. Mr Cock felt an agenda should be emailed and all agreed.

44. **Street Light St Mary's** – Clerk advised this was not working due to a fire caused by an electrical fault. K&M Lighting are looking into this with UKPN.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 13th September 2021 at 7.30 pm at the British Legion.

Meeting declared closed 10.01 pm.

- **Mr V Baptist: Single Storey Side Extension to 20 Falcon Road, Feltwell** – 9 in favour, Mr Storey abstained – APPROVED 29/7/21

- **Sir Edmund de Moundeford Charity: Construction of meeting hall - revised design 19/00774/F at Land Off Munsons Lane** – 6 in favour, Mr Cock, Mr Lambert, Mrs McGeeney and Mr Storey abstained declaring an interest as Trustees of the Sir Edmund de Moundeford Charity – APPROVED 2/9/21

- **Mr J Waites: 5 bedroom house with associated parking and 1 bedroom annexe for a family member to be looked after at home at Field Farm, 50 Paynes Lane, Feltwell** – 8 in favour, Mr Storey abstained – APPROVED 6/9/21