

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 13th day of SEPTEMBER 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, Mrs Bane, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson. Also present 3 members of the public and Squadron Leader Geary.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs McGeeney.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None declared.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held Monday 12th July 2021 were approved. Mrs Arnold proposed, Mr Lambert second, 5 in favour, Mrs Bane, Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson abstained as they had not been present.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The meeting was suspended for 2 minutes to allow members of the public to speak.

MATTERS ARISING

RAF Feltwell – Sqn Leader reported RAF Lakenheath had won the Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence. 48th Fighter Wing had been declared Agile Combat Employment (ACE). During the withdrawal from Afghanistan, US soldiers evacuated a whole host of refugees and took them to Ramstein Air Base in Germany and 67 medics were deployed with only 12 hour's notice to support the repatriation including two surgeons. Sqn Leader said the memorial service for the 20th anniversary of 9/11 held in Lakenheath was very moving. Battle of Britain celebrations take place this week. He had met with the EOD team and Base Commander Camilletti who, along with Col. Philipps, would now like to invite both Feltwell and Hockwold Parish Councils to RAF Feltwell on 22/10/21 to discuss their operations. Mr Storey expressed his concern regarding the daily traffic congestion at the Base entrance between 7.10 – 7.30 am and said he had witnessed several dangerous manoeuvres. Squadron Leader will speak with Security and investigate what is happening with the redesign of the entrance. Squadron Leader departed the meeting at 7.49 pm.

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

3. **Risk Assessment** – **Inspections:** Handyman is carrying out weekly inspections, no issues reported. Mrs Peckham said one of the fence panels opposite the Changing Rooms had been badly damaged. She said a solution might be to use the good half of this panel in the new gate work. The existing panel near the gate could then replace this damaged one. Mr Rayner thought this was a good idea and would speak to Mr Ayres. Mrs Bane asked if the Playing Field Group could purchase a bin to replace the wheelie bin and was asked to obtain prices. **Bylaw:** Clerk contacted NALC who said the bylaw should not have been rescinded without consultation with the Parish Council and advised contacting BCKLWN Legal Services as he believed that within the areas covered by the existing bylaw, existing controls would probably still apply. Legal Services forwarded information from their Environmental Health department stating the bylaws fell when the Public Space Protection Order was introduced nearly six years ago. It is due for review and reissue at the end of the year so the inclusion of the field in the banned area can be considered. The reason unenclosed open spaces were not originally included, they said, is due to practicality of enforcing it being very difficult and consideration as to where else dogs can be walked. They went on to say the field would be covered by the no-fouling part of the order. Mrs Peckham said the bylaw should not have been rescinded without the Parish Council's authority and felt the PSPO should be in place for the whole playing field or the play area would have to be fenced off which was something she could look into. Mr Cole said he had seen dogs running loose at the allotments and Mrs Bane said should be kept on leads at all times. **Seesaw:** Deadline 30/9/21 therefore no further news.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

Fence: Mr Wilson said the Playing Field Group had met last week and unanimously felt the fence should be put on hold for the time being. The playing field had been inundated with families and children of all ages over the summer holiday period with no incidents reported and on this basis it was agreed by all that the fence, at a cost of at least £2500, was not a necessity at this time and could actually cause more problems if it was installed due to children using it as a climbing frame. Mr Cole said the low sides of the skate park had been highlighted as a trip hazard in the Operational Inspection Report but Mrs Peckham said the skate park was built in accordance to safety regulations at that time. It was agreed by all to monitor the situation. **Annual Operational Inspection:** Mr Cock asked the Handyman to contact him to organise replacing the damaged fence panel with one he is storing. **Boundary Wall:** Mr Lambert and Mr Rayner have cordoned off the wall with orange fencing and displayed warning signs. An Extraordinary Meeting took place 9/8/21 to discuss the wall's condition and the tree stump. Clerk said the owners of Corner Lodge were out of the country and had asked her to set up a meeting with their Lettings Agent, Paula Drew of lookatme1st.com which took place 26/8/21. At the meeting, Mr Fenn said the owners have a duty of care to make the wall safe as it neighbours a public space. The Parish Council also wished it to be noted that they accepted no liability for the condition of the wall and furthermore would not be held responsible should the wall cause injury to any member of the public, and that the owners would be liable. Mrs Drew agreed to obtain details of the owners' insurers to instruct them to contact the Parish Council's insurers, Zurich, to deal with this matter. Mrs Drew advised the Clerk this morning that she was awaiting a response from the owners' insurers. She is also obtaining quotations to replace the ridge tiles and asked whether the Parish Council would be removing the stump before involving the insurance companies. Mrs Peckham felt it was imperative to obtain the owners' insurance details and it was agreed by all that the stump should not be touched until Zurich had looked at it. Clerk to contact Mrs Drew for the owners' insurance details. **Quarterly Inspections:** Clerk said Online Playgrounds will resume this month, then December and then March 2022.

4. Balance Sheet – No queries.

5. Allotment Pest Control – Reports received for June, July and August.

6. NALC – NALC bulletins circulated as received.

7. Ranger Visit – Next visit scheduled for October. Items reported - straighten 30mph sign on the green at Manor Park estate, clean 30mph and 40mph signs along Lodge Road and cut back greenery obscuring visibility, clean road signs at the top of Lodge Road, cut back verge at the top of Paynes Lane junction with Wilton Road, and clear weed growth and sweep all alleyways and footpath along Paynes Lane.

8. Parish Partnership Scheme – Clerk tried to confirm date for Falcon Road alleyway repairs but Andy Wallace said work was unlikely to start w/c 11/10/21 as payment had not been received,. Clerk informed him cheque payment had cleared 28th May so he will investigate.

9. Locality Budget – Mr Storey said his budget had increased to £10,000. Mrs Peckham suggested purchasing 'Children at Play' and 'Slow Down' signs for Paynes Lane where she felt traffic speeds were escalating.

10. Cllr Martin Storey Report – After a short update, Mr Storey said all information could be found on NCC and BC websites. Mrs Bane enquired about the Community Grant Scheme whereby each Borough Councillor can allocate £1000 to local projects or services which benefit the community in their ward area and asked Mr Storey if he would consider funding two new picnic benches for the playing field at an approx. cost of £500 each. She had also emailed Cllr Adrian Lawrence and was disappointed to have not even had an acknowledgement. Mr Storey said he would speak to him.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

11. Fence – Chair awaiting updated price from Mr Ayres.

12. Online Banking – No further news.

13. Operation ‘London Bridge’ – Ongoing.

14. Bus Shelter & Play Equipment Cleaning – Play equipment was not Covid sprayed in August due to Mr Sparkle’s holiday commitments. Chair said the owner of the land behind Lodge Road bus shelter had only just cut the greenery back due to nesting season. He is waiting to hear from him regarding the removal of the shelter but said it was doubtful he would remove it as he only part-owns the land. Mr Cock felt the quote received earlier in the year of £60-£80 from DM Carpentry & Building Services was worth considering if the shelter was not going to be removed any time soon as it is an eyesore. Mrs Peckham wondered if caution should be taken as if the bus shelter was removed, the applicants may not have to replace it. Mr Lambert proposed leaving the shelter in situ until the next meeting when further information relating to planning conditions could be obtained, Mr Cole seconded, 7 in favour, Mr Cock against.

15. CIL Funding Opportunity – Clerk was pleased to announce both applications had been successful and as such, work had started on the tennis court 8/9/21. Fencing work was completed 10/8/21 and court was tarmacked 11/8/21. Court is currently shut until lines are painted in the next fortnight. Painting of the court may not take place until next year due to backlog of work and £2000 would be withheld until this was completed. Mr Lambert asked what happened if the court was damaged in the meantime and Mrs Peckham said she would make some enquiries. Chair asked if the court would be painted before the end of the financial year and Mrs Peckham said it was weather-dependent as temperatures needed to be at least 14°C over a four-day period.

16. Overgrown Hedge – Clerk said 21 Curtis Drive had now been cut back to boundary line. Chair still awaiting a quotation from Hamill Landscaping for 2 Newcombe Drive.

17. Audit – Approve Accounts – Clerk said ‘Notice of period for exercise of public rights’ had ended with no requests to view accounts. ‘Notice of conclusion of audit’ together with Sections 1, 2 and 3 are displayed on the website and noticeboard.

18. Review Rates Paid for Changing Rooms & User Agreements – Mrs Peckham said the FA had removed all restrictions. Mrs Bane proposed no increase for either team and that the Seniors should continue to pay £25/game for use of all facilities and the Under 18’s pay £15/game for use of kitchen, toilets and changing room areas, Mr Cock seconded, 7 in favour, Mrs Peckham abstained.

19. Highways – Clerk said BC confirmed verge opposite the Primary School is owned by the developers of Hall Farm Barns and was asked to request a map of areas owned by BC and NCC, and to set up a meeting with Highways to discuss the verge. Clerk said Highways could not move the 40mph at the exit from Breckland Farms onto Lodge Road as it is already as far back as can be. The legal order with speed limits also prevents it from being moved and it is at its legal height to allow clearance underneath. New signs at the top of Lodge Road have been programmed. Grups are cleared as part of a countrywide programme at the end of the year, usually after harvest. Responsibility for weeding between private properties and footpaths is dependent on location and the extent of the highway. Highways only weed spray the path as spraying beyond could damage hedges/private gardens. If Mrs Arnold gave an exact location, the Clerk would pass this onto Highways. Regarding St Mary’s Street, Highways said the settlement is clearly over the line of the Anglian Water pipe run and very likely caused by the excessive ground water washing away the fines around the pipe causing a void and the road to drop over the pipe under traffic loading. Highways will fill the pothole and monitor but said the first area that settled hasn’t moved since it was last filled. Highways said it is not feasible to dig up the entire road to check if an old chamber

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

is collapsing and there is no ground sonar method of checking its condition. The Churchyard hole needs urgent attention as it will continue to cause problems on St Mary's Street and to surrounding properties and although the Church had contacted Highways, there was nothing they could do as the hole is on private land. Both Mr Lambert and Mrs Peckham felt it was sinking and Mrs Peckham questioned whether it could be attributed to the recent roadworks. Mrs Peckham said weeds had just been tarmacked over during resurfacing work on Oakfields. The spraying contractor informed her he could only spray areas which were on his schedule, even if there were weeds near to where he was spraying, as his employers tracked his location. Mr Storey said he would follow this up.

20. Oak Garden – Clerk said there was no further movement in the brickwork. Chair said this could be discussed at the Highways meeting.

21. Street Light Maintenance Renewal Contract – Clerk requested quotations from four companies and had circulated the two prices received from current contractors K&M Lighting at £1002.15 and T T Jones at £458.50. Even though T T Jones were much cheaper, 10 councillors wished to renew with K&M based on the excellent service provided over the last year which was far superior to that of T T Jones employed previously. Contract renewed with K&M Lighting. Clerk asked for this decision to be ratified therefore Mrs Bane proposed renewing with K&M Lighting, Mr Fenn seconded, all in favour.

22. Invitation to Bid for Parish Partnership Scheme 2022/23 – Mrs Peckham suggested solar speed signs for Wilton Road and Lodge Road which fell within the PP remit and had to be purchased from Amey at a cost of £6500 including ongoing maintenance. Mr Lambert said road-markings should also be considered to slow traffic down.

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

24. Cllr Adrian Lawrence – Clerk said Cllr Lawrence had acknowledged receipt of the meeting papers and hoped to attend, however he was not present.

25. Street Light St Mary's – Clerk had received no update from K&M but would chase.

26. Ratification of Minutes and Matters Arising from Extraordinary Meeting 9th August 2021 – Mrs Wilson proposed minutes be approved, Mr Lambert seconded, 7 in favour, Mrs Arnold and Mrs Bane abstained as they had not been present. **Playing Field Boundary Wall:** See Item 1; **Playing Field Tree Work Quotation:** Clerk obtained and circulated three prices, cheapest was Hamill Landscaping & Maintenance at £740 + VAT. 9 councillors voted for Hamill's to carry out this work, Mrs Peckham abstained. Work was completed 8/9/21. Clerk asked for this decision to be ratified therefore Mr Cole proposed Hamill Landscaping, Mr Lambert seconded, 9 in favour, Mrs Peckham abstained. **Playing Field Walkabout:** All items had been actioned. Mrs Peckham reminded Mr Storey to cut back the ivy obscuring the street light. **Dog Bin:** Clerk wrote to resident and Mrs Peckham said this had not happened since. **Trees War Memorial:** Mrs Bane proposed writing to the Church to request they cut back the overhanging Yew tree from the War Memorial garden, Mr Cock seconded, all in favour. Clerk to write to Church.

27. Ratification of Changing Room Electricity Supply Renewal with EDF Energy - Clerk had circulated prices received from four companies on a 1 and 2-year basis. 10 Councillors voted for EDF Energy on a 2-year contract at a cost of approx. £684.38/ year (£0.23p/daily charge and £0.19/unit). Clerk renewed with EDF. Clerk asked for this decision to be ratified therefore Mrs Bane proposed renewing with EDF Energy, Mr Cock seconded, all in favour.

28. NCC 1 Million Trees Project – Chair and Mr Cole attended the NALC webinar. Chair said trees are already available and put forward the idea of a community orchard. Mrs Peckham said there is a lot of allotment land and also gaps in the hedgerows which could be filled. Mr Storey said this scheme should be a village project and suggested informing residents via the Parish Magazine and on Facebook that they could also apply. Mr Fenn said although he felt this was a good idea, the species of tree needed to be given some thought to ensure the wrong tree wasn't planted in the wrong place. Mr Storey said guidance would be given from NCC on each application. Clerk to put article in Parish Magazine and on Facebook.

29. Pre-Submission Consultation Period for the Local Plan Review – Mr Lambert said this included two areas in Feltwell. Mr Storey said this was ongoing and all information could be found online.

30. Enquiry re Tennis Wall – Request received via email for the purchase of a tennis wall. As this item ranges in style and price, Clerk asked enquirer to provide further details but had received no reply. Carried forward to next meeting.

31. Independent Remuneration Panel Members' Allowances Questionnaire 2021 – Each question was read out and Councillors gave a unanimous response to each question. Chair proposed answers were correct and submitted accordingly, all in favour. Clerk to submit questionnaire.

32. Remembrance Sunday 2021 – Chair asked Councillors if they wished to continue with the usual format regarding road closures etc. and explained the service was now the Parish Council's responsibility as it had to be conducted under their insurance. Chair proposed format remain the same, all in favour.

33. Village Christmas Tree 2021 – Chair asked Councillors if they would like to put a Christmas tree in the Churchyard again and suggested having a taller tree, either 15ft or 18ft. Mrs Peckham asked if more lights and decorations would be needed and Mrs Arnold said there was plenty. Mr Storey said he and Mr Lambert would purchase the tree between them and collect it.

CORRESPONDENCE

34. BCKLWN – Emails – Weekly Covid-19 Updates; Gambling Act - Statement of Principles

35. NCC – Emails – Temporary road closures in Weeting and Hockwold; Norfolk Music Hub releases Norfolk Day anthem to celebrate the county; Free online business summer school for 16-25 year olds in Norfolk; Draft Flood Investigation Report for BCKLWN - Winter 2020-21; New 50mph speed limits set on A149 in West Norfolk; GCSE results celebrated for young people across Norfolk; Adult Learners in Norfolk celebrate GCSE results; Flood fund spending to be agreed

36. RAF Lakenheath – Email - Commander in Chief Award Announcement; Invitation to Autumn Reception 10/9/21; 1 emergency detonation, 9 am – 12 noon and 3 pm – 6 pm on 21/7/21; 2-3 explosive tools producing sound no louder than a shotgun from 6 am – 2 pm on 22/7/21; Demolition training, 8-10 small detonations, 10 am - 4 pm on 28/7/21; Training Explosive Operations 1-2 explosive tools producing sound no louder than a shotgun from 8 am – 2 pm on 4/8/21; Emergency operation, up to two controlled detonations from 11.30 am – 4 pm on 6/8/21; Emergency operation, up to two controlled detonations from 1 pm - 4 pm on 31/8/21; RAF Mildenhall – Invitation - Joan Mann Special Sports Day 24/9/21; Explosive operations, up to two controlled detonations from 8 am – 1 pm on 8/9/21

37. Warren Energy Ltd – Email - Community Fund information

38. Anglian Water – Email – 'Anglian Water strategic water network programme route planning'

39. Gary Johns Architects – Email - Architectural Services

40. Peterborough City Council – Email - Cambs & Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan

42. Rural Services Network – Rural Bulletins

43. TWR Accountants – Email – August Tax Tips Newsletter

44. NWCCG – Email - Save the date! AGM 28/9/21

45. Cambridge Acre Community Action – Email - Future Fens: Flood Management

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT)

46. Community Action Norfolk – Email – Funding Newsletter

47. Brochures - Parish Magazine

48. **CHEQUES** – Clerk asked for August payments to be ratified as there was no August meeting. Mrs Bane proposed ratifying the August payments and approving the September payments list, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. Cheques signed for August – J Martin £38.13, S Sargent £110.35, I Rayner £54.00, R H Landscapes £540.00, A Stannard (Mr Sparkle) £25.00, K&M Lighting £100.21, Anglian Water £51.50, PKF Littlejohn £360.00. Direct debits to E.On £461.10, SSE £102.12, BT £57.68 and Viridor £205.23. Standing Order to J Martin £897.58. Cheques signed for September – S Sargent £178.08, T George £211.92, R H Landscapes £540.00, K&M Lighting £100.21, J Rolph £150.00, Zurich Municipal £1370.62, Fenland Leisure Products £150.00, Tennis Court Surface Solutions £13,078.80, Cash £50.00. Direct debits to URM £15.66, E.On £461.10, BT £57.60 and Viridor £157.27. Standing Order to J Martin £897.58.

49. PLANNING

Anglian Water: Proposed hybrid for the proposed Bexwell to Bury St Edmunds Pipeline Scheme with full planning consent sought for a proposed 70 kilometre pipeline and associated above ground infrastructure at Gazeley, Isleham and Woodditton; and outline consent for above ground infrastructure at Bexwell, Kentford Ladys Green and Rede with all matters reserved except access at Drain From Bexwell To Bury St Edmunds – As this planning application does not affect Feltwell, it was not considered necessary to discuss it.

Invitation from Bidwells had been received earlier in the month to attend a private briefing session on 27/9/21 to discuss their proposed planning application on behalf of Wayland Farms Ltd and Crown Chicken Ltd to extend the existing pig and poultry facilities at Airfield Farm, Methwold Farm and Feltwell Farm. It was generally felt this invitation should be accepted and the Clerk asked all Councillors to confirm their attendance.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

50. Highways – Clerk said she had received a complaint about the state of the footpath on Curtis Drive. Pothole on Addisons Close, also at the Oak Street junction onto Bell Street and on Short Beck leading to Methwold Hythe. Clerk to report. Mr Cole said the parking on Oak Street continues to be dangerous and he had noted 13 cars parked along here last week.

51. Moat Side – Following a complaint received regarding the overgrown brambles on the green here, Clerk asked all Councillors to take a look and revert at the next meeting. This piece of land is unadopted and as such the Borough Council will not maintain it.

52. Allotment Hedges – Mr Fenn asked the Allotment Committee to remind the hedge contractor to leave a bit more height on the hedge neighbouring Hythe Road.

53. Playing Field Plans – Mrs Wilson asked for Councillors' views on the email sent regarding the Playing Field Group's vision for the play area which included purchasing five pieces of adult gym equipment, a rope swing and a table tennis table. Mr Lambert asked if any other funding was being sought other than the grants from the Changing Rooms closure and Mrs Bane said other applications were being made, including one to the Warren Energy Community Fund. Councillors had responded positively to Mrs Wilson's email and as there were no further questions, the Group will obtain quotations.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

54. Union Flag in Memorial Garden – Mrs Arnold said the flag was in a very poor condition and ought to be removed. Mrs Peckham felt it should be removed after the Remembrance Service if possible.

55. Trees on the Playing Field – Mrs Peckham asked for this matter to be discussed at the next meeting.

56. Almshouses – Chair asked if Mr Storey could arrange for the Edmund de Moundeford Trust to trim back the overgrowing hedges from the Almshouses onto Oak Street.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 11th October 2021 at 7.30 pm at the British Legion.

Meeting declared closed 10.09 pm.

On 7th October 2021, no objection was made to the following planning application - **Mr & Mrs Sibley: Single storey side and rear extensions and internal alterations at 21 East Hall Bungalows Lodge Road** – 8 Councillors in favour, Mr Storey abstained.