

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 8th day of NOVEMBER 2021 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Rayner (Chair), Cole, Fenn, Lambert and Storey, Mrs Arnold and Mrs McGeeney. Also present 4 members of the public and Squadron Leader Geary.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None declared.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held Thursday 14th October 2021 were approved. Mr Lambert proposed, Mrs Arnold seconded, all in favour.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The meeting was suspended for 10 minutes to allow members of the public to speak.

MATTERS ARISING

RAF Feltwell – Sqn Leader gave a brief update on recent operations and activities. The High Sheriff of Suffolk & Norfolk and a collection of deputy left-tenants visited 21/10/21 and raised issues regarding housing and roads in the local area. The main entrance redesign is in the budget for year ending 2024. The 48th Fighter Wing will be attending numerous Remembrance Service events throughout Norfolk and Suffolk this Sunday and Sqn Leader will attend at Brandon since he had attended Feltwell last year. Left-tenant Rizzo will lead the march to St Mary's Church with a contingent of about 24/25 personnel. Sqn Leader thanked everyone who attended the Base tour on 22/10/21 and is considering how to devise the personal notification system. He is meeting the RSPB this week where he will take forward Mr Storey's concern regarding the welfare of pheasants. Mr Lambert asked if the EOD could consider low cloud cover before proceeding with any activity and Sqn Leader assured him this was already being done. If activities cannot take place, rearranging explosive transportation is extremely difficult therefore installation of a local storage facility is being considered which will allow the activity to be rescheduled as soon as possible. Mr Storey thanked Sqn Leader for organising a very interesting and informative tour. He said the issue had never been about the importance of the activities but it was disappointing to be told that they would continue to take place at Feltwell for the long term and asked if anything could be done to ease the burden of noise put on the parish. Sqn Leader reminded him of Colonel Stilbach's invention of a 'muffler', designed to sit over the explosion pit and absorb sound waves thus reducing noise impact. This was explained during the tour and Col. Stilbach is awaiting test results. Sqn Leader said the activities were not going to be moved so the important thing now is to minimise impact. Sqn Leader departed at 7.52 pm.

2. **SNT** – Police Connect emails circulated, no incidents relating to Feltwell.

3. **Risk Assessment** – **Inspections:** Handyman is carrying out weekly inspections, no issues reported. Prices still to be obtained for a new wheelie bin. **Bylaw:** Mrs Peckham was not present but asked the Clerk to inform everyone that she had heard nothing from DEFRA regarding whether the conditions of the bylaw forbidding dogs on the playing field remained in force. Mr Fenn said DEFRA are notoriously slow at responding at present but every village has as a similar problem and he asked if the Clerk could contact other Clerks to see how they had dealt with this issue. Mr Storey also asked the Clerk to contact the National Playing Fields Association regarding this matter. **Litter Bin:** Playing Field Group to get prices. **Teen Shelter:** Request received by resident during Public Speaking to reinstate the perspex panel at the rear of the shelter. Chair said the original perspex panel had been replaced with a solid, anti-graffiti panel which had then been removed in a bid to combat antisocial behaviour. The resident said the original perspex panel was designed to be safe and environmentally friendly. Chair said he would ask the Playing Field Group to look at this and revert at the next meeting.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

4. Balance Sheet – No queries.

5. Allotment Pest Control – No report received yet for September or October, Clerk to chase.

6. NALC – NALC bulletins circulated as received. Chair said the plaque commissioned by Lady Dannatt, Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk to commemorate community resilience during the Covid-19 pandemic is to be presented on 15/11/21 at the British Legion by the Deputy Lieutenant, Lady Georgina Roberts. Chair thought it would be a nice gesture to provide refreshments and cake to thank the community for their efforts and Mr Lambert proposed allocating up to £500 towards this, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour although Mr Storey questioned whether this amount could be better spent elsewhere. Mr Storey proposed displaying the plaque in the Memorial Garden subject to permission from the Royal British Legion, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour.

7. Ranger Visit – Clerk said Highways are now undertaking Ranger work, see Item 15.

8. Parish Partnership Scheme 2021/22 – Clerk said Jay Moore advised work will commence 29/11/21, weather permitting.

9. Locality Budget – Mr Storey is gathering information from other parishes and said £1500 of his budget is destined for trees. There is still £400 to spend and he is meeting Andy Wallace or Jay Moore at the end of the month.

10. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey said Parish Councils are not eligible for the Community Grant Scheme however there is a Road Safety Community Fund of up to £10,000 for improvements in roads, promoting road safety and casualty reduction. He thought an extension to the deadline of 30/11/21 had been requested and suggested the Clerk contact Ian Gregory for more information.

11. Fence – No installation date as yet.

12. Online Banking – Chair said he is making no progress with Barclays and Mr Lambert offered to speak to his contact so that the Clerk could at least view the statement. Clerk said she would be pleased if he would do this.

13. Operation 'London Bridge' – Chair felt preparations needed to commence and had been researching costs of a photograph and memorial book which can only be supplied by official printers appointed by the Royal household. The memorial book must consist of specific paper costing £208.34 for 200 sheets or £220.86 for 500. Cost of a 10 x 8 photograph is £92.40, framed in gull or mahogany £139.21. Mrs McGeeney asked if the costs could be shared with Methwold or Hockwold Parish Councils and Chair will make enquiries.

14. Bus Shelter & Play Equipment Cleaning – **Lodge Road Bus Shelter:** Clerk contacted Mr Sparkle, Locus Services, Ramshaws and Breckland Industrial (who she also met on site). Mr Sparkle, Breckland Industrial and Locus Services all stated pressure washing would not be effective and Breckland Industrial and Locus Services would only quote for hand washing. Ramshaws could pressure wash it but would require a bowser. Mr Storey felt pressure washing would be effective and said this should take place since it had been voted at the last meeting. Chair proposed rescinding the motion to pressure wash the bus shelter, Mrs McGeeney seconded, 4 in favour, Mr Storey against. Mr Cole proposed accepting Breckland Industrial's quotation at £95 for the first hour, £30 per hour thereafter (max three hours), a total of £155 + VAT, Mrs McGeeney seconded, 4 in favour, Mr Storey against. Clerk said Breckland Industrial would also clean Wilton Road bus shelter within this cost. **High Street Bus Shelter:** Mrs Arnold asked Mr Storey if he had asked the resident to refrain from displaying business signage against this bus shelter as she is still doing it. Mr Storey apologised for not having done so and said he would speak to her as soon as possible.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

15. Highways – Chair and Mr Lambert met with Mark Sharman of Highways on 4/11/21: **St Mary's Street:** Mr Lambert said Mr Sharman was adamant the dip in St Mary's Street was caused by movement and subsequent dispersing of ballast under the Anglian Water pipe and totally unrelated to his concern regarding the tunnel here. Mr Storey said Andy Wallace had concurred with this view. Mr Lambert felt that if the road caved in then Highways would be liable and that a written statement should be obtained from Highways regarding this matter. Mr Sharman said the same situation had occurred at Nightingale Lane and although he will continue to monitor both sites, any holes or cracks should be reported immediately. **Other Matters:** Mr Sharman agreed to clear the verge and brambles opposite the school as a one-off as this was not Highway's responsibility. He will send overgrown greenery letters to 1 Moat Side, 22 Curtis Drive and 54 Paynes Lane, and look at surfacing treatments and repair schemes for Hereward Way estate footpaths. He has programmed new 30mph sign on grass area outside Hereward Way estate, cleaning of 30 and 40 mph signs on Lodge Road and pruning of obscuring greenery, new signs at the top of Lodge Road to replace those with missing lettering, replacing damaged sign cluster opposite Cranwich Heath junction, cutting Paynes Lane verge, sweeping and clearing alleyways where necessary, clearing footpath on Paynes Lane which has also been programmed for replacement as it is dished and holds water. He will try to get Bell Street footpath resurfaced as well but most of his budget has been spent on flooding repairs. Mr Storey had spoken to Andy Wallace about the totally inadequate repairs to Southery Road who asked him to forward photographs to himself and Jay Moore. Mr Wallace said asphalt is much more expensive but spraying isn't effective and this is a countrywide error.

16. Oak Garden – Mr Sharman took photographs of the wall during the meeting on 4/11/21. Mr Lambert felt all that was needed to prevent further cracking was 3 x expansion joints and if the Borough Council were not going to do this work then the Parish Council should. Mr Sharman said an arborist needed to look at the tree which he thought could be the Borough Council's responsibility and advised contacting Richard Fisher. He wanted to remove the tree but Mr Lambert said only the maintenance of Oak Garden was passed to the Borough Council and not the ownership. Clerk said Mr Fisher had confirmed there was no TPO on the tree but was waiting for clarification on whether arborist work was the responsibility of NCC or Borough Council.

17. Invitation to Bid for Parish Partnership Scheme 2022/23 – Chair and Clerk met Roy Payne of Westcotec on 5/11/21 at Wilton Road to discuss solar speed signs and/or another SAM2. Cost of a solar speed sign is £4149 + VAT plus NCC commuted sum charge of £2000 for 10 years maintenance; cost of a SAM2 is £2800 + VAT plus optional extras of a Bluetooth data collection unit £350 or normal data collection unit £250, extra brackets inc fixing bands £50 each x 2 and a galvanised steel post £89 (all ex-VAT). Mr Payne said SAM2s are proven to be more effective as drivers get complacent of stationery signs and NCC favour SAM2s for this reason. Ideal location for Wilton Road is approx. 120m from the Base entrance towards Feltwell and Chair felt Lodge Road should have a post sited the village side of Addisons Close entrance. Clerk said it was unfair to expect the Chair to undertake the responsibility of another SAM2 sign and Mr Lambert suggested advertising for a volunteer in the Parish Magazine. At this point, a resident at the meeting offered to undertake this. Mr Fenn proposed applying for another SAM2, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour. Clerk to submit bid.

18. The Armed Forces Covenant & Pledge – Chair said Sqn Leader would be making a short presentation at the next meeting.

19. Street Light St Mary's – Clerk said new bracket was fitted 3/11/21.

20. Ratification of Minutes and Matters Arising from Extraordinary Meeting 9th August 2021 – **Trees War Memorial:** Chair said the grass was looking much better since he had reseeded. Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Claire Scarff for making a superb job of cleaning the Memorial.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

21. NCC 1 Million Trees Project – Clerk read out resident's request to plant small trees such as Rowans on the grass areas opposite the church on Newcombe Drive and some further down the estate. Mrs McGeeney felt some residents may have a problem with a tree being planted outside their property. Mr Fenn questioned whether these areas were suitable and Mr Storey said advice would be given on each application. Extraordinary Meeting to be held in January to discuss further.

22. Village Christmas Tree 2021 – Chair said tree would be ready for collection 24/11/21 and decoration would take place 27/11/21. Mr Storey said he and Mr Lambert would collect it.

23. Moat Side – Mr Lambert felt the area was acceptable but greenery needed trimming back from the path neighbouring Camp Close properties. Chair proposed the Handyman undertake this work, all in favour. Mr Lambert will liaise with the Handyman.

24. Playing Field Plans – **Viper Swing**: Clerk said this had been ordered and installation is pencilled in for January 2022 before which an onsite meeting would take place with Proludic to confirm location. Survey still to be conducted to ascertain what other equipment residents would like when remaining funding has been confirmed. **Seesaw**: Clerk said Tesco grant of £500 had been awarded and £1000 had been received from Warren Energy. Mrs Peckham was not present to advise whether she had been able to obtain other installation costs.

25. Trees on the Playing Field – Carried over to next meeting.

26. Almshouses – Clerk said she had contacted the landowner and this was in hand.

27. Playing Field Boundary Wall – Clerk is still awaiting copy of the tree survey from the Lettings Agent. She said Zurich's response was that the onus is on the property owner to provide evidence of damage to their property and if the damage is a result of Council negligence, they are not able to do much until the claimant or their agent provides the evidence. Chair felt that all the Parish Council could do was continue to cordon off the wall.

28. Budget 2022/23 – Councillors to consider items for next meeting.

29. Queens Platinum Jubilee – Carried over to next meeting.

30. EV Charging Points for Residents with no Off-Street Parking in West Norfolk- The only areas owned by the Parish Council are the playing field and allotments which were not considered suitable. Mr Storey said he is waiting for further information on different schemes.

31. Memorial Garden Water Supply – Chair said the tap in the garden cannot be used as it has been glued up so at present water has to be taken from the church. He asked if he could obtain prices for the tap to be recommissioned which would then be metered or padlocked. Mr Lambert proposed Chair obtain prices for the tap to be recommissioned, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour.

CORRESPONDENCE

32. BCKLWN – Emails – Message from Mayor following the death of Sir David Amess MP

33. NCC – Emails – Temporary closure of St Mary's Street for Remembrance Sunday (14/11/21); Various news releases

34. RAF Lakenheath – Emails - Notification of four explosions 22/10/21, 10am–4pm; Invitations to Ely Thanksgiving Service 24/11/21 and Yuletide Reception 3/12/21

35. Community Action Norfolk – Email – Funding Newsletter

36. Rural Services Network – Emails - Bulletins

37. Brochures - Parish Magazine

38. CHEQUES – Mr Lambert proposed approving the Payments List, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. Cheques signed for the following:- S Sargent £85.48, T George £56.00, R H Landscapes £270.00, Anglian Water £48.95, Enefer Bros Farms £38.78, K&M Lighting £226.21, Fenland Fire Appliance £44.40. Direct debits to SSE £261.79, Npower £504.20, Biffa £160.37 and BT £61.93. Standing Order to J Martin £897.58.

39. PLANNING

There were no planning applications.

Sir Edmund de Moundeford Trust - Outline planning application for the construction of two dwellings on land south of 4–8 Munsons Lane: Clerk said Cllr Lawrence agreed to call this application in before the Planning Committee and that he hoped a member of the Parish Council would be present to address the Committee. Mr Storey had been informed by the Borough Council that he could not call the application in as it would conflict his position on the Planning Committee.

Mr P Prince - Conversion of store to dwelling with an extension at 96 Lodge Road: Clerk had received no further information regarding this application.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

40. Highways – Complaint received regarding mud left on the roads by farming vehicles. Chair said this was a Police issue but Mr Storey said farmers ought to clear up any debris they leave on the roads and offered to lend local farmers a brush for this job if required.

41. Hall Drive Wall – Concern raised regarding the condition of the wall and the overgrowing greenery.

42. Oakfields – Clerk to contact UKPN to reinstate the grass churned up by recent works.

43. Anglia in Bloom – Chair is meeting Mike Williamson on 10/11/21 to discuss.

44. Community Donations – Clerk read out resident's request for a donation towards a local project.

45. Fire Extinguishers – Clerk said the annual servicing of the fire extinguishers in the Changing Rooms had been undertaken 28/10/21.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 13th December 2021 at 7.30 pm at the British Legion.
Meeting declared closed 9.55 pm.

On 6/12/2021, the following planning application was REFUSED by 7 Councillors, Mrs Peckham and Mr Storey abstained: **Messrs Hawes & Southgate - Outline planning application for the erection of a dwelling at Land West of Gardener's Cottage, Lodge Road.** REFUSED due to safety concerns regarding severe lack of visibility to the left and right-hand side when exiting the private track onto Lodge Road.