

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 10th day of JANUARY 2022 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

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

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Mrs Peckham declared an interest in Items 20 and 21.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held Monday 13th December 2021 were approved. Mrs Bane proposed, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour.

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 excellent co-ordination with Norfolk and Suffolk Highway's meant the arrival of the F35A on 15/12/21 presented no issues. With the return of the 494th Squadron and the presence of the 336th Squadron who are here practicing the Agile Combat Engagement (ACE), there are currently five operational squadrons at RAF Lakenheath and air activity will increase. Sqn Leader said EOD activity on 24/11/21 had to take place despite low cloud cover as Thanksgiving celebrations were scheduled for the following few days. He said he should have mentioned last month the recent planning application for an imitation runway which is to be used purely for practicing rapid airfield damage repair activities and definitely not for any kind of aircraft landing. He explained the runway was necessary for maintaining competency as part of ACE training. The redesign of the main entrance at Feltwell is scheduled for financial year 2024 but funding still has to be secured. Mr Lambert said the grounds maintenance team ought to undertake a yearly inspection of the boundaries in order to stay on top of any protruding greenery rather than it being such a substantial job when left for a few years. Sqn Leader said he would relay this information back to the team and Mrs Peckham thought it was within their contract to keep boundaries clear anyway. Sqn Leader departed the meeting at 7.50 pm.

2. **SNT** – Police Connect emails circulated, no incidents relating to Feltwell. Mrs Peckham proposed removing this item from the minutes as Police Connect emails are listed in Correspondence, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour.

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 said she had telephoned DEFRA who had promised to respond asap. **Litter Bin:** Mrs Peckham said price for a new bin, constructed from very hard plastic and including a metal liner is approx £200. Mr Lambert proposed purchasing two bins to replace the damaged bins highlighted in the quarterly inspection report, Mrs Arnold seconded, all in favour. **Teen Shelter:** Mrs Peckham felt the Perspex panel should not be reinstated as it had encouraged anti-social behaviour in the past. Mrs Bane said the original panel was removed as it had been damaged and graffiti was always an issue. Mr Lambert asked if anyone who actually used the shelter had requested the panel be reinstated and the Clerk said no-one had. Mrs Bane suggested leaving the shelter as it was until such a request was received and all were in agreement with this. **Quarterly Inspection:** Carried out 14/12/21. See-saw and bins are in hand and other items raised were either Low Risk or Very Low Risk. Mrs Peckham proposed forwarding the report to the Handyman to undertake any remedial work required (i.e. bush replacements etc), Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour. Clerk to speak to Handyman.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

4. Balance Sheet – Clerk was unable to produce a balance sheet as she had not received the bank statement therefore she will circulate it via email.
5. Allotment Pest Control – No reports as yet for December or January.
6. NALC – NALC bulletins circulated as received.
7. Ranger Visit – No update as yet. Mrs Peckham said the alleyway from High Street to Paynes Lane had been weeded.
8. Parish Partnership Scheme 2021/22 – Clerk said work was due to commence that day on Falcon Road alleyway and Mrs Peckham had seen someone inspecting the area earlier in the day. Chair asked if the village gateways should be purchased now that a clearer end-of-year financial position was ascertained. Mrs Bane felt the gateways were not necessary and proposed not proceeding with them, Mrs Peckham seconded, all in favour.
9. Locality Budget – Mr Storey said he had not been able to meet with Andy Wallace due to unforeseen circumstances and they would probably now have to meet virtually as the end of the financial year is imminent. He will put forward all requests.
10. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey thanked the Clerk for circulating details of items that can be funded by the CIL.
11. Fence – Chair said work had been delayed due to Covid but is due to start this month.
12. Online Banking – Ongoing. Mr Lambert will look into this before the next meeting.
13. Operation ‘London Bridge’ – Chair had ordered the official photograph.
14. Bus Shelter & Play Equipment Cleaning – Clerk said play equipment had been disinfected earlier that day.
15. Oak Garden – Clerk said Mr Garland advised he was only in possession of the Enclosure Award. Mr Storey said this was concerning and felt all documentation need to be located and stored in a safe place. Mrs Peckham was adamant Mr Garland had more documentation, certainly the minutes, and Mr Lambert questioned whether some could be with the solicitor. Chair tasked the Clerk, Mrs Peckham, Mr Lambert and Mr Storey with locating the documents.
16. Invitation to Bid for Parish Partnership Scheme 2022/23 – No further news.
17. The Armed Forces Covenant & Pledge – No date for presentation as yet.
18. NCC 1 Million Trees Project – Chair to schedule Extraordinary Meeting.
19. Village Christmas Tree 2021 – Mr Storey thanked the Chair and his family members on behalf of the Parish Council for all their efforts with this.
20. Playing Field Plans – **See-saw:** New see-saw from Caloo is being installed w/c 2/3/22. Clerk circulated three quotations for removing the existing see-saw and concrete plinth, and refilling the hole with top-soil, which ranged from £150 to £750. Mr Lambert proposed Peckham Construction undertake the work at £150 + VAT, Mrs Bane seconded, 4 in favour, Mrs Peckham abstained due to being related to the proprietor. Mr Lambert kindly offered to dispose of all rubbish therefore Mrs Peckham thought a skip would not be required.

MATTERS ARISING

21. Trees on the Playing Field – Clerk circulated four quotations for various tree work ranging from £710 to £850. Mrs Bane proposed C P Tree Services carry out the work at £710, Mr Storey seconded, 4 in favour, Mrs Peckham abstained since she was related to a proprietor of one of the companies who had quoted. Clerk to instruct C P Tree Services to undertake the work. Whilst on site, they noticed four other trees requiring attention and had quoted separately for this work. One of the trees needs felling as it is hollow and unsafe therefore Mrs Peckham believed it should be felled asap as it is also in close proximity to the area where the new Viper swing is to be installed later in the month. Mr Lambert felt a second opinion should be sought but the Chair said the tree should be felled as a matter of urgency and proposed revoking Financial Regulation 10.3 and accepting C P Services quote of £200, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour. Clerk to obtain prices for work required to the other three trees.

22. Playing Field Boundary Wall – No update. Orange fencing and signs are still in situ and will continue to be monitored by the Handyman.

23. Budget 2022/23 – **Changing Rooms:** Clerk circulated three prices for interior decorating the Changing Rooms and Mr Lambert proposed Mr Paul Billmen undertake this work as he was the most competitively priced at £2560, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour. Clerk to ask Mr Billmen to carry out the work in May, after the football season and before the Jubilee fete in June. **Memorial Garden:** Following a meeting with one contractor, Chair said restoration work on some of the iron railings and wall around the Memorial Garden was going to be much more costly than he had anticipated. A ballpark figure to repair would be £8-9K and to completely replace £10-15K. Mr Lambert felt this work should be budgeted for over the next couple of years so that a fund could be accumulated. Chair questioned if it could be funded via the CIL Infrastructure Funding and Mrs Peckham said some of the CIL money already in hand could be used to support the application. Chair to get firm prices for the next round of funding opening in July (see Item 32). **Other items:** Mr Lambert said shotblasting and painting of the bench near Mulberry Close would be in the region of £500 - £600. Clerk said prices for grass cutting were likely to increase and Mr Cole questioned whether the cost of streetlight energy supply would increase in line with the current climate of energy prices rising significantly. **Precept 2022/23:** Clerk circulated figures earlier that day and approximately £16,000 was going to be carried over to the new financial year (less the tree work scheduled in Item 21). She also stated there would be no grant from the next financial year going forward. Mrs Peckham proposed keeping the precept at £42,500, Mr Storey seconded, all in favour.

24. Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Taking place 2nd – 5th June 2022. No update.

25. EV Charging Points for Residents with no Off-Street Parking in West Norfolk – No update.

26. Hall Drive Wall – Clerk has asked CNC Building Control to inspect the wall again.

27. Anglia in Bloom – No written proposal from organisers received as yet.

28. Litter Picking Request – Resident said he had only queried why the whole village isn't litter picked rather than just certain areas. It was felt an adequate response had already been given.

29. Allotment Committee Update – **Hedging:** Chair said hedging had been ordered and Mr Lambert asked him to liaise with the Allotment Committee upon receipt to arrange planting. **Vacancy:** Clerk to double check with NALC that a tenant's partner can sit on the Allotment Committee.

30. Changing Rooms – Clerk said the heating system is now working and she will get the door handle repaired. Electric meter door is still awaiting repair and as Chair said he was finding it extremely difficult to locate a replacement, it was queried whether the whole door unit could be replaced although Mr Lambert thought this would be a major job.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

31. Development Long Lane Farm, 30 Long Lane - Street Lighting: Clerk relayed Hemingford's response that installation of low-level lighting was the decision of Freebridge Housing as they are now owners of the site and managing the properties going forward. NCC had responded to this stating Freebridge are not allowed to install a privately owned lighting system on or within the public highway, or with the intention of lighting an area which is adopted/adoptable highway. Furthermore, developers are not permitted to light a highway under the Highways Act. Mr Lambert said that at the meeting on 4th May with Hemingford, Freebridge, architects and also Claire Dorman of Borough Council Planning, the Parish Council was assured low level lighting could be installed and this now left a feeling of being treated very unfairly. He felt strongly that lighting should be installed, particularly in an area situated behind the Chinese takeaway where people were likely to congregate. Mr Storey said the subject should only be discussed if anti-social behaviour becomes an issue.

32. CIL Infrastructure Funding 2022-23 – Chair is awaiting a price to renovate the Church clock face from a company who quoted for this work in 1981. As mentioned in Item 23, Chair will obtain prices for restoring the wall and iron railings around the Memorial Garden. Clerk read out email from Mr Neil Edwards of Feltwell United FC asking for support in their application for equipment. Mrs Bane proposed supporting this application, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. Clerk to advise Mr Edwards.

CORRESPONDENCE

33. Police Connect – Emails – Various emails, none relating to Feltwell

34. BCKLWN – Emails – Communications update; Verification of property address 4B Hill Street Feltwell; Norfolk & The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2nd June 2022

35. NCC – Emails – Emergency traffic order for temporary closure of Bell Street due to burst water main; Norwich Western Link project update

36. Community Action Norfolk – Email – Funding newsletter

37. East Cambridgeshire Council – Email - East Cambs Single Issue Review Consultation - Reg 18 (The Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended))

38. Norfolk & Waveney Health & Care Partnership – Email - Covid booster programme update

39. Rural Services Network – Emails - Bulletins

40. Brochures - Parish Magazine

41. **CHEQUES** – Mrs Peckham proposed approving the Payments List, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour. Cheques signed for the following:- S Sargent £93.50, T George £32.00, K&M Lighting £100.21, Carl Cox Electrical £482.10, Cash £50.00, HMRC £231.11, A Stannard £25.00, Royal British Legion £50.00. Direct debits to Npower £623.52, Biffa £205.45, and BT £61.44. Standing Order to J Martin £897.58. Direct debit form signed for EDF Energy.

42. PLANNING

Removal of conditions 5 & 6 of planning permission 18/01987/F at 2 Leonards Lane: The original planning application was approved based on conditions being stipulated, including conditions 5 and 6, and Councillors unanimously agreed they should still stand. A trod was still considered necessary for the safety of Leonard's Lane residents and for potential new inhabitants of the two new properties. In addition, Mr Lambert felt a trod would make the corner here safer for larger vehicle drivers as the greenery would be cut back and visibility would be improved. Mr Lambert proposed the conditions be upheld and therefore the application be refused, Mrs Peckham seconded, 4 in favour, Mr Storey abstained. Mrs Peckham added that at the time of the original Reserved Matters planning application in 2012, the Parish Council had applied to the Parish Partnership Scheme to increase this trod from Leonard's Lane to Portal Close which had been successful.

PLANNING (CONT)

Construction of an imitation section of runway from reinforced concrete and asphalt together with shoulders to mimic conditions of a typical runway scenario and a connecting road at RAF Feltwell, Wilton Road: Mrs Peckham proposed making No Comment, Mr Lambert seconded, 4 in favour, Mr Storey abstained.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

43. Highways – Paul Cole asked Mr Storey if debris left by a haulier on an area of his farm at Hythe Road could be cleared. Mr Storey said he would deal with this the next day.

44. High Street Bus Shelter – Mrs Arnold asked Mr Storey if he had spoken to the owner of the sign that was propped against the bus shelter. Mr Storey said he had not but would do asap.

45. New Dog Waste Bin – Chair said he had received a request from the owner of Londis to install a dog waste bin near the shop.

46. Clock Service Request from PCC – Chair relayed a request from the PCC for the Parish Council to consider paying for the servicing of St Mary's Clock since it already paid for the clock wind.

47. Clerk's Request for Working from Home Allowance – Clerk said she cannot claim tax relief for working from home as she does not qualify for paying tax. She said many other Clerks receive an allowance from their Parish Councils which contributes to working from home expenses, i.e. heating, electric etc, which she had never claimed before and asked if the Parish Council would consider paying this.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 14th February 2022 at 7.30 pm at the British Legion.

Meeting declared closed 9.40 pm.
