

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 11th day of APRIL 2022 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Rayner (Chair), Cock, Cole, Lambert, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Bane, Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson. Also present 3 members of the public and RAF Commander Geary.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mr Fenn and Mr Storey.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Mr Lambert and Mrs Peckham declared an interest in Item 24, Mr Cole declared an interest in Items 29 and 32.

MINUTES: Amendment to Councillors Present – Change Mrs Bane to Mrs Wilson. Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting were then approved. Mr Cole proposed, Mrs Arnold seconded, all in favour.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The meeting was suspended for 9 minutes to allow members of the public to speak.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – The RAF Commander reported that during March, some visiting F16 aircraft from Aviano had been operating from RAF Lakenheath and 48 Fighter Wing F15Es had been deployed to Poland. Other 48 Fighter Wing F15Es had been deployed to Greece and a couple of 48 Fighter Wing F35s also deployed to the Netherlands to conduct cross-servicing training with a partner Nation. Meanwhile the draw-down of the 48 Fighter Wing F15C aircraft from the 493rd Fighter Squadron had continued. He had contacted the DIO Housing Strategic Housing team who confirmed the houses at Trenchard Close could not be offered to Ukrainian refugees because any spare MOD houses were being offered to Afghanistan refugees. Additionally, he mentioned that the 48 Fighter Wing were tentatively exploring the option of bringing the Trenchard Close houses back online to support the future growth in USVF housing requirements. Finally, he stated that requests for 48 Fighter Wing support at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations were currently being consolidated before being advertised widely across the Station. Mrs Wilson said the Feltwell Community Group would appreciate assistance at their event on 2/6/22 and asked if this could be prioritised as there was an RAF base in Feltwell. He said he would do his best to ensure the Feltwell event was supported. The RAF Commander departed the meeting at 7.47 pm.

2. **Risk Assessment** – **Inspections:** No issues have been reported by the Handyman. Mrs Peckham said the suckers both sides of the entrance to the car park and over by the chalk wall need cutting down. Clerk to speak to Handyman. **Handrails:** Mr Lambert said he and the Chair will repair between them. **Bylaw:** Mrs Peckham is still chasing for an update. **Quarterly Inspection:** Handyman will purchase new angle iron to fix the hoop top fence posts that are loose.

3. **Balance Sheet** – No queries.

4. **Allotment Pest Control** – No report received for April yet.

5. **NALC** – NALC bulletins circulated as received.

6. **Ranger Visit** – No report received yet for April visit.

7. **Cllr Martin Storey Report** – No report available as Mr Storey was absent.

8. **Fence** – Chair has been assured the work will be completed in time for the village fete in June.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

9. Bus Shelter & Play Equipment Cleaning – Mr Lambert proposed discontinuing with the monthly Covid disinfecting of the play equipment and reviewing this in the Autumn, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Clerk said Mr Sparkle's deep clean of the play equipment was undertaken with a pressure washer and water, sprayed with disinfectant, dried and sprayed again. Mr Cock questioned whether a bi-monthly deep clean was necessary and suggested it was done on an 'as required' basis. Mrs Wilson proposed deep cleaning the play equipment before the school summer holidays in July and after the winter period, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour.

10. Oak Garden – Clerk had sourced a second-hand fire-proof filing cabinet online but Chair said delivery would be expensive due to its weight. Chair said location was still an issue since the only place owned by the Parish Council was the Changing Rooms. Mrs Peckham said if it was situated there then an automated fire alarm would need to be fitted. Mr Cock believed all documents should be stored at the Norfolk Records Office in Norwich as they are hardly ever referred to and people can travel there if necessary. Mrs Peckham agreed, stating that at least the documents would be safe there. Mr Cock proposed storing all historic Parish Council documentation at the Norfolk Records Office, Mrs McGeeney seconded, 6 in favour, Mr Lambert abstained.

11. Invitation to Bid for Parish Partnership Scheme 2022/23 – Clerk read email from NCC stating there would be a 2-3 month delay as the Safety Camera Partnership Team who part-funded the PP Scheme's SAM2's and accessories had not yet met to discuss 2022/23 funding.

12. Trees on the Playing Field – Clerk said C P Tree Services had quoted £450 to remove the Beech tree taking the total for removing all three trees to £850, which was above the agreed price of £750 for her to instruct them to carry out the work. Mrs Wilson proposed rescinding the decision to carry out the work if quote was £750 or less, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. Mrs McGeeney proposed accepting C P Tree Services quote of £850, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour. Mrs McGeeney proposed accepting C P Tree Services quotation to grind all three stumps at £200/stump, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour. Clerk to instruct C P Tree Services to carry out this work.

13. Playing Field Boundary Wall – No update. Orange fencing and signs are still in situ and are monitored by the Handyman. Ian Smith of CNC Building Control had visited the site on 15/3/22 with the Chair, Mr Lambert and the Clerk but had not yet forwarded his report although said the wall was not imminently dangerous in his opinion.

14. Hall Drive Wall – Ian Smith inspected this wall during his visit of 15/3/22 (see Item 13) and although believed it was not currently dangerous, he will write to each resident advising them to repair their section of the wall. As the steps are communal, he will try to locate a maintenance agreement for them.

15. Changing Rooms – Mrs Peckham asked if the cleaner could de-cobweb and clean the skirting boards before the decorator starts w/c 9/5/22. Clerk to speak to cleaner. Mrs Peckham also mentioned that the Senior Football team had won the league this season with three games in hand.

16. High Street Bus Shelter – Sign is still being propped up on the bus shelter and Mrs McGeeney said she would speak to the owner if she saw her.

17. New Dog Waste Bin – Clerk to speak to Andy Wallace regarding funding available.

18. Matters Arising from Extraordinary meeting 24/1/22 - CIL Infrastructure Funding Applications: Official notification received confirming all three applications had been unsuccessful. **Norfolk County Council 1 Million Trees Project**: Mr Lambert felt blossom trees could be planted around Oakfields if they were not near the walls and suggested planting them in line with the other trees. As tree planting has finished and begins again in September,

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

the Chair asked Mrs McGeeney to mark on a map where she would like trees for the next meeting. **Anglia in Bloom:** Chair said he had informed the committee that the application was unsuccessful.

19. 2 Newcombe Drive & 2 Falcon Road – Chair said the hedge work at 2 Newcombe Drive had been completed and the late owner's relative had asked for written confirmation that the council's request had been fulfilled to put their potential buyer's mind at rest. It was agreed the work had been carried out exactly as requested therefore Chair proposed writing to the owner's relative as per his request, all in favour. Clerk to write to owner. As no work has been carried out at 2 Falcon Road, Clerk will write to the owner again.

20. Flag – Chair to furnish the Clerk with details so she can obtain quotes for new flags.

21. Dealings with Resident – No update.

22. Street Light Energy Supply Renewal – Clerk had still only managed to obtain a quote from SSE which was incredibly high. Haven Power will not quote for usage under 30,000 kWh, Opus Energy and Green Energy are not taking on new customers. She is awaiting a response from NPower as to out of contract prices when the current contract expires 30th April.

23. NRF Support to Community Resilience – Chair to contact other villages for information for advice on how they run their support groups.

24. Year 6 Prom Request – Clerk said Year 6 had carried out a litter pick on 9/4/22 and another was scheduled for 14/4/22. They had also swept the alleyway from Falcon Road to the playing field. Mrs McGeeney said they had done a great job and proposed donating £100 towards their prom, Mrs Wilson seconded, 5 in favour, Mr Lambert and Mrs Peckham abstained. Clerk to write to Prom committee to advise and thank them for the excellent job they made.

25. URM Recycling Price Increase – Bottle banks were removed from the playing field and the Social Club however Clerk had since ascertained that the council were registered with NCC's Recycling Credit Scheme which was still in operation. A claim could be backdated one year and the current rate was £64.04/tonne. Clerk had advised all Parish Councillors of this via email and 10 Councillors had approved reinstating the bottle banks at £40 + VAT. Mr Lambert proposed rescinding the decision to remove the bottle banks, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour. Mr Cole proposed reinstating the bottle banks at £40 + VAT, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. Clerk to submit recycling claim.

26. Highways – Clerk read Highway Engineer's response to matters raised at the last meeting: **Potholes:** Oakfields junction all programmed, B1112 potholes have been temporarily filled until permanent patching is done. **St Mary's Street:** Agreed dip has worsened slightly so has programmed patching. If it deteriorates further, he will ask Anglian Water to camera check their system to confirm it is just settlement even though he is aware they already checked this when the Londis flooded. **Footpaths:** Bell Street has been prioritised for 2023/24 program and High Street for 2024/25. Wilton Road is planned for November. During Public Speaking, a resident expressed concern over the poor condition of Bell Street and High Street footpaths, stating the path outside Hereward Way estate was atrocious and others had dangerously high kerbs. The Chair said the council shared his concerns and although some footpaths are programmed to be resurfaced, he encouraged the resident to report them as well as this might add some urgency to the repairs. **Widening of Oak Street/Wilton Road Footpath:** Will discuss with Andy Wallace.

27. Parking – Mrs McGeeney said she had ascertained with Highways that it is illegal to park on dropped kerbs and to block a property's access.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

28. Doctor's Surgery Car Park – Clerk said the Practice Manager was unaware of the poor condition of the car park and said it will be repaired as soon as weather permits.

29. Skip – Clerk read out three prices for an 8-yard skip; Freedom Recycling £200 + VAT, Mildenhall Skip Hire £220 + VAT and Allen's £230 + VAT. Chair proposed hiring skip from Freedom Recycling, 7 in favour, Mr Cole abstained. Clerk to book skip for delivery 14/4/22.

30. Village Jubilee Celebrations – Mrs Wilson said Mr Storey and Mr Lawrence had allocated £500 each of their Community Budget towards the celebrations. She said the £800 donation from the Parish Council would be allocated to the fete. Mrs Arnold didn't think anyone would be available to participate on the Parish Council's float and was not sure she would be available either. Mrs Wilson said it would be very poor if the Parish Council did not take part.

31. RSPB – Stone Curlew – Clerk read out request from RSPB to share information regarding recent sightings of a Stone Curlew with organisations such as Natural England. Mr Cock said Feltwell was already in the 1500m inclusion zone so couldn't see it mattered too much. Chair proposed granting the RSPB permission to disclose this information, Mr Cock seconded, 6 in favour, Mr Lambert abstained. Clerk to advise RSPB.

32. Review Allotment Terms of Reference – Chair asked if expenditure had to be approved by the Parish Council or if the Committee could make a delegated decision. Mrs Peckham said the Committee could spend a certain amount but hadn't put a budget forward.

33. Allotment Spraying & Rotavating Quotations – Clerk was only able to obtain two quotations to spray and rotavate the vacant allotments; Lee Enefer at £450 and Norfolk Tractors at £300/day for approx. 2 days work. Mr Cole offered to undertake this work in future when his tractor is repaired as he is fully licensed and would only charge for chemicals used. Chair said this was a kind offer and the Allotment Management Committee would discuss it at their next meeting. Mr Lambert proposed Lee Enefer undertake the work, Mrs Bane seconded, 6 in favour, Mr Cole abstained. Clerk to contact Lee Enefer.

34. Resident's Enquiry Regarding Bollards on Old Methwold Road – Chair said NALC had advised this was a Highways matter.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

36. BCKLWN – Emails – Sports Facility Strategy; Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard

37. NCC – Emails – TTO for Blackdyke Road 8/4/22 (BT maintenance); Emergency Closure for Bell Street 23/3/22 – 31/3/22 (burst water main); Experience - Tourism survey; Temporary 10mph B1112 Wilton Road/Station Road 21-22/4/22 (convoy for stud installation); 'Chance to help shape Norfolk cycling and walking route plans'; 'Uptake for apprenticeships in Norfolk continues upward trend in Q2'

38. RAF Lakenheath – Email – RAF Feltwell Demolition Range Notifications: 6 demolitions on 17/3/2022 between 9.30 am and 2 pm; 3 demolitions on 1/4/22 between 9.30 am and 1 pm.

39. Community Action Norfolk – Emails – Newsletters

40. Norfolk & Waveney Health & Care Partnership – Email – Stake Holder Briefings

41. Norfolk Playing Fields Association – Email – AGM Invitation

42. Rural Services Network – Emails – Bulletins

43. Biffa – Email - Easter Opening Times; Waste Transfer Note

44. Sovereign – Email – Parish Council Recreation Areas Visit

45. Noticeboards Online – Email – Promotion of their products

46. Brochures - Parish Magazine

47. **CHEQUES** – Mrs Bane proposed approving the Payments List, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. Cheques signed for the following:- J Martin £193.47, S Sargent £115.28, T George £48.00, K&M Lighting £100.21, HMRC £227.11, Freedom Recycling £200.00. Direct debits to Biffa £157.49, BT £66.70, EDF £359.81, Environment Agency £42.92, Npower £564.35 and URM £30.60. Standing Order to J Martin £897.58.

48. **PLANNING**

There were no planning applications.

Development Long Lane Farm, 30 Long Lane: C2 form signed for MTC Construction stating the Parish Council did not want street lighting to be installed. Mrs Wilson asked if the Heras fencing could be moved back from the edge of the path and ensure it was properly secured as it didn't appear to be very safe during recent high winds. Clerk to write to contractors.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

49. **Highways** – Potholes reported outside 48 Paynes Lane and the road has broken up in several places. Drains outside 38 Paynes Lane are full of debris. Clerk advised grups were not cleared last year as this budget was spent on draining flooded ditches but are scheduled for later this year.

50. **NHS Sign** – Mrs Peckham asked for these to be removed as they had been up for two years and were broken. Clerk asked if the person who made the signs should be advised before this happened but Chair advised they had been donated to the Parish Council. It was agreed to remove signs.

51. **Grass Contractors** – Chequer's green had not been cut however the grassed area at Short Beck had. As this area is not in the contract, there may have been some confusion. Mr Lambert said a good job was made of the graveyard and Chair said Cross Hill and the War Memorial garden had also been cut well. Mrs Peckham said the playing field gate had been left open. Clerk will relay this information to the contractors.

52. **Parking on Grass** – During Public Speaking, a resident complained about vehicles parking on various grass verges around the village such as the entrance to Addisons Close and on Wilton Road around the Oakfields Estate. The Chair said the council had complained to Highways many times about these areas only to be told nothing could be done. Mrs Peckham encouraged the resident to contact County Councillor Martin Storey who allocates a lot of his budget to Highways. It was also noted that the resident of 6 High Street was driving over a grass verge to access the property. Clerk to report to Highways.

53. **Overhanging Trees** – Greenery from 11 Long Lane is protruding halfway over the road at the back of the property onto Short Lane. Clerk to write to resident requesting this to be cut back.

54. **Electric Car Charging** – Mr Cock said the resident of 11 Short Beck is parking well onto the path in order to charge an electric car and the lead presented a safety hazard. Chair said if the owner has a permit to do this then it is legal however the owner would be liable for any injury incurred by it. He added that vehicles can be parked on footpaths if they do not cause an obstruction however as this vehicle does, Clerk will report to Highways.

55. **Wreaths** – Mr Cock said he had removed the wreaths from the War Memorial.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 9th May 2022 at the British Legion. Annual Parish Meeting will start at 7.00 pm followed by the Annual Meeting of Parish Council.

Meeting declared closed 9.55 pm.