

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

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cole, Rayner and Storey (arrived 8.00 pm), Mrs Bane and Mrs Peckham. Also present 2 members of the public and RAF Commander Geary.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Messrs Cock, Fenn and Lambert, Mrs Arnold, Mrs McGeeney and Mrs Wilson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Mr Cole declared an interest in Item 16 and Mrs Peckham declared an interest in Item 23.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting were approved. Mrs Bane proposed, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour.

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

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – The RAF Commander gave an update. The ‘beeping’ noise is coming from heavy construction vehicles reversing on site whilst building the mock runway which should be wholly complete by September. The boundary fence has been inspected by the CE and he awaits a response. Mrs Peckham asked if there was any update to her enquiry regarding the air ambulance which couldn’t land on Base and the Commander said this was due to security forces not being aware of the incident due to co-ordination issues between the 48th Fighter Wing and local emergency services. This has been picked up by the Norfolk Resilience Forum who have requested a set procedure for out of hours emergencies on Base which the Commander would chase as he had had no update. RAF Commander departed the meeting at 7.45 pm.

2. **Risk Assessment** – **Weekly:** Handyman has been undertaking weekly inspections, no issues have been reported. Clerk said Mrs McGeeney had advised the ‘No Dogs’ sign was in place on Falcon Road entrance but Mrs Peckham said it was not the official sign. Clerk to speak to Handyman. Soil around new vehicle gate to be monitored but satisfactory at present. Clerk had contacted the Police following an incident reported to her on Saturday evening regarding three local youths setting fire to a bin. Clerk advised the witness would make a statement and the council could prosecute if they wished. It was agreed that on this occasion, the youths should be warned that if their behaviour is repeated, the council will prosecute. Clerk will advise Police that cost to replace bin is in the region of £500-£700. **Annual Operational Inspection:** Clerk circulated report and all issues were either Low Risk or Very Low Risk. Clerk to ask local fabrication company to look at damaged teen shelter seat and side panel. Mrs Peckham thought a couple of tonnes of topsoil ought to be placed around the skate park to build up the side mounds but this can be done in the Autumn after the school holidays. Clerk to ask Handyman to put up a new basketball net from stock and Mr Cole proposed ordering a replacement, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour. Clerk to order replacement.

3. **Balance Sheet** – No queries.

4. **Allotment Pest Control** – No report received for June.

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

6. **Ranger Visit** – No update. Clerk to write to Borough Council advising that the quad method of weed spraying is ineffective as several are missed and the spray can drift onto neighbouring gardens, furthermore the weeds ought to be sprayed in their early growth stages as their uptake of the chemical at this time of year is not adequate to kill them.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

7. Cllr Martin Storey Report – The Borough Council are spending £300k over three years to take action on fly-tipping which becoming a major issue; a fixed penalty of £300 can be enforced and repeat offenders fined £50k or even imprisoned. Funding is being spent installing 52 electric car charging points in Borough Council car parks and vehicles can park freely whilst they charge from 6 pm – 8 am. An extra £25m needs to be sourced for the Norwich & Western Link and NCC are mindful this should go ahead to benefit Norfolk as a whole. Clerk said she had purchased a 50p Commemorative coin from Royal Mint in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
8. Playing Field Boundary Wall – No update. Orange fencing and signs are still in situ and monitored by the Handyman. Still no update from Ian Smith of CNC Building Control.
9. Hall Drive Wall – No update received from Ian Smith but Highways will cut back the greenery from the pavement.
10. Changing Rooms – **Drains:** Chair said Anglian Water did not feel a camera survey was necessary as the problem had been solved (a decision made by two personnel on two separate occasions). Mrs Peckham felt a price should be sought to undertake this therefore Chair will obtain quotations. **External Electric Points:** Chair and Clerk had met two electrical companies and as only one quote had been received so far and the work wasn't urgent, Mrs Peckham felt the other quote ought to be considered before a decision is made. **New Meter Door:** Mrs Peckham proposed the quote from CTE to supply and fit a new meter door at £100 + VAT be accepted, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour. Clerk to speak to CTE.
11. Norfolk County Council 1 Million Trees Project: Chair said this was in hand.
12. Dealings with Resident – No update, Clerk to chase.
13. Highways – **St Mary's Street:** Chair said this had dipped again and as three repairs had been made, Mr Storey said he would speak to Highways about this. **Widening of Oak Street/Wilton Road Footpath:** Clerk said Highways would write to the owner of 2 Oak Street at the end of August, when nesting is over, asking for a full cut of the hedge. Their contractor will then dig back the soil to expose the whole of the path. Mr Storey said he would take this up with Jason Moore.
14. Doctor's Surgery Car Park – Repairs have been completed and Wilton Road hedge has been cut. Surgery enquired about overgrown hedges at the side and rear of the car park which Mrs Peckham said belonged to Hastoe Housing. Clerk to contact.
15. Village Jubilee Celebrations – Mrs Peckham asked if the bunting could be taken down and although the Chair said there had been a strong resistance to remove it since other villages still have theirs up, he will make arrangements for this to be done.
16. Review Allotment Terms of Reference – Mr Storey proposed accepting the Allotment Terms of Reference, Mrs Peckham seconded, 2 in favour, Mr Cole abstained as he is an allotment tenant.
17. Grass Contractors – No issues. Scheduled cut was not undertaken last week probably due to low growth.
18. Parking on Grass – Clerk said Highways will only act if damage is caused which Mrs Peckham said was unacceptable as the residents should pay for a dropped kerb. Mr Cole said this is still a problem on Addisons Close and vehicles are parking everywhere, particularly Freebridge residents who are obstructing the pavement yet have parking space available. Clerk to write to Freebridge.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

19. Electric Car Charging – Clerk has ascertained from Electric Vehicle Infrastructure at NCC that the owners have permission to charge their vehicle but are not adhering to the stipulations of not obstructing pedestrians. She submitted a photo at their request but has not had a response as yet.

20. Audit – Approve Accounts – No update from external auditor as yet.

21. Playing Field Plans – Mrs Peckham read out prices from Wicksteed for complete installation of a high slide; £10,042.98 with high tile surface, £12,945.70 with eco-tumble surface and £8018.58 with carpet surface. High tiles were the preferred option and can be placed over the top of the unused damaged area which was extremely expensive to replace. Mrs Peckham suggested applying to the CIL Project Fund for a £5000 grant to be match-funded by £2000 CIL Infrastructure monies, £2025 from the lockdown grants and £1000 from the Precept. Application to the NPFA has also been made for £2000 grant which can be put towards other play equipment if successful. Chair proposed accepting Mrs Peckham's figures, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour.

22. Overhanging Greenery – Clerk to speak to resident at 2 Falcon Road as Russian Vine is creeping out from the hedge. Highways will contact 11 Long Lane and 50 Wilton Road after the nesting period. Mr Storey will speak to 19 The Beck since Mrs McGeeney had advised they were not impressed when she spoke to them and since had done nothing. There is greenery overhanging between 23 and 25 The Beck, Clerk to ascertain who this belongs to and send letter. 1B Newcombe Drive have cut back the Russian Vine but the hedge needs cutting also, Clerk to send letter. Mr Storey said the Trust had cut the grass at the front of the Primary School but are still trying to ascertain if this is their responsibility.

23. Review Feltwell United FC Changing Room User Agreements & Rent Paid – Mrs Bane proposed the agreement and rent of £25/game remain the same for the forthcoming season, Mr Storey seconded, two in favour, Mrs Peckham abstained as she is Treasurer of the club. Clerk to advise Feltwell FC. Mrs Peckham said the team had won the league and been promoted to the Anglian Comp, and had also won two cups this year. Mr Storey proposed sending a letter of congratulations to the club for their achievements and representation of the village, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour.

24. Feltwell in Bloom Monthly Update – Clerk said no update had been received.

25. CIL Project Funding – Application to be made for £5521 towards the cost of the new slide as in Item 21. Mrs Peckham will assist the Clerk with the application.

26. Play Equipment Deep Clean Quotations – Clerk met two other local companies; Lee Lewis quoted £25 and J Puttock & Sons £600. As Mr Lewis had missed an appointment with the Clerk and Mr Sparkle came highly recommended, Chair proposed work be undertaken by Mr Sparkle at £80, Mrs Peckham seconded, all in favour. Clerk to contact Mr Sparkle.

27. Street Light Maintenance Contract – Three prices received for one and three-year contracts; K&M (current supplier) £1103.02 and £3309.06, T T Jones £458.50 and £1375.50 and Pearce & Kemp £550.20 and £1568.07. Clerk said K&M were extremely reliable and offered an excellent service whereas when T T Jones had the contract a few years ago, there were too many hidden costs. Pearce & Kemp are unknown to the council. Mrs Peckham proposed awarding K&M a three-year contract at £3309.06, Mrs Bane seconded, three against. Due to the vast difference in price, Mr Storey proposed requesting K&M reduce their quote to last year's contract price and taking out a three-year contract with them of £3006.45, Mr Cole seconded, three against. Mr Storey proposed asking K&M to reduce their price to £3006.45 for a three-year contract and if they were not able to, awarding them the contract at £3309.06, Mrs Peckham seconded, all in favour. Clerk to contact K&M.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

28. Damaged Streetlight at Curtis Drive – Clerk said a vehicle had reversed into a streetlight at Curtis Drive and she had forwarded the driver's details and a quotation from K&M Lighting to replace it to the insurance company. No response as yet.

29. Parish Partnership Scheme 2023/24 – Scheme is open again and deadline is 7/12/22.

30. Donation for St Mary's Clock Repairs – Clerk had received a request from Mr Cock for donations made at his father's funeral to be ringfenced by the Parish Council for repairs to St Mary's clockface. As the clock is in public view, it can be considered a public clock and as such the council can call on the Parish Councils Act 1957, Section 2 as their specific power to provide public clocks. With the provision of any asset comes the responsibility of maintenance and Section 6 of this Act enables the council to finance/contribute to a revamp. NALC advised that the council can hold the funds, commission the works and pay the contractor. The council may also contribute to the repairs if the donation does not cover the cost of the work. Chair said he had obtained a quotation earlier in the year to revamp the clockface which was just over £11k but would obtain a quotation from another company recently recommended to him. Mrs Peckham said the CIL Project Fund closes at the end of July and the next round of applications is not until next year but was in favour of the request and suggested grants could also be obtained from other sources. This opinion was agreed by all therefore Clerk will advise Mr Cock.

31. Speeding Lorries – Clerk read out correspondence from a resident about the increasing number of HGVs using the village as a cut-through and the speed at which they are travelling together with a list of companies logged. Mrs Peckham said most of the companies are travelling to or from Murfitts and use their overnight parking facility. Others, although not all, are travelling to local companies, and large container lorries which are empty can sound like they are travelling a lot faster than they are. When a complaint was received previously, Highways response had been that the road is part of the hierarchy route and Chair said the council could not stop these vehicles travelling through the village as it is not an offence. Mrs Peckham said that the new SAM2 signs might make drivers more aware of the speed limit although stated some cars travel just as fast. The 20mph speed limit signs in Southery are not legal speed limits, only voluntary. There is also no Police presence in Feltwell yet Southery and Weeting often have this. Mrs Peckham suggested the resident obtain times and dates of the driving offences, as well as company details from the vehicle they are driving, so they can be contacted as most vehicles have trackers and the company can check if the vehicle has been speeding. Chair said the resident's suggestion of a pedestrian crossing had been investigated before and this is not financially possible. Clerk to write back to resident.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

33. BCKLWN – Emails – Updated Local Plan Review Sustainability Appraisal documents – Consultation open 8/7/22 – 5/8/22

34. NCC – Emails – Jubilee Trees for Norfolk; Emergency closure of Paynes Lane 16-22/6/22 for burst water main; Temporary closure of Thetford Road, Northwold for white lining and stud installation 11-15/7/22 and notice of continuation to 16/7/22; Emergency closure of Sedge Fen Road, Southery 4-8/7/22 for burst water main; Norwich Western Link Project Update

35. RAF Lakenheath – Email – Notification of 5 demolitions on 23/6/22 between 9 am – 2 pm

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

37. East Cambs District Council – Email - Submission & Publication of the Swaffham Bulbeck Neighbourhood Plan (7/7/22 – 18/8/22)

38. Rural Services Network – Emails – Bulletins

39. BT – Email - Get ahead of the big switch off

40. CPRE – Email – Presence at Norfolk Show

41. Brochures - Parish Magazine

42. CHEQUES – Mrs Bane proposed approving the Payments List, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour. Cheques signed for the following:- S Sargent £83.70, T George £32.00, K&M Lighting £100.21, British Legion £80.00, Feltwell Community Fund £200.00, Top Garden Services £1948.80, J Martin £21.11. Direct debits to Biffa £176.42, BT £66.70, EDF £23.36, NPower £868.31 and URM £49.68, and Standing Order to J Martin £941.39. Standing Order to J Martin (Clerk) amended to £955.50 in line with the National Insurance threshold being raised as of 6/7/22.

43. PLANNING

22/00882/F: Single Storey Front/Side Extension at Rose Cottage, 22 High Street: Chair proposed APPROVING this application, Mrs Bane seconded, 2 in favour, Mr Storey abstained.

Development Long Lane Farm, 30 Long Lane: Clerk said the developers had been instructed by the Borough Council to change the suffix of the proposed address name from Pryers Close to one of the following: Avenue, Drive, Grove, Lane, Gardens or Place. Mr Storey proposed asking the Pryer family for their preference, Mrs Peckham seconded, all in favour. Mrs Peckham will speak to a member of the family and advise the Clerk.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

44. Highways – Clerk said white-lining had been programmed for all junctions in the village and will report footpath from Portal Close to Hereward Way as this is disgusting and almost completely full of weeds.

45. Greenery – Clerk to ask Handyman to trim around the dog bin on Long Lane which is hardly visible from greenery protruding from the Long Lane development.

46. Grass Cutting – Clerk had enquired when the village greens and verges are to be cut by the Borough Council and the regime, as they were last cut w/c 30/5/22 and are extremely overgrown. Mr Storey said he would speak to Nathan Johnson about this as the Clerk had had no response.

47. East Anglian Air Ambulance – Chair asked if the clothing bin on the playing field could be replaced with an EA Air Ambulance. Mrs Peckham believed the current Salvation Army bin was in conjunction with the EA Air Ambulance but said there is room for another.

As there is no August meeting, the next meeting will be held on Monday 12th September 2022 at the British Legion. Meeting declared closed 9.53 pm.

Planning Applications received after the meeting with deadlines before the next meeting:-

- **22/01051/F: Double storey side and rear extensions, and a single storey rear extension at 65 Wilton Road** - APPROVED 28/7/22 (7 in favour, Mr Cole objected as no rear access, Mr Storey abstained)
- **22/01070/F: Installation of new cesspool at Church of St Mary, Bell Street** - APPROVED 28/7/22 (9 in favour, Mr Storey abstained)
- **22/01077/F: Construction of a site compound to support transportable tower shelter at RAF Feltwell** - NO COMMENT 28/7/22 (6 no comment, Mr Storey abstained)
- **22/01004/F: Two detached two-storey dwellings at 'Former Coal Yard and Dwellings at 28 and 30 Long Lane** - REFUSED 15/8/22 (7 refused as over-intensive, 1 in favour, Mr Storey abstained)
- **22/01475/F: Retrospective for erection of garden studio, Green Acres, 1 Green Lane** - APPROVED 6/9/22 (7 in favour as within Permitted Development Rights, Mrs McGeeney and Mr Storey abstained)

- **22/01252/F: Variation of Conditions 2, 6, 8, 19 and 20, and removal of Condition 24 of Planning Permission 19/00859/FM for the erection of 18 dwellings with associated garages and highway works at land at or south of 6 to 10 Lodge Road** - NO COMMENT 9/9/22 (9 no comment, Mr Storey abstained)
- **22/01299/F: Single storey side extension to 2 Newcombe Drive** - APPROVED 20/9/22 (6 in favour, Mr Storey abstained)
- **22/01456/F: Change of use from Retail E(a) to Hot Food Takeaway (Sui Generis) with associated extraction at rear at 1 St Mary's Street** - REFUSED 20/9/22 (10 object, Mr Storey abstained). Totally the wrong location for a business such as this which will produce excess rubbish, noise, smell, parking issues and disruptions to the neighbouring properties. It will also encourage youths to congregate late at night and being opposite St Mary's Church, the churchyard may become a gathering place.
- **22/01617/F: Change of use of land to house caravans providing accommodation for essential workers at Wayland Farm, Lodge Road, Feltwell** – REFUSED 03/10/22 (2 in favour, 6 object, Mrs McGeeney and Mr Storey abstained). Increased traffic onto Lodge Road and also the exit onto Lodge Road does not give clear visibility. Objections were also raised as the caravans are for workers employed at the Watton site and as the applicant owns properties in and around Watton, it was felt that these workers should be sited at these closer locations rather than put further strains on Feltwell's doctors surgery and primary school.