

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 10th day of OCTOBER 2022 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.00 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cock, Cole, Fenn, Lambert, Rayner and Storey, Mrs Arnold (arrived 7.15 pm), Mrs Bane Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson. Also present 6 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs McGeeney.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting were approved. Mr Cole proposed, Mrs Peckham seconded, 3 in favour, 5 abstained having not been present.

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

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – Due to time constraints caused by cancellation of the last meeting and the subsequent number of items on the agenda, the RAF Commander had been asked to forward his report to the Clerk after the meeting (attached). Chair said he had asked the RAF Commander a question raised by Mr Cole as to why explosions are increasingly taking place on two consecutive days and becoming more frequent but had not had a response. Mr Cock asked for clarification on use of the mock runway since during Public Speaking, James Springer, RAF Community Liaison Officer, said it is regularly “blown up” yet it had been stated at a planning meeting held earlier in the year by members of USAF that explosives would not be used. RAF Commander to clarify.

2. **Risk Assessment** – **Weekly:** Official ‘No Dogs’ sign is in place, basketball net has been installed with spare stored in Changing Rooms and damaged Teen Shelter panel was replaced free of charge by Niagri Ltd whom the Clerk had sent a letter of thanks and mentioned SFES Ltd had quoted £180 + VAT for this work. Handyman has been undertaking weekly inspections and reported the wooden picnic bench had been vandalised. He had liaised with Mr Lambert about repair which he said would only be a temporary solution. Chair gave some approximate prices for new, recycled plastic benches and his suggestion of purchasing one with wheelchair access was well received. He will therefore obtain further information and Mrs Peckham said she would measure the existing concrete pad to see if it would fit although the bench could be situated on the grass. Mrs Bane proposed purchasing a new bench to fit the concrete pad, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Clerk to ask Handyman to remove the Deadly Nightshade growing near one of the entrances and dispose of fallen branches near the bottle banks. Car park gate needs attention as it is very difficult to open/close. Chair to contact J M Ayres & Son. David Peckham had removed loose branches from an oak tree free of charge at the end of July and the Clerk had thanked him for this gesture.

Quarterly Inspection Report: Clerk circulated report which stated that the soil either side of the skate park needs building up to remove the trip hazard. Mr Lambert said he would donate the topsoil which Mrs Bane said would need to be compressed with a wacker plate. Chair/Clerk to contact local landscaping companies for quotes.

3. **Balance Sheet** – No queries.

4. **Allotment Pest Control** – Reports received for June, July, August and September.

5. **NALC** – NALC bulletins circulated as received. Following SAAA’s concerns, Chair is investigating purchasing a council-owned generic email address so Councillors do not have to use their own email addresses for council matters. Mrs Peckham said she used a separate gmail account for this purpose and suggested others do this in the meantime.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

6. Ranger Visit – Clerk said Andy Wallace advised the quad weed-spraying method is the only cost-effective way of undertaking this task as carrying it out by hand would take much longer and exponentially increase the cost which under the present climate would not be considered. He had spoken to Tarmac regarding the council's concerns about the reckless manner in which quads are driven who had in turn raised this with CGM who promised to speak to their operatives to ensure the work is carried out in a safe and effective manner. Mr Wallace also said there would only be one application next year, start date to be confirmed. Clerk said the next Rangers visit is October and Mr Lambert said weeds around the bus shelter on High Street, Buddleia bushes on Short Beck and bushes around the telegraph pole on High Street on the grassed area opposite Londis all needed removing. Clerk to contact Rangers.

7. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey said most financial support for those in need is being offered via funding ahead of the extremely difficult winter predicted and information can be found on both Borough and NCC websites. Residents could also contact himself or Adrian Lawrence for more information. A public consultation is open regarding NCC's management of public money. Chair asked Mr Storey for an update on the 30mph roundels that are to be painted on Lodge Road and Wilton Road funded by his Member's Budget as Clerk had been told these had been pushed into the next financial year which Mr Storey said he would investigate.

8. Playing Field Boundary Wall – No update. Although orange fencing and signs are still in situ and monitored by the Handyman, Chair asked if replacement fencing could be purchased as it was becoming very brittle. Mrs Bane proposed Chair purchases more fencing up to £50.00, Mrs Arnold seconded, all in favour. Clerk had accepted the invitation from the owners of Corner Lodge to meet with the Councillors on their return to the UK in April following approval from the Vice-Chair.

9. Hall Drive Wall – No update received from Ian Smith but Highways should be cutting back the greenery in the next few weeks.

10. Changing Rooms – **Drains:** Chair said Dynarod will be on site Friday to take a look. Although there is no charge for this, he will obtain a quote should they feel a camera survey is necessary. **External Electric Points:** Clerk had emailed Councillors three quotes for this work as follows: CTE Electrical £290, Carl Cox Electrical £438.16 and Moorelec £558.96. 8 Councillors had approved CTE Electrical quote and this work was carried out 16/9/22. Mr Cock proposed ratifying CTE Electrical quote, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. **New Meter Door:** CTE Electrical replaced 29/9/22 although first door ordered was slightly damaged so is being kept as a spare.

11. Norfolk County Council 1 Million Trees Project: Chair is meeting Richard Fisher in due course to discuss planting 5/6 trees around Oakfields to coincide with the Queen's Green Canopy.

12. Dealings with Resident – Clerk emailed PC Joanna Higgins again today and hoped to have a response asap.

13. Highways – **St Mary's Street:** Mr Storey had had no response from Andy Wallace but Chair said that during a recent meeting with him, he had been satisfied the dip was only settlement and the rate of dipping seemed to be slowing down/settling. **Widening of Oak Street/Wilton Road Footpath:** Clerk said Mark Sharman was undertaking a new role but his replacement, Pauline Harding had written to the resident of 2 Oak Street.

14. Doctor's Surgery Car Park – Clerk said this was in hand and Hastoe Housing were liaising directly with the surgery.

15. Village Jubilee Celebrations – Mrs Peckham asked the amount raised from the celebrations which Mrs Wilson said was £4500, £1200 of which was ringfenced for a defibrillator (£600 having

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been donated from Mr Storey and Mr Lawrence's Member's Budget). Chair is awaiting a response from the Doctors' Surgery regarding whether the defib can be placed on one of their external walls but Mrs Peckham said the Social Club might be able to assist if not.

16. Grass Contractors – No issues although the number of cuts had been reduced due to the weather.

17. Parking on Grass – This was no longer an issue since residents had moved. Chair said another resident had been parking his truck on the grassed area near the memorial bench on High Street which was churning up the grass. Mr Storey said he would speak to the resident.

18. Electric Car Charging – Vehicle is now leaving adequate space on the footpath and electric lead is guarded therefore it was felt this was no longer an issue.

19. Audit – Approve Accounts – Completed.

20. Playing Field Plans – Mrs Peckham said the CIL grant of £5521 had been successful and when she had then contacted Wicksteed to confirm the order, the price for the slide had decreased to £11,710.18 + VAT. As the existing damaged tarmac surface could be incorporated with the new eco-tumble surfacing, this had also eliminated the cost for its disposal. Clerk said a £1000 grant had been awarded by the NPFA.

21. Overhanging Greenery – Mrs Peckham said although the Trust had ascertained they did not own the grass verge in front of the Primary School, they had cut it as a gesture. Clerk said the new Highways Officer would be in the village soon to look at overhanging greenery at the rear of 11 Long Lane and the hedge belonging to 50 Wilton Road.

22. Feltwell in Bloom Monthly Update – Mrs Clements, a member of Feltwell in Bloom (FiB), was invited to speak and first queried why she had been invited to attend. Mrs Wilson said this was following an email from Mr Wilkinson, another member of FiB, to the Clerk, asking why the grass verges along Wilton Road had been cut when it had been agreed with Highways, and was within FiB's Highways Licence, that the area would only be cut 1m from the road with the rest being left for wildflower preparations. Mrs Wilson said the monthly update from FiB which detailed the wildflower plans was not received in time for the July meeting and when circulated to Councillors provoked some concerns which is why FiB had been asked not to proceed until clarification was sought from Highways. Mrs Clements asked why the Parish Council had not raised these concerns directly with FiB before the meeting and the Chair said this was the first time the council had met since July as there is no August meeting and the September meeting had been cancelled following HM The Queen's passing. The Chair was concerned that FiB had so much power over the village greens when any complaints would be directed to the Parish Council and was surprised Highways had acted on FiB's instructions without seeking confirmation from the Parish Council. When he relayed this to Andy Wallace, during a meeting also attended by the Clerk and Mrs Wilson to discuss a separate matter, Mr Wallace said Mr Wilkinson had given him the impression that FiB was a subgroup of the Parish Council and therefore had assumed the council was aware of their plans. Mr Wallace then tried to contact Mr Wilkinson but had not heard back from him. Mrs Wilson said that there were also plans to plant trees along Wilton Road, as part of the Queens Canopy, which Mrs Clements said she was unaware of. Mrs Peckham said the centre of the village was not the right place for wildflowers and felt the grass should be kept cut short here and furthermore, as the Parish Council oversee the village, Highways should be communicating with them as well as FiB, reiterating they would be the first point of call for complaints. Mrs Clements said the Parish Council were consulted about FiB's plans at a previous meeting in January but Mrs Peckham replied that although the wildflowers were mentioned, she didn't recall the Parish Council agreeing to them being planted, which the Chair confirmed and said the Parish Council had said they wished to be kept informed prior to each stage of the project. Mr Lambert asked for clarification on the

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

wildflower project and Mrs Clements said seeds would be set in areas between the trees on the grassed area of Oakfields from the entrance to the estate around to Bell Street which would be lightly tilled so wildflowers were produced in Spring, Summer and Autumn. Mr Lambert also expressed his concern about how wildflowers would look here and thought Wilton Road, as a main thoroughfare, should be kept tidy. The council had received numerous complaints when grass was not cut and he felt certain villagers would complain about wildflowers. Mrs Clements suggested planting a 'test patch' of wildflowers here to gauge residents' reactions. Mr Fenn said he dealt with a lot of groups like FiB in his day-to-day role and was aware of the trend for a natural look. He said wildflower areas need considerable management and were not easy to establish, and agreed a small area would be a good way forward to test performance and village reaction. Mrs Peckham asked if there were plans for more flowerbeds and Mrs Clements said there had been a delay with funding due to issues with setting up a bank account but confirmed proper planters would be replacing existing flowerbeds in due course and winter flowers would be planted for the coming season with final planter positions to be agreed at the next FiB meeting. She said the group would be bulbing up the gateways to the village this month. The Chair asked if the bulbs would be planted in the hedgerows as many of these are privately owned and therefore plants could be cut by the farmers. Mrs Clements said they had been told by Highways that they could plant bulbs at the gateway entrances on the grass side and were not informed this was private land. Mr Storey said FiB should be commended for doing a good job and trying to improve the village and said the council wanted to work with them. He also felt the sensible way forward was to start small and suggested a meeting take place between Highways, FiB and the council before anything gets underway to set clear what can and can't happen, and to ensure everyone is on a level playing field which would provide a platform on which to build. The Chair reiterated that the Parish Council wished to work with FiB not against them and Mrs Wilson suggested the Chair arrange a meeting with FiB and Highways asap which he agreed to do and said he would contact Mrs Clements with some dates.

23. CIL Project Funding – Slide application had been successful (see Item 20). Chair said 2023 funding is open 1/1/23 – 1/2/23 and 1/7/23 – 1/8/23, and Mrs Peckham said repairs to the war memorial wall could be funded via this. Chair to obtain prices.

24. Play Equipment Deep Clean Quotations – Done.

25. Street Light Maintenance Contract – Contract awarded to K&M Lighting.

26. Damaged Streetlight at Curtis Drive – Clerk said the insurance claim had been successful and K&M would be on site to install the new column and lantern prior to UKPN reconnecting supply on 26/10/22. Clerk to chase insurance to reclaim £250 excess.

27. Parish Partnership Scheme 2023/24 – Chair suggested new trod for grassed area on Oakfields Estate and said the wildflower strip could be planted between that and the wall around the estate which would be much better than near the roadside. Chair to obtain prices.

28. Donation for St Mary's Clock Repairs – It was suggested at a previous meeting that an application to CIL project funding should be submitted to part-fund repairs but Mr Cock said the war memorial wall should take precedence if it was dangerous.

29. Highways – Clerk said white-lining had started this month. Chair said the resurfacing of the footpath from Portal Close to Hereward Way had been pushed back to next financial year. Clerk to speak to Highways as this is in an awful condition.

30. Grass Cutting – Clerk said she had been informed by the Borough Council that grass should be cut 12 times per season, weather permitting.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

31. East Anglian Air Ambulance – Chair said the EA Air Ambulance clothing bin was being delivered this week and would be placed beside the Salvation Army bin on the playing field.

32. Iron Bridge & Track – Mr Storey said he had asked for this matter to be discussed following contact from residents of Brandon Bank. Two of those residents were in attendance and invited to give further insight. They explained the bridge had been built decades ago and although owned by South Yorkshire Pension Authority, had been declared a public highway with access over the bridge but both are non-maintainable by Norfolk County Council. The road is in an unusable condition and as telephone lines and water supply run within it, these services are constantly interrupted. As the landowners and Highways had each shifted responsibility onto each other, the residents now had nowhere else to turn in their quest to have the road repaired so were seeking the support of the Parish Council. Mr Storey, in his role as County Councillor, had contacted Andy Wallace at Highways earlier in the day but had no response and said it baffled him why the landowners would not take responsibility for it. The resident said the road is used mainly by farm vehicles, the majority being G C Fields, but Mr Fields would not pay for repairs as his vehicles were not the only ones using it. At this point, the RAF Community Liaison Officer was invited to speak and said he was looking for community projects such as this for his students to assist with and as the USAF have just built a runway at RAF Feltwell, he was certain he could arrange for a new road to be laid as a community project. The Chair said this was very kind but questioned whether it was legal. Mr Storey said he would be contacting Highways again and proposed the RAF Officer also contact them with his suggestion, Mr Cock seconded, all in favour.

33. Option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements – Mrs Peckham proposed not opting out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements, Mr Cock seconded, all in favour.

34. Changing Room Showers – Mrs Peckham said the shower heads needed looking at as they are not working very well. Mrs Bane proposed Clerk contact plumber to have a look, Mr Storey seconded, all in favour.

35. King Charles III Coronation Celebrations – Chair said NALC recommended setting a budget for to commemorate this event next year and that the Feltwell Community Group are hoping to organise something similar to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

36. Feltwell in Bloom – See Item 22.

37. Christmas Tree – Chair proposed ordering a 12ft Norwegian Spruce tree for £95.00 from Elveden Farms, all in favour. Mr Storey said he and Mr Lambert would purchase this between them and collect it on 23/11/22. St Mary's Church have agreed once again to supply the electric for the lights. Mrs Arnold will organise the Christmas tree for the Festival of Light event.

38. Memorial Bench High Street – Mr Storey said this bench is in a terrible state. Mr Storey and Mr Lambert to obtain prices to shotblast it.

39. Request for Parish Council Meeting Commencement Time to be Brought Forward to 7.00 pm until March 2023 – Chair proposed bringing the meeting commencement time forward to 7.00 pm from November 2022 to March 2023 as the nights were getting darker and colder, Mr Storey seconded, all in favour.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT)

41. BCKLWN – Emails – Consultation, approval and notification of Street Name ‘Pryers Gardens’ for development formerly 28 to 30 Long Lane, Feltwell; Updated Local Plan Review Sustainability Appraisal documents - extension of consultation deadline; Notification of new property addresses: Poppylot House, Southery Road and 24A Long Lane; South East King’s Lynn Growth Area Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document: Consultation; Non Domestic Rates Review (SBRR); Public Access System Downtime – 7-10/10/22; Planning Update Sessions; MVV Medworth Combined Heat & Power Facility – Development Consent Order accepted for examination and dates for Relevant Representations to be submitted; Keeping Norfolk Warm
42. NCC – Emails – **Press Releases:** ‘Choose the bus’; Norfolk libraries announce record year for supporting local businesses; Consultation on the future of mobile libraries; Plant a Jubilee Orchard in your community; NCC proud to support Norwich Pride; New 'Travel Norfolk' identity launched; Appeal for help tracing next-of-kin; Development starts on new affordable housing scheme; Norfolk Trading Standards launches 300th No Cold-Calling Zone; Hundreds of public buildings in Norfolk upgraded to ultrafast broadband; Norfolk proud to be part of scheme to restore nature across England; Norfolk Proclamation of the Accession at County Hall; Boost to multi-million-pound community support package revealed; Transformative art to shape Norfolk’s future tourism landscape; Norfolk Fire Service pledges to help children flourish; Norfolk website launched to inspire year-round experiences for residents and visitors. **Road Closures:** Sedge Fen Road, Southery 14-20/7/22, 26/7/22-1/8/22, 6-12/8/22 and 3-7/10/22 for burst water main; Continuation of Thetford Road, Northwold 17-23/7/22 for white lining and stud installation; Black Dyke Road 22-24/8/22 for Anglian Water repairs; Mundford Road, Cranwich 26-30/9/22 for forestry tree felling works. **Other:** Norwich Western Link (NWL) Pre-Planning Application Public Consultation to launch; NWL update; NWL consultation live; NWL consultation event postponement; NWL consultation rescheduled date for Costessey consultation event; NWL consultation closes 9/10/22; Norfolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan: Pre-Submission: Invitation to make representations
43. RAF Lakenheath – Email – **Notification of operations:** 27/7/22 – 50 small detonations 0900-1500 hrs; 28/7/22 – 7 shots 0700-1600 hrs; 17/8/22 EOD flight with 48CES explosive proficiency training (cancelled due to weather restrictions); 21/9/22 – 2 detonations 0800 – 1500 hrs; 28/9/22 - 50 small detonations on the southern portion 0800-1700 hrs; 29/9/22 – 8 detonations 0930-1900 hrs (reduced to 1700 hrs after complaint); 6/10/22 – 1 detonation 0800-0900 hrs. **Other:** Invitation to 40th Annual Joan Mann Special Sports Day – 30/9/22
44. Post Office Ltd – Email – Notification of Post Office Temporary Closure
45. Norfolk & Waveney Health & Care Partnership – Email – Stake Holder Briefings
46. East Cambs District Council – Email - Submission of Local Plan - Single Issue Review
47. Rural Services Network – Emails – Bulletins
48. TWR Accountants – Email – July, August & September Tax Tips
49. Parish Asset Management – Email – Asset maintenance and renewal
50. Colchester Institute Business Solutions – Email - Environmental Noise Measurement
51. Sports & Play Consulting Ltd – Email - Independent advice and support for new facilities
52. Brochures - Parish Magazine, Clerks & Councils Direct
53. **CHEQUES** – Mr Lambert proposed ratifying the August and September payments and approving the October payments, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. **Payments for August** – S Sargent £92.98, T George £56.00, K&M Lighting £100.21, HMRC £342.08, Anglian Water £136.64, A Stannard £80.00, Freedom Recycling £200.00, Wicksteed £144.00, Zurich Municipal £1407.17, Amey LG £542.64, UKPN £1138.80. Direct Debits to Biffa £231.06, BT £66.70, EDF Energy £43.73, NPower £879.98. Standing Order to J Martin £955.50. **Payments for September** – J Martin £180.11, S Sargent £112.33, T George £32.00, K&M Lighting £100.21, J Rolph £200.00, L&R Enefer £68.40. Direct Debits to Biffa £177.10, BT £66.70, EDF Energy £25.04, NPower £879.40, URM £25.92. Standing Order to J Martin £955.50. **Payments for October** – S Sargent £100.68, T George £32.00, K&M Lighting £100.21, Fenland Leisure Products £165.00, CTE Electrical £540.00, Cash £50.00, HMRC £175.83. Direct Debits to Biffa £200.59, BT £66.70, EDF Energy £48.84, NPower £910.45. Standing Order to J Martin £955.50.

54. PLANNING

22/01656/F Demolition of Garage and Construction of a 2-Storey Side Extension and Single Storey Rear Extension at 28 Hereward Way, Feltwell: 7 in favour, Mr Cock and Mr Cole had no comments and Mr Storey abstained - APPROVED.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

55. Grups – Chair said these are programmed and will be cleared by the Internal Drainage Board this year.

56. Playing Field Pedestrian Gate – Mrs Peckham said the entrance gate from Falcon Road is not accessible for bikes or mobility scooters. Mrs Bane said the entrance near the play area also needed looking at.

57. SAM2 – Mrs Peckham asked the location of the SAM2 and Chair said he had moved it to Lodge Road on Sunday afternoon from The Beck.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 14th November 2022 at the British Legion.

Meeting declared closed 9.30 pm.

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

- **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 – WITHDRAWN**
- **22/01299/F: Single storey side extension to 2 Newcombe Drive (Amended) – WITHDRAWN**

Council Update

July to September 2022:

In September, following the death of HM The Queen, 48FW very respectfully minimised their flying activities during the period of National Mourning. However, outside of this time, it was a very busy summer with 48 Fighter Wing aircraft being deployed to multiple locations including Greece, Scotland and the Royal Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford. Night flying training sorties were conducted from RAF Lakenheath during August and September. Furthermore, the Station hosted F22 Raptors and F16 aircraft through the summer months.

In August, the Wing conducted an Active Shooter Exercise. Suffolk Police, Fire and Ambulance and other Local Authorities engaged in the Exercise. Then in September, the Wing worked with the emergency services, Local Authorities and other UK Agencies on a Aircraft Crash Exercise at RAF Feltwell.

More recently, on 11 October 2022, an Assumption of Command ceremony was conducted to stand up the 493rd Fighter Squadron as the second F35A Squadron at RAF Lakenheath.

Locally, in an effort to mitigate the impact of the roadworks at Eriswell, 48 Fighter Wing have worked with Suffolk Highways to adjust the traffic light timings at Gate 1 on the A1065.

Finally for this month, we are currently working-up plans for a plethora of Remembrance events around the Counties of Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. We are expecting to be able to send USVF representatives to over 25 events this year.