

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 12th day of NOVEMBER 2022 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.00 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cock, Cole, Fenn, Lambert and Rayner, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Bane (arrived 7.10 pm), Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson. Also present 2 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mr Storey and RAF Commander Geary.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Mr Rayner and Mrs Wilson declared an interest in Item 29 and Mrs Wilson declared an interest in Planning.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting were approved. Mrs Wilson proposed, Mr Lambert seconded, 7 in favour, Mrs McGeeney 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** – The RAF Commander sent his apologies and would forward his report to the Clerk after the meeting (attached).

2. **Risk Assessment** – **Weekly:** Handyman had been undertaking weekly inspections and repaired broken guttering at the Changing Rooms. He could not locate the Deadly Nightshade and said it did not usually grow this time of year. Clerk to ask Handyman to repair loose sign near the skate park entrance. Chair is waiting to hear back from Mr Ayres regarding the main entrance gate onto the car park. Mrs Peckham said large items of rubbish had been left near the clothing banks and wheelie bin. Mrs McGeeney said she would put the rubbish in the wheelie bin and Clerk will ask people not to do this via the Parish Magazine and a notice at the field. **Quarterly Inspection Report:** Clerk had received one quote for building up the sides of the skate park and Chair is awaiting two others. Mr Lambert thought in reflection turf should be laid on top to prevent the topsoil from creating a muddy mess and this should be done within the next two weeks. Harrowden Turf to be approached to supply the turf and Clerk/Chair to obtain revised quotations to include laying it. These will be circulated via email for approval and price to be ratified at the next meeting. **Benches:** Mrs Peckham had circulated measurements of the concrete pad which she thought wouldn't need extending for wheelchairs users as they could utilise the bench whilst positioned on the grass. Mr Rayner said prices varied from £445 + VAT for a brown or black bench to £505 for multicoloured.

3. **Balance Sheet** – No queries. Mrs Peckham asked if the Clerk could look at the telephone contract with BT as the current price paid was very expensive. Clerk to contact BT and also obtain quotes from other providers to include broadband.

4. **Allotment Pest Control** – Reports received for October and November.

5. **NALC** – Chair said Councillors could either set up a separate gmail account for Parish Council emails or the Council could pursue NALC's recommendation of a gov.uk email address which would be run through government servers. Clerk said NALC hoped to provide the service free of charge or at cost. The consensus was for each Councillor to set up their own accounts.

6. **Ranger Visit** – No report yet from the October visit. Mrs McGeeney said leaves needed clearing from the path outside 9 Hill Street as it was slippery. Mrs Peckham said the weed sprayers had been in the village two weeks ago.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

7. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey was not present therefore no report was given.
8. Playing Field Boundary Wall – No update. Chair said replacement fencing was on order.
9. Hall Drive Wall – Clerk to chase Highways as greenery had not been cut back. Following a request from CNC Building Control for all Hall Drive residents to undertake a collective survey on the wall, a resident had asked for the Parish Council's assistance with a TPO on a tree at a neighbouring property. Clerk advised resident that this was the owner's responsibility.
10. Changing Rooms – **Drains:** Chair said Dynarod had advised they would not come out free of charge and that a camera survey would cost £305 + VAT/hour for two hours work including full CCTV investigation, video and a written survey. He had obtained another quote from Drain Doctor who offered two options; a camera at £130 + VAT/hour for two hours work or CCTV survey with camera and written survey for £315 + VAT/hour for four hours work, and if a waterjet was required this was a further £117.94 + VAT/hour. Mrs Peckham thought it best to see what happened at next year's village fete, and this was agreed by all. **New Meter Door:** Mr Lambert had made temporary repairs to the new isolator door recently knocked off and said the hinges needed looking at. CTE said the box that houses the isolator was upside down causing the issue with the door hinges as they work on gravity. Chair will silicone a top and bottom corner of the door to keep it shut. **Showers:** Clerk had spoken to a local plumber who said the shower heads needed replacing as they do not function correctly. Clerk to obtain quotations to replace all shower heads.
11. Norfolk County Council 1 Million Trees Project: Chair is still awaiting a response from Richard Fisher regarding the planting of 5/6 trees around Oakfields.
12. Highways – **St Mary's Street:** Mr Lambert had discussed his concerns with Andy Wallace who would visit in January to investigate further. **Widening of Oak Street/Wilton Road Footpath:** Clerk awaiting update from Highways. **Footpath from Portal Close to Hereward Way:** Clerk awaiting a response from Highways.
13. Doctor's Surgery Car Park – Clerk had chased Hastoe Housing as the work had not been done.
14. Village Jubilee Celebrations – See Item 29 re defibrillator.
15. Parking on Grass – Mr Storey was not present to advise if he had spoken to the resident parking his truck on the grassed area near the memorial bench on High Street.
16. Playing Field Plans – Mrs Peckham said the slide had been installed. Clerk read out letter from NPFA and will send a letter of thanks.
17. Overhanging Greenery – Chair said the owner of 50 Wilton Road would not cut his hedge back any further which Mrs Peckham said was not acceptable as it was encroaching the highway by at least a foot. Clerk to write to Highways again.
18. Feltwell in Bloom Monthly Update – Meeting took place between Feltwell in Bloom (FiB), Highways and the Parish Council on 9th November 2022 where it was agreed in principle, by all parties, that FiB could plant a test strip of wildflowers on the grassed area around Oakfields. FiB said they were holding their AGM in January and would revert with their plans. Andy Wallace said their licence would not need revoking as long as he was advised the location and size of the test strip. Mrs Wilson said she did not wish to continue her liaison role with FiB therefore Clerk will advise FiB that all future correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk and that, as licence holders, all compliments/complaints from residents would be directed to them.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

19. CIL Project Funding – Chair had found it difficult to obtain prices for the war memorial wall and Mrs Peckham suggested applying for funding when the second round opens 1/7/23 to allow further time. Chair said there were cracks in the war memorial and Mr Edmund said this needed dealing with as soon as possible. Chair to obtain quotations. Chair had only one quotation for repairs to St Mary's clockface and again it was felt this should be considered for the next round of funding to allow time to obtain further quotations. (See Item 29 for further CIL Project Funding). Mr Cock felt an application for planters should also be considered for Feltwell in Bloom.

20. Damaged Streetlight at Curtis Drive – Clerk said the new column and lantern had been installed and she was currently corresponding with third party insurers to reclaim the £250 excess.

21. Parish Partnership Scheme 2023/24 – Chair said prices for the trod around Oakfields ranged from £26,200 with no surfacing to £41,500 with HRA surfacing, and it was therefore agreed not to pursue this. There were no other suggestions for the Scheme so no application will be made.

22. Donation for St Mary's Clock Repairs – See Item 19.

23. Iron Bridge & Track – Chair said the RAF Commander advised that although it was legal for the USAF to carry out such work in America, this was not the case for the UK as it was American government money. Mrs Peckham, as representative for the Anchor Ward, had been to view the bridge and said Highways had marked out some areas. Mr Storey was not present to comment.

24. Changing Room Showers – See Item 10.

25. King Charles III Coronation Celebrations – See Item 29.

26. Memorial Bench High Street – A quotation of £250 from S G Shotblasting to shotblast and zinc coat the bench had been forwarded by Mr Lambert and approved by all Councillors. Mrs Bane proposed ratifying the quote, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. Mr Lambert had removed the bench and Mr Cole had ground down the protruding metal from the base. Mr Lambert and his son will put plates on the bottom of the bench and arrange for the shotblasting work to be carried out.

27. Playing Field Pedestrian Gate – Mr Fenn thought the path leading up to Falcon Road entrance was a Public Right of Way and as such, the local authority may contribute towards a new gate. He will furnish the Clerk with details of the PROW contact he deals with.

28. SAM2 – Chair said the new posts had been installed at Lodge Road and Wilton Road, and the SAM2 had been delivered. Mr Lambert proposed the Chair ascertains the cost to charge both SAM2's and the Parish Council reimburse him every quarter, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour. Chair said he was happy to continue relocating the SAM2's himself.

29. Feltwell Community Group – Defibrillator, Outdoor Gym Equipment & Donation Request – Chair invited Mrs Liz Gray, Vice-Chair of Feltwell Community Group (FCG) to speak. Mrs Gray said the Jubilee celebrations had been a phenomenal success and had given various village groups an opportunity to raise a lot of money. FCG are hoping to hold a similar event for the Coronation but as this is scheduled to take place much sooner than expected, fundraising opportunities were limited. All monies raised from the Jubilee were ringfenced for a defibrillator and gym equipment, and Mrs Gray said the same level of funding was not expected to be available this time and furthermore costs had risen dramatically. FCG were therefore requesting help from the Parish Council, whether that be helping to pay for the gym equipment and defibrillator or a monetary contribution towards the Coronation event, Mrs Gray reiterating the massive fundraising opportunity a large-scale community event would give village groups. Mr Lambert asked the cost of the gym equipment which Mrs Wilson replied was £6486.08 + VAT. Mrs Peckham said the

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

Edmund de Moundeford Trust had donated £4000 towards the gym equipment and pointed out there were still CIL monies. She said an application could also be made to CIL Project Funding for the shortfall meaning there would be no cost to the Council and if this was successful, maybe a donation could be made as well. Mrs Wilson, Chair of FCG, said funding avenues should be confirmed in January and Mrs Peckham said FCG should come back to the Council at that point, if further help was needed. Mr Lambert proposed the Parish Council orders the gym equipment - as it would be a parish asset and would also allow the VAT element to be reclaimed - and pays the shortfall, Mrs Peckham seconded, 8 in favour, Chair and Mrs Wilson abstained. Mrs Bane proposed the Parish Council orders the defibrillator at £1211 + VAT - which would again allow the VAT element to be reclaimed - and be responsible for maintaining it, Mrs McGeeney seconded, 8 in favour, Chair and Mrs Wilson abstained. Chair said the Doctors' Surgery were concerned about electricity costs so had declined the request to house the defibrillator at this time but would consider a future request if the Council were to purchase another, however the Social Club had kindly offered to house it. Members of FCG thanked the Councillors and would arrange for £4000 to be transferred together with a payment of £150 donated by R K & J Jones specifically for the gym equipment and £1211 for the defibrillator. Mrs Peckham said she would draw up a CIL application form for the December meeting which could also include some benches.

30. Edmund de Moundeford Trust – Renewal – Chair said Mrs McGeeney's position on the Trust was up for renewal and Mrs McGeeney said she would like to continue. Mrs Bane nominated Mrs McGeeney to be reappointed, Mrs Arnold seconded, 3 in favour, Mr Cock, Mr Lambert, Mrs Peckham and the Chair declared an interest as serving Trustees and abstained. Mrs McGeeney was duly reappointed Parish Council representative for the Edmund de Moundeford Trust.

31. Review Model Standing Orders – No amendments. Mrs Peckham proposed Model Standing Orders remain the same, Mr Cock seconded, all in favour.

32. Budget 2023/24 – Chair asked Councillors to consider items for next year's budget and Mrs Peckham said CIL monies ought to be earmarked as well. Chair said increased electricity and grass cutting costs, both for Parish and Borough Council-owned land, should be noted. Mr Cock suggested planters for Feltwell in Bloom. Clerk enquired about a new bus stop for Lodge Road but Mr Cole said he thought work may have started on the development which incorporated a new one.

32. Clerk's Pay Award – Mrs Peckham proposed Clerk's pay be increased by £1.00/hour as per the recommended NALC pay scale and backdated to April 2022, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. Clerk thanked the councillors for this.

CORRESPONDENCE

33. Police Connect – Emails – No issues relating to Feltwell

34. BCKLWN – Email – **News Releases:** Priorities for helping rural areas?; CIL applications open soon – what projects would YOU like to see funded?. **Planning:** Parish Update Sessions; MVV Medworth Combined Heat & Power Facility; Examination of Local Plan Review: Publication of main Inspector's questions & announcement of examination hearing dates

35. NCC – Emails – **Various Press Releases:** Advice for bird keepers amid avian influenza outbreaks; New 'Take 5' campaign; Fire Service celebrate at Awards Ceremony; Fight Flooding by Clearing Channels; Public asked to comment on fire & rescue service safety proposals. **Road Closures:** Black Drove, Methwold 31/10/22-9/11/22 for BT ducting work; St Mary's Street 13/11/22, 9.30am-12.30pm for Remembrance Parade. **Other:** Norfolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan Pre-Submission extension of time to make representations

36. RAF Lakenheath – Email – **Notification of operations:** 28/10/22 – 2 emergency demolition shots 0730-1100 hrs; **Other:** Invitation to Ely Cathedral - Thanksgiving Eve; Invitation to Christmas tree lighting – 2/12/22

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT)

37. DEFRA – Letter – Info re Avian Influenza
38. Norfolk & Waveney Health & Care Partnership – Email – Updates
39. Rural Services Network – Emails – Bulletins; Priorities for Helping Rural Areas
40. TWR Accountants – Email – October & November Tax Tips
41. EDF Energy – Letter –Energy Bill Relief Scheme (EBRS)
42. NPower – Email - How the EBRS will be displayed on invoice
43. Zurich – Email - Safety tips for fireworks displays
44. CPRE Norfolk – Email – Autumn Issue of Norfolk Voice
45. Brochures - Parish Magazine, Clerks & Councils Direct

46. CHEQUES – Mrs Wilson proposed approving the November payments, Mr Fenn seconded, all in favour. Cheques signed for the following:- J Martin £11.70, S Sargent £98.90, T George £123.60, K&M Lighting £1290.00, J Rolph £100.00, Anglian Water £84.26, Fenland Fire Appliance £98.40, PKF Littlejohn £360.00, E Lambert £5.00, Amey LG £542.64, S Arnold £87.82, I Rayner £38.97, RBL Poppy Appeal £50.00. Direct Debits to Biffa £177.10, BT £66.70, EDF Energy £64.64, NPower £996.53. Standing Order to J Martin £955.50.

Mrs Arnold departed the meeting at 9.17 pm due to feeling poorly.

47. PLANNING

22/01798/F – Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 20/00601/F: Construction of one dwelling at 24 Long Lane: Increasing the height to a three-storey property would be out of character with the street scene and an intrusion of privacy on surrounding properties. 8 against, Mrs Wilson abstained - REFUSED.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

48. Highways – Mrs Peckham reported the edge of the road outside 48 Paynes Lane was breaking away and needed urgent attention as it was unsafe for pedestrians, particularly when walking in the dark. Clerk to contact Highways. Chair said new contact, Pauline Harding, was responsible for the whole of Norfolk Highways Department and as such any issues should be reported online unless urgent in which case they could be directed to her.

49. Dog Bin Long Lane – Mrs Wilson said greenery from the development behind was obstructing the dog bin and path, and a TV screen had also been dumped here. Clerk to contact developers.

50. Fire Extinguishers – Clerk said fire extinguishers had all been serviced in the Changing Rooms.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th December 2022 at the British Legion.

Meeting declared closed 9.30 pm.