

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 9th day of JANUARY 2023 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.00 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cock, Cole, Fenn, Lambert, Rayner and Storey (arrived 7.10 pm), Mrs Arnold, Mrs Bane, Mrs McGeeney and Mrs Peckham. Also present 4 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs Wilson and RAF Commander Geary.

The Chair asked if anyone was recording the meeting and Mr Cole replied that he was. All members of the public gave their consent to be recorded.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES: Mr Cock stated that “uncontested” should be “contested” under Minute 1764 Item 25. All agreed. Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting were amended accordingly and then approved. Mr Cole proposed, Mr Fenn seconded, 5 in favour, Mrs McGeeney and Mrs Peckham abstained having not been present.

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

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – The RAF Commander had advised possible late attendance and would forward his report to the Clerk after the meeting if not present (attached).

2. **Risk Assessment** – **Weekly:** Handyman has repaired the loose iron railings with the help of his neighbour, Mark Allum, who had undertaken the welding as part of a community scheme run by his employer, Marshalls of Cambridge. Clerk to write letter of thanks to both. **Quarterly Inspection Report:** Mr Lambert said Hamills would be on site next week to build up the sides of the skate park. During Public Speaking, a member of the public asked why the Parish Council was paying for this work when she had been assured at a meeting held prior to the construction of the skate park that any repairs to it would be fundraised for. The Chair said he was unsure but stated that the skate park itself was not being repaired, it was the parish land around it. **Benches:** No update.

3. **Balance Sheet** – No queries.

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

5. **NALC** – Newsletters circulated as received. Mrs Peckham highlighted the defibrillator grant which could be useful for future reference.

6. **Ranger Visit** – Work completed. Leaves were cleared by the Clean-Up team.

7. **Cllr Martin Storey Report** – Mr Storey said public comments received during the budget consultation were being considered ready for the budget meeting to be held mid-February. During the recent fortnight of frosts, NCC gritters covered 2200 miles on Norfolk A & B roads which did not include the A11 and A47 as these were covered by national highways. The 1900 grit bins across Norfolk could be refilled on request. Carriageway re-surfacing is due to start on the A10 Downham Market roundabout and A1122 Stradsett junction in May. Elections will also take place in May. Mr Storey said his £10K Local Members Budget opens again 5/4/23 and that after initially allocating £3.5K of last year’s budget to installing drainage at Munsons Lane/Old Brandon Road, a further £3K had been spent on this project. Chair said no drainage had been installed and further work had to be undertaken over Christmas due to flooding. Mrs McGeeney said she was disgusted by this.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

Mr Storey said the 30mph and 40mph roundels on Lodge Road and Wilton Road should be installed by April as the money had to be spent this financial year. Mrs Peckham asked why this work, requested and allocated in April 2022, was being completed 9-10 months later when costs had probably doubled. Mr Storey said there were 84 Norfolk County Councillors in Norfolk, each allocated £10K, and priority is given to emergency work. Other issues such as staff sickness also caused delays and there is already a backlog of work from the previous year which had a knock-on effect. He agreed that the cost may increase but the amount allocated remained the same. Repairs to major roads also took priority. He said money was not lost if repairs are not done within the agreed timescale as the schemes would be completed.

8. Playing Field Boundary Wall – Meeting to take place with owners on their return to the UK in April, date tbc. Chair and Mr Lambert will replace the orange fencing this weekend.

9. Hall Drive Wall – Clerk said Highways advised greenery had been cleared as much as possible in October however they would not remove the ivy as they would be liable for any damage caused by this. As the condition of the wall had been brought to the attention of the owners and Borough Council building control, it was agreed by all that nothing further could be done.

10. Changing Rooms – New shower heads have been fitted.

11. Highways – **St Mary's Street:** Ongoing. Mr Lambert said Anglian Water should be asked if they discovered a brick tunnel during recent repair work. Clerk to enquire. **Widening of Oak Street/Wilton Road Footpath:** Clerk and Mr Storey are awaiting update from Highways.

12. Doctor's Surgery Car Park – Mr Cock said the section of hedge he believed needed cutting had already been cut and it had transpired the correct hedge neighboured Hastoe Housing properties. Mrs Peckham felt Hastoe Housing should at least cut the top of the hedge and Mr Cock said Hastoe should cut it as they planted it. However, Mr Lambert believed the responsibility for cutting the inside of any hedge belonged to the landowner and the Clerk confirmed it was stipulated in the doctors' lease to maintain the boundary of the land. Mr Fenn proposed writing to the Doctors' Surgery to advise them the hedge cutting was their responsibility, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. Clerk to write to Doctors' Surgery and include relevant section of contract.

13. Parking on Grass – Mr Storey said the vehicle owner was no longer parking on the verge but he had noticed a black Volkswagen vehicle parking here. Mr Lambert suggested putting a barrier here or asking Feltwell in Bloom to situate a planter here. Mr Storey will try to speak to the owner of the black VW. Mrs McGeeney suggested planters could be placed on the corner of Addisons Close to prevent the grass being churned up by vehicles parking there but it was felt this would only encourage drivers to park on the road which would then cause much worse problems.

14. Playing Field Plans – Clerk said work to polish out the ridges had been done and cheque sent.

15. Overhanging Greenery – Clerk has asked Highways to speak directly with owner of 50 Wilton Road regarding this matter as requested.

16. Feltwell in Bloom Monthly Update – FiB's end of year report was circulated upon receipt in December and Chair expressed his annoyance that plans to plant rose beds at the entrance to Newcombe Drive had not been mentioned at the meeting held on 9/11/22 with Highways. Mrs Peckham said the existing flowerbeds with wooden surrounds planted around the village were in extremely poor condition and looked awful. Clerk said FiB had thanked the council for their pledge to buy four planters for £1000.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

17. CIL Project Funding – Still no response from stonemason re War Memorial but Chair hoped to obtain prices for this and the church clockface in time to submit a funding application in July.

18. Damaged Streetlight at Curtis Drive – Clerk said third party insurers had requested bank details to transfer £250 excess on 6/1/23.

19. Iron Bridge & Track – Mr Storey spoke to the two Anchor Ward residents present and said following a meeting with Andy Wallace and Jason Moorse, Highways were not prepared to repair the road leading to the bridge as it was unadopted. He felt strongly that owners of the large vehicles which had caused the damage should be accountable for the repairs and proposed holding an on-site meeting with the landowners (South Yorkshire Pension Fund), main users of the bridge (Waldersey Farms, G's Growers and G C Fields), Highways, the Parish Council and Anchor Ward residents to take this matter forward, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. Clerk to write to all parties mentioned.

20. Memorial Bench High Street – Mr Lambert to chase shot blasters for an update. Clerk to write to Andrew Lambert to thank him for undertaking the preparatory work to be bench and speak to Handyman regarding painting it.

21. Playing Field Pedestrian Gate – Mrs Peckham said there was a gate in situ but that it doesn't shut and is not wheelchair or pushchair-friendly. Chair and Mr Lambert will take a look whilst at the field erecting the orange barrier fencing.

22. SAM2 – Mr Lambert proposed the Chair submit expenses for charging the two batteries every year quarter, Mr Storey seconded, all in favour.

23. Feltwell Community Group – Defibrillator, Outdoor Gym Equipment & Donation Request – **Defibrillator:** Chair to chase delivery. **Gym Equipment:** Chair said the remaining amount agreed to be paid from the precept of £159.66 was incorrect and was in fact £259.66. Mr Lambert proposed rescinding the decision to pay £159.66 from the precept and amending this amount to £259.66, Mr Storey seconded, 7 in favour, Chair abstained. Chair and Clerk, as members of the FCG, thanked the Parish Councillors for this decision. Clerk said the suppliers had brought forward the installation to 11/1/23 following a cancellation meaning that the whole amount would become payable upon completion and when the Council was satisfied with it.

24. Budget 2023/24 – As discussion was expected to be time-consuming and to allow more time for grass cutting tenders to be obtained, Chair proposed scheduling an extraordinary meeting week commencing 23/1/23, all in favour. Councillors to advise their availability asap.

25. Hand Sanitisers – Clerk to request Handyman repairs spout on the sanitiser near the One Stop and remove grass from the base of the unit near the Londis.

26. Gritting – Chair felt more grit bins were required in addition to the two near the school and one at Newcombe Drive and was asked to obtain costs.

27. St Mary's Churchyard – Mr Storey thanked the Chair and his family members for their involvement with the Christmas tree and lights, and reiterated how wonderful the churchyard looked. Clerk to ask Cherry Tree Farm if they would like the tree.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT)

29. NCC – Emails – **Press Releases:** Norfolk Fire Service take the lead in electric emergency response cars; No Homelessness in Norfolk. **Traffic Orders:** St Mary's Street 29/12/22 – 5/1/23 for emergency burst water main repairs; Southery Road 23-27/1/23 for UKPN electrical work
30. BCKLWN – Emails - Christmas opening hours, waste collections & advice; Verification of property addresses at The Sanctuary, 49 High Street, Feltwell; Press Release - Cost of living
31. RAF Lakenheath – Email – **Notification of operations:** 27/12/22 – 2 x emergency detonations 0830-1530 hrs. **Other:** Seasons Greeting from the 48th Fighter Wing
32. Norfolk & Waveney Health & Care Partnership – Email – Updates; Press Release - Share your views on local health and care services
33. Norfolk & Waveney MIND – Email – Setting up a Suicide Prevention group within the parish
34. Rural Services Network – Emails – Bulletins
35. TWR Accountants – Email – Autumn Budget; January Tax Tips
36. NBB Plastic Recycled Furniture – Email - Upgrade Your Outdoor Furniture This Winter
37. CHANCES Project – Email – Help for people struggling to get work
38. Brochures - Parish Magazine, Clerks & Councils Direct

39. **CHEQUES** – Mr Lambert proposed approving the January payments, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour. Cheques signed for the following:- J Martin £67.50, S Sargent £51.33, T George £64.00, K&M Lighting £100.21, J Rolph £50.00, Top Garden Services £1948.80, J W Waites £140.00, Hugh Harris t/a Fresh Air Fitness £7,783.29, HMRC £438.86, Norfolk Tractors £576.00. Direct Debits to Biffa £231.06, BT £66.70, EDF Energy £265.88 and NPower £1,281.26. Standing Order to J Martin £955.50.

40. PLANNING

There were no planning applications.

Mr Storey said the Borough Council Planning Committee had met earlier in the day and discussed planning application ref 22/01798/F which the Parish Council had refused due to intrusion on the privacy of surrounding properties caused by the increase of height to three storeys and because it was not in keeping with the street scene. He said the Planning Officer had recommended approval as a couple of neighbouring properties were three-storey.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

41. Highways – Mr Cole reported a loose manhole cover outside 74 Lodge Road although this had already been white-lined, Mr Lambert said the end of national speed limit sign along Black Dyke Road needs renewing and Mr Cock reported the pavement leading round Hythe Road near Glebe Farm breaking up. Mrs Bane said molehills were causing the pavement along Wilton Road to lift. Clerk to report all issues to Highways.

42. Bottle Banks – Mrs McGeeney said residents should be made aware of recycling credits that the Parish Council can claim from glass deposited at the bottle banks. Clerk to put in Parish Magazine.

43. Vodafone – Clerk said line was being installed Monday 16/1/23.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th February 2023 at the British Legion.
Meeting declared closed 8.27 pm.