

0A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 13th day of FEBRUARY 2023 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.00 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cole, Fenn, Lambert and Rayner, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Bane, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson. Also present 3 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs McGeeney and Mr Storey.

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: Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting and Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held 23rd January 2023 were approved. Mr Lambert proposed, Mr Fenn seconded, 5 in favour, Mrs Wilson abstained having not been present.

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

MATTERS ARISING

1. RAF Feltwell – The RAF Commander was not present so it was assumed he would forward his report to the Clerk after the meeting (attached).

2. Risk Assessment – **Weekly:** No issues reported by Handyman. Mr Lambert said he had noticed some of the copings were coming off the railings around the car park which would eventually need to be removed and re-coated but this was not urgent. Mrs Peckham said the shuttering on the window of the Changing Rooms was broken and Mr Lambert said he would take a look. Leaves need sweeping on the tennis court and the Falcon Road alleyway was also full of leaves, Clerk to ask Handyman to remove. It was agreed that the spoil from the gym equipment installation could be spread in the old goalmouths, Clerk to ask Handyman to do this. **Benches:** Clerk to obtain prices for a wheelchair-friendly bench which was approved at the October meeting (Minute 1750).

3. Balance Sheet – No queries.

4. Allotment Pest Control – Reports received for January and February.

5. NALC – Newsletters circulated. After registering an interest in the payroll scheme, the monthly costs advised were £8 for one employee, £5 for any additional. It was felt it was more cost effective for the Clerk to continue doing payroll using HMRC's Basic PAYE Tools package which was free.

6. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey was not present therefore no report was given.

7. Playing Field Boundary Wall – Clerk to organise meeting with owners on their return to the UK in April to discuss the wall. Chair and Mr Lambert had replaced the orange fencing.

8. Changing Rooms – Clerk had asked John Waites, a local plumber, to look at a leak in the Official's Changing Room brought to her attention by the Cleaner. Mr Waites adjusted the ball fix valve and asked for it to be monitored as if it this did not stop the leak then a new one would be required. Cleaner will monitor.

9. Highways – **St Mary's Street:** Clerk said Anglian Water had not seen any tunnel whilst carrying out recent excavation work which Mr Lambert said was because the work was carried out on the other side of the road. Chair believed dip had deepened. **Widening of Oak Street/Wilton Road**

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

Footpath: Clerk stated her annoyance at Pauline Harding's (Highways Engineer) correspondence to the owner of 2 Oak Street which stated he had not carried out the Parish Council's request to cut back the hedge, as this was not true. Clerk said she had chased Ms Harding for a timescale for soil underneath the hedge to be sided out by Highways so the full pavement could be exposed. She said the owner of 2 Oak Street had always been very accommodating with cutting the hedge, going above and beyond to try and rectify the situation, even applying for planning permission to replace it with a fence, which had been refused. Clerk is still awaiting a response from Mrs Harding and Mr Storey was not present to advise if he had spoken to Highways about the situation. Chair believed this matter should now be escalated to the Line Manager and Mr Lambert agreed, stating details of the planning application should also be supplied. Clerk to contact Jason Moore.

10. Doctor's Surgery Car Park – Clerk had no response from the Surgery although Hastoe had agreed to cut the top of the hedge. Mrs Peckham proposed writing to the Surgery again, instructing them to cut the hedge as per their contract terms and Chair said they should be advised that if this work is not carried out then the Parish Council will undertake it and transfer all costs to them. Clerk to write to Doctors' Surgery and again include the relevant section of contract.

11. Parking on Grass – Mr Storey was not present to advise if he had spoken to the owner of the black Volkswagen.

12. Overhanging Greenery – Clerk said Highways agreed with the owner of 50 Wilton Road that the hedge was not over his boundary. Mrs Peckham said this was a 'copout' by Highways as although the bottom of the hedge was not over his boundary, the growth at the sides was about 1ft over. She stated there was not enough room for two vehicles to pass each other at this junction which was now very dangerous and an accident had occurred there last week which unfortunately had not been reported to the Police as it was only vehicle damage. She also felt strongly that the whole stretch of Paynes Lane should be a 20mph zone, particularly as it was around a playing field and Chair said a weight restriction of 7.5 tonnes should also be applied. All in agreement. Mrs Peckham said she would like to meet with Highways to discuss this further. Clerk to arrange.

13. Feltwell in Bloom Monthly Update – Clerk circulated letter from FiB requesting permission to place planters on (1) the grassed area of Old Methwold Road/Lodge Road junction and (2) on the island at Oak Street/Wilton Road/Bell Street junction. Mrs Peckham said both sites were unsuitable as (1) was a historical site and should be kept neat and tidy and (2) raised public safety concerns. Extreme concern had been expressed during Public Speaking regarding the state of the existing flowerbeds on Bell Street and Mulberry Close which contained dead flowers and were extremely untidy. The Councillors agreed and similar comments had been seen on the village Facebook page. The letter also outlined plans to plant at further locations around the village, owned by Highways, which raised more concerns. Mr Lambert said the village was starting to look a mess and felt the four new planters should only be given to FiB on the proviso that they replace the existing flowerbeds which he said were disgraceful. Mr Fenn agreed and said the Parish Council had never been consulted on the flowerbeds made from skirting board. Mrs Wilson felt Highways should be made aware of the state of the current flowerbeds, which were not being maintained, before further locations are considered. Chair proposed refusing FiB permission to put planters at areas (1) and (2) as stated above and advising them that the four planters would only be provided if they were to replace existing flowerbeds, and writing to Highways to express concerns for proposals to plant at other locations when existing flowerbeds were not maintained, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour. Clerk to write to FiB and Highways.

14. CIL Project Funding – Ongoing. Chair will obtain prices for war memorial work and church clockface in time to submit a funding application in July.

15. Damaged Streetlight at Curtis Drive – Clerk said £250 excess had been reclaimed.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

16. Iron Bridge & Track – Clerk wrote to the landowners (South Yorkshire Pension Fund) and main users of the bridge (Waldersey Farms, G's Growers and G C Fields) to arrange a meeting with Highways, the Parish Council and Anchor Ward residents but had heard nothing back from any of them. Mr Lambert did not believe any party would attend a meeting and could not see what more the Parish Council could do since this was a private matter. All agreed.

17. Memorial Bench High Street – Clerk said HW Coatings had kindly offered to powder-coat the bench free of charge, only charging £50 to cover the cost of the black paint, and would collect and return. Adrian Maltster had quoted £60 + VAT to powder coat in black paint and C&D Motors would not spray paint the bench since it would not be durable enough. Chair said Mr Storey would like the bench painted in existing colours of black and gold so thought the gold would have to be painted at a later date. Mrs Bane proposed HW Coatings carry out the work at £50, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour. Clerk to contact HW Coatings.

18. Playing Field Pedestrian Gate – Chair said the latch was still present and although part of the bottom of the gate had lost its spring, it could still be closed and a child would not be able to open it. Mrs Bane felt that if it could continue to be used then it was good enough and could be looked at again if complaints were received. All agreed.

19. Feltwell Community Group – Defibrillator, Outdoor Gym Equipment & Donation Request – **Defibrillator:** Clerk confirmed delivery and said a member of FCG was trying to obtain a good rate for installation by a local electrician. Mrs Peckham said the installer must be able to provide certification. **Gym Equipment:** Incorrect sign and missing rivet were replaced so cheque was sent.

20. Gritting – Chair to obtain grit bin costs.

21. Highways – Clerk said Pauline Harding had instructed her to report defects via the Norfolk County Council website and that Highways did not deal with moles. Mrs Peckham asked if the Clerk could enquire the time limit from white-lining to work being carried out as some areas had been white-lined for weeks and were getting worse.

22. Vodafone – Clerk said installation was actually 31/1/23.

23. Internal Auditor Quotations – Clerk said TWR Accountants quoted £350 + VAT and Wheelers £600 + VAT. She had contacted several Clerks who were internal auditors but heard nothing back and from past experience, the hourly rates amounted to almost the same cost as TWR and the auditor had to carry out the work at the Clerk's home which she wasn't comfortable with. Mrs Bane proposed TWR Accountants undertake the internal audit, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour.

24. Grass Maintenance Contract Quotations – Clerk said five quotations were received ranging from £3770 + VAT to £7030 + VAT. Mr Lambert had concerns with the contractor quoting the cheapest price as he said he intended to do all cuts with a lawnmower. He said TOP Garden, the second cheapest at £4330.80 + VAT had done an excellent job last season and Mrs Peckham agreed although said clarification was needed on their quotation which was not exactly to the specification. Chair proposed accepting TOP Garden's quotation at £4330.80 + VAT provided confirmation that work would be carried out to specification was obtained, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour.

25. Request for a Memorial Bench on Chequers Green – Mrs Denise Fox, a family member of a recently deceased long-standing resident, Michael Banham, had asked if his family could purchase a memorial bench to be placed on Chequers Green. Mr Lambert proposed accepting this request and paying for the street licence, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Mrs Fox will supply the Clerk with a plan of where the bench will be situated and said the family would pay for the concrete base to be laid as well. Clerk to apply for street licence once plan is received.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

26. Warren Energy Community Fund 2023 – Clerk said this fund is open and deadline is 30/4/23. Mrs Peckham felt another bench could be purchased for the playing field. Clerk to obtain price.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 27. Police Connect – Emails – No issues relating to Feltwell
- 28. NCC – Emails – High-rise residential buildings target of new Fire Safety Regulations, £50K scheme will help communities install life-saving defibrillators in West Norfolk; Wilton Road closure 13/2/23-31/5/23 for 7 weeks for footway reconstruction
- 29. BCKLWN – Emails - Local Plan examination hearings adjourned; Council Tax proposals to be considered this month; Information for parish councils: elections & community oil buying
- 30. RAF Lakenheath – Email – Explosive Training 27/1/23 - 4 detonations 0900-1300 hrs
- 31. Norfolk & Waveney Health & Care Partnership – Updates; Your views on local services
- 32. Community Action Norfolk – Emails - Jobs
- 33. Rural Services Network – Emails – Bulletins; Cost of Living Survey
- 34. QEH King's Lynn: Email - Modernising Our Hospital Newsletter - January 2023
- 35. Walking in England – Email – Promotion
- 36. AA Defibs – Email – Promotion of defibrillators, cabinets & fittings
- 37. TWR Accountants – Email – February Newsletter & Tax Tips
- 38. NBB Plastic Recycled Furniture – Email – Product promotion
- 39. Sovereign – Email – Online brochure
- 40. Age UK – Email – ‘How You Can Help’
- 41. Sports & Play Consulting – Email - Supporting Councils with new playgrounds/sports facilities
- 42. Brochures - Parish Magazine

- 43. **CHEQUES** – Mrs Bane proposed approving the February payments, Mr Fenn seconded, all in favour. Cheques signed for the following:- J Martin £100.40, S Sargent £100.75, T George £40.00, K&M Lighting £100.21, S Green Shotblasting £300.00, R H Landscapes £540.00, Cash £50.00, Anglian Water £147.00. Direct Debits to Biffa £209.40, EDF Energy £150.10, NPower £1244.09 & URM £17.28. Standing Order to J Martin £955.50. Clerk is still chasing NPower for EBRS credit.

44. PLANNING

22/01686/CU – Retrospective application to change 4-bedroom property from residential to commercial, to use 4th bedroom and garage to run a dog grooming salon at 17 Fairfield Way:
All in favour – NO OBJECTIONS.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 45. Highways – Mrs Wilson said Southery Road was becoming very dangerous again. Mr Lambert said leaves needed clearing along Hill Street and the whole road from Lodge Road junction with B1112 needed resurfacing up to the Cranwich junction near Weeting as it was extremely dangerous. Clerk had reported a deep dip in the pavement outside 1 Curtis Drive and would report these other matters to Highways.
- 46. Litter Picking – Clerk had been contacted by resident Mike Guy, volunteering to litter pick areas not covered by the litter picker. Everyone thought this was a very kind gesture.
- 47. Allotment Enquiry – Chair said a Ukrainian family were about to rent an allotment and asked if this could be let free of charge. All in favour in principle.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th March 2023 at the British Legion.
Meeting declared closed 8.58 pm.