

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

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cock, Cole, Fenn, Lambert, Rayner and Storey, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson. Also present 3 members of the public and RAF Commander Geary (arrived 7.25 pm)

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs Bane and Mrs McGeeney.

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: Mr Storey declared an interest in Item 15 and Mr Cole in Items 21 and 24.

MINUTES: Mrs Peckham said she had abstained from the vote under Minute 1775 Item 13. Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting were amended accordingly and then approved. Mr Lambert proposed, Mrs Arnold seconded, 6 in favour, Mr Storey abstained having not been present.

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

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – The RAF Commander apologised for not being able to attend previous meetings. He said teams at Lakenheath were keen to help with any community events planned for the King's Coronation, particularly on the Bank Holiday Monday. Mrs Peckham asked if there were any plans for a delivery point at Feltwell Base following the installation of one at Lakenheath Gate 2 entrance. RAF Commander would investigate. He said the Strategic Team are putting pressure on NCC Highways to repair local roads. RAF Commander departed the meeting at 7.34 pm.

2. **Risk Assessment** – **Weekly:** No issues reported by Handyman. Mr Lambert fixed the shuttering on the Changing Room serving hatch. Quarterly inspection report was carried out 6/3/23 and most items were either Low Risk or Very Low Risk. Clerk has forwarded a copy to the Handyman and Mrs Peckham asked if he could fix items where possible such as the loose bin liner, bushes and chain on the Multiplay. Mr Lambert said the turf had taken in places but other areas probably needed to be seeded. **Benches:** Clerk circulated three prices for a wheelchair-friendly bench, all made from recycled plastic, Mr Storey proposed purchasing from NBB Recycled Furniture which was the most price competitive at £445 + VAT, Mr Fenn seconded, all in favour. Clerk to place order and purchase two fixing kits at £5.50 each.

3. **Balance Sheet** – No queries.

4. **Allotment Pest Control** – Reports received for March as well as Contractor's yearly report.

5. **NALC** – Newsletters circulated. Mr Storey gave information on the County Deal in his report.

6. **Cllr Martin Storey Report** – Mr Storey gave a brief report from NCC and Borough Council budget meetings and said further information was on the websites. NCC's budget includes a net spending increase of £29.6m to meet rising costs and a council tax increase in line with the Government's cap of 4.99% – 2.99% for general council tax and 2% for the adult social care precept, increasing a Band D property rate payer by £75.69 a year or £1.47/week. The Borough Council are one of the lowest charging shire district councils in the county. NCC have agreed a deal in principle with the government that would result in over £600m in funding that could unlock opportunities to deliver more jobs, housing and investment, with major powers and funding

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

transferred from Westminster to Norfolk. This is known as the 'County Deal' which is in its first stage of many and a public consultation is open until 23/3/23 for Norfolk residents to have their say with a decision expected mid-December. Chair asked for an update on the roundels for Wilton Road and Lodge Road which Mr Storey said had been delayed due to the number of potholes created by freezing temperatures but will be installed in the next financial year. Mrs Peckham questioned this, stating the roundels were being funded by Mr Storey's Road Safety Community Budget this financial year but he assured her the roundels were still being installed, just later than expected due to other emergency work taking precedence. Mrs Wilson advised Mr Storey that Old Methwold Road/Munsons Lane, an area which he had allocated a substantial amount of funding to combat flooding, was building up with water. Chair said drains here had been recently cleared but this had made no difference. Mr Storey will ask Andy Wallace to take a look.

7. Playing Field Boundary Wall – Clerk read email from the owners stating they would arrange a meeting with a specialist and the Parish Council upon their return to the UK in May. Mr Lambert felt the Parish Council's insurance company must also instruct a specialist to inspect the wall prior to the meeting with the owners as the Leylandii trees that run all the way along it and the loose copings are totally unrelated to the tree stump. Clerk to contact insurance company. It was agreed to make it clear to the owners at the meeting that future communication must be through the council's insurance company.

8. Changing Rooms – All okay as of 9/3/23 but the cleaner will continue to monitor.

9. Highways – Clerk had heard nothing from Jason Moorse despite chasing him but following a phone call to Mark Sharman earlier in the day, Andy Wallace advised the path outside 2 Oak Street was being sided out in April. Mr Storey said the top of Southery Road was being resurfaced in 3-4 weeks' time which he felt was a waste of money unless the most dangerous parts were repaired and it was being inspected this week or next. Mr Lambert reiterated his concern regarding the dangerous condition of the B1112 from Lodge Road junction up to the Cranwich junction near Weeting which Clerk had logged on the NCC website. Still no response re timescale for repair from white lining.

10. Doctor's Surgery Car Park – Practice Manager had enquired expiry date of lease which Clerk advised was 5th October 2025. Practice Manager had further enquired notice period which Clerk said, according to the contract, was six months provided the annual rent had been paid. Mr Lambert felt a meeting should be arranged with the partners to ascertain if there was an issue and/or what their intentions are and Mr Storey agreed stating the loss of the surgery for the sake of the rent, if that were the contention, would be devastating for residents. Clerk to arrange a meeting.

11. Parking on Grass – Mr Storey said he had not seen any vehicle parking here lately but Chair said he had seen the resident's work van there at least three times in the last week. It was agreed to monitor the situation and if the vehicle continued to park there then the resident would need to be spoken to. Mr Lambert said he had received a complaint about the grass being churned up by vehicles parking on the grass when posting letters at Wilton Road although the Chair said the main cause of this was vehicles belonging to a nearby resident. Mrs Peckham said the verge had also been churned up just past the bus shelter which was thought to have been caused by buses. Chair proposed writing to local bus companies who utilise this bus stop, asking them to refrain from doing this, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour. Clerk to write to local bus companies.

12. Overhanging Greenery – Andy Wallace had contacted the Clerk earlier that day and was happy to meet with Mrs Peckham this week to look at the hedge belonging to 50 Wilton Road. Clerk to arrange mutually convenient time.

13. Feltwell in Bloom Monthly Update – Clerk read out reply from FiB stating they had immediately responded to public concerns about the flowerbeds, and flowers had been left in situ as

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

the soil was still frozen deep down. Dead leaves had been left to protect the bulbs and annuals. During Public Speaking, a resident asked if anything was happening with the second Memorial Bench that had been discussed at a previous meeting and suggested one of the new planters could be put beside it on one of the grassed areas at the entrance to Newcombe Drive.

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

15. Memorial Bench High Street – Mr Lambert said HW Coatings were delivering the bench to him tomorrow evening. Mr Storey said he would like the lettering to be painted gold and would pay for this if necessary. As no-one knew any companies who could undertake specialist painting of the gold lettering, Mrs Peckham suggested posting a request on the village Facebook page. Clerk to put up Facebook post. Mr Lambert said he would prefer not to house the bench indefinitely and Mr Storey said he could collect it from him. Mrs Peckham said the concrete base needed cleaning before the bench was re-installed.

16. Feltwell Community Group – Defibrillator, Outdoor Gym Equipment & Donation Request – Defibrillator: Clerk read out three quotations for defibrillator installation at the Social Club. It was queried whether the quotations actually included the installation of the unit as well as connecting to a power supply. Chair proposed accepting J Gooch Electrical's quotation of £165.19 + VAT on the basis that installation of the unit was included, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. Clerk to query price with J Gooch Electrical and if installation is included will instruct them to carry out this work. Chair felt another defibrillator should be purchased via the BCKLWN £50K funding scheme for defibrillators and had spoken to London Hearts who were involved with it. The defibrillator cost is £1251.00 including an external heated cabinet and a grant of up to £1000 could be applied for. Chair had spoken to R H Lindsays who were happy to house the defibrillator on an outside wall and had also offered to pay associated electric costs. Mr Storey said this was very good of them and proposed applying for a grant for a defibrillator via the scheme and the Parish Council to pay the balance of £251, Mr Cock seconded, all in favour. Chair to make application.

17. Gritting – Chair will obtain grit bin costs in the summer as he thought prices would be cheaper.

18. Grass Maintenance Contract Quotations – Clerk said TOP Garden had confirmed their quotation was to specification supplied.

19. Request for a Memorial Bench on Chequers Green – Clerk had not heard from Mrs Fox but Mr Cole thought it should be recorded that the family would maintain the bench.

20. Warren Energy Community Fund 2023 – Clerk read out prices for various benches ranging from £600-£700. Clerk to apply for funding.

21. Allotment Enquiry – Mrs Wilson proposed ratifying the decision to let an allotment to a Ukrainian family free of charge, Mr Storey seconded, 6 in favour, Mr Cole declared an interest and abstained.

22. Consider Quotations for the Annual Operational Inspection of Play Equipment – Clerk obtained three quotations. Mrs Peckham proposed Wicksteed carry out the annual inspection being the most cost competitive at £120 + VAT, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Clerk to contact Wicksteed.

23. Consider Year 6 Prom Committee Request – Clerk read email from the Year 6 Prom Committee requesting a donation towards their cause in return for a litter pick. Mrs Peckham said Crabbes Close and areas around Green Lane needed clearing. Mr Cock proposed donating £100 as in previous years, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. Clerk to write to Year 6 Prom Committee.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

24. Review Allotment Terms of Reference – No amendments therefore Chair proposed readopting Allotment Terms of Reference, Mr Storey seconded, 6 in favour, Mr Cole abstained.

25. Review Financial Regulations – No amendments therefore Mrs Peckham proposed Financial Regulations be readopted, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour.

26. Consider Date Amendment of April Parish Council Meeting – Chair said the April Parish Council meeting date falls on a Bank Holiday and as this was also the case for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, both scheduled for 8th May, Chair felt all meetings should be moved back a week. Chair proposed moving the date of the April Parish Council Meeting, Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to the third Monday of the month (17th April and 15th May respectively) and continuing the 7.00 pm commencement time until the June Parish Council meeting, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

28. NCC – Emails – **Press Releases:** Have your say on county deal; **Traffic Orders:** Emergency closure of Sedge Fen Road, Southery 20/2/23-10/3/23 for accommodation works; **Other:** Norwich Western Link project update and introduction from Cllr Graham Plant

29. BCKLWN – Emails - Becoming a Councillor; Prosperity Funding for West Norfolk; County Deal for Norfolk - events and engagement; Further information on photo ID drop-in sessions; Planning Committee Notification – 6/3/23; Property rate invoice for Changing Rooms (nil)

30. RAF Lakenheath – Email – Notification of operations: 16/2/23, Explosive training, 11 detonations 0900-1400 hrs; 8/3/23, Emergency destructions, approx 2 detonations 1400-1630 hrs.

31. Biffa – Letter – Transfer Note

32. Norfolk & Waveney Health & Care Partnership – Updates

33. Rural Services Network – Emails – Bulletins; Fantastic Response to Cost of Living Survey

34. Zurich Municipal – Email – When were your buildings last valued?

35. Walking in England – Email – Promotion

36. London Hearts – Email – Council defibrillator grant funding

37. NBB Plastic Recycled Furniture – Email - Shelters

38. EDF Energy – Email - Curious what's driven recent energy prices? New insights, here!

39. Wireless CCTV – Email – Promotion

40. Action Play & Leisure – Email – Promotion

41. Creative Play – Email - New King's Coronation playground package

42. Brochures - Parish Magazine, Clerks & Councils Direct

43. **CHEQUES** – Mr Lambert proposed approving the March payments, Mr Fenn seconded, all in favour. Cheques signed for the following:- J Martin £67.50, S Sargent £72.25, T George £80.00, K&M Lighting £100.21, J Rolph £150.00, L&R Enefer £96.00, BCKLWN £936.00. Direct Debits to Biffa £207.09, EDF Energy £157.33, NPower £1085.05, Vodafone £54.21. Standing Order to J Martin £955.50. Clerk is still chasing NPower for EBRs credit.

44. PLANNING

22/00860/FM: Demolition of existing buildings and construction of new buildings in connection with pig finishing provision and other associated works. at Feltwell Farm, Lodge Road (Amended) – 6 in favour, Mr Cole, Mrs Peckham & Mr Storey abstained. NO OBJECTION but it must be stressed that traffic must not utilise Old Methwold Road as an access or egress from site.

44. PLANNING (CONT)

22/00866/FM: Demolition of existing poultry sheds, construction of 20 new poultry sheds, 4 workers dwellings and associated infrastructure at Airfield/Methwold Farm, Brandon Road, Methwold – 6 in favour, Mr Cole, Mrs Peckham & Mr Storey abstained. NO OBJECTION but again, it must be stressed that traffic must not utilise Old Methwold Road as an access or egress from site.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

45. Highways – Junction of The Beck with Oak Street is broken up and white lines need renewing. Potholes along Glebe Road need attention. Flooding outside the Base entrance on Long Lane from fire hydrants is still occurring.

46. Stuart Samuels – Mr Samuels requested permission for the Annual Anglo-American Car/Bike Show, usually held at the primary school, to be held on the playing field on 20th May 2023. He would donate entrance fees of £2 per person (Under 16's free) to the Parish Council or Community Group. Last year's event entrance fees amounted to approx. £1400 and were donated to other village groups. The event will be policed by US servicemen. Mr Samuels said he would only require use of the toilets in the Changing Rooms. Mrs Peckham asked how he intended to charge entrance fees to a public space to which he replied that the fee was more in the way of a donation. All Councillors were in favour so it was agreed in principle to grant Mr Samuel's permission – to be ratified at the next meeting. Mr Samuels thanked the Parish Council for this.

47. Elections – Clerk reminded Parish Councillors that the deadline for submission of nomination papers was 4 pm on 4/4/23.

48. Barclays Bank Mildenhall Closure – Notification received that the Mildenhall branch is closing 14/6/23. Clerk said she only uses the bank for paying in cash received from allotment rents and withdrawing petty cash. Mrs Peckham said the Social Club pay in cash at the Post Office by using a card and will find out more. She said the Clerk could submit an expense for petty cash in future which the Clerk said she was happy to do.

49. Oak Garden Wall – Cracks are appearing in the brickwork which need investigating.

50. Rangers – Clerk said Rangers will be in the village in April and asked to be notified of any work

51. Feltwell Community Group – Mrs Wilson said the group are organising a 'Picnic in the Park' at the playing field to celebrate the King's Coronation on Sunday 7th May in line with official guidelines and the village fete would take place on Saturday 17th June, and said any offers of help would be gratefully received.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 17th April 2023 at the British Legion.
Meeting declared closed 9.15 pm.

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

- 22/02245/RMM - Reserved Matters planning application with some matter reserved following outline consent 21/01580/FM: Proposed hybrid for the proposed Bexwell to Bury St Edmunds Pipeline Scheme with full planning consent sought for a proposed 70 kilometre pipeline and associated above ground infrastructure at Gazeley, Isleham and Woodditton; and outline consent for above ground infrastructure at Bexwell, Kentford Ladys Green and Red with all matters reserved except access at Drain From Bexwell To Bury St Edmunds 562498 303555 Norfolk – No comment.