

MINUTE 197 (Annual Parish)

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 9th MAY 2022 at the British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.00 pm. Accounts on show.

COUNCILLOR'S PRESENT: - Messrs Rayner (Chair), Cock, Cole, Fenn, Lambert and Storey, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Bane, Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson. Also present 13 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: No apologies were received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 6th May 2021 were approved. Mr Lambert proposed, Mr Cole seconded, 5 in favour, Mrs Arnold, Mr Cock, Mr Fenn and Mr Storey abstained as they were not present at that meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

CHARITY ACCOUNTS – Clerk gave report of Rawlins Charity: In 2021, 25 donations of £10 were made plus £10 to the church – total of £260. Balances @ 31.3.22 were £1414.82 COIF Deposit and £22.63 Barclays, a total of £1437.45. Mrs Bane proposed the accounts are accepted, Mrs Wilson seconded, all agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Members of the public were invited to speak.

1. **Feltwell in Bloom (FiB)** – Mrs Clements, Secretary of FiB, said FiB had been granted a Highways Licence on 2/4/22 permitting them to dig plant beds at various areas around Feltwell. She asked two questions; why had FiB been asked by the council to delay works until tonight's meeting and why the council was reluctant to talk to them directly and namely to Highways. Chair responded stating that he had spoken to Andrew Wallace of Highways to ascertain which areas were to be planted and who would be responsible for them should FiB disband. Mrs Peckham said that if FiB disbanded, it would be the council who would receive any complaints and all that was requested from Highways was confirmation on which areas were to be planted as the plan submitted in January was for planters which could easily be moved if this happened. She said as yet, the council had not had a response from Highways and were not even aware that a licence had been granted. Mrs Clements said the licence requires FiB to return the areas to their original state should they disband and suggested FiB submit a twice-yearly report on their project to avoid future confusion or frustration. Mr Lambert felt the council should be contacted when FiB wished to pursue a different idea, stressing the council did not want to stop them proceeding, only to be kept informed. Mr Wilkinson, Chairman of FiB, asked if the council would like a copy of the plan they submitted to Highways in January together with grid references of the areas they are targeting and Mr Lambert said this would be very helpful. Mr Wilkinson said the plan would not differ from that submitted as they would need to apply for another licence for that to happen. Mr Storey said that the council try to act in the best interest of residents and as such, when ideas come forward, it is nice to be kept informed so that the community as a whole can move forward together. Mrs Wilson volunteered to be the point of contact for the FiB group to make this process easier and Mrs Clements thought this was a good idea. Clerk to forward Mrs Wilson's contact details to Mrs Clements.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (CONT)

2. Fly-Tipping – Resident expressed his disgust at 37 tyres being dumped along Old Brandon Road over the weekend. He said these would have travelled on a low-loader and asked if it was worth the council asking the Doctor's Surgery to install CCTV which would capture vehicles like this in future. Chair said he was not clear on the legalities of this since it would cover public highway land but would look into it. The resident believed GDPR rules would allow the Parish Council to look at the CCTV footage. Mr Storey said fly-tipping is high on the agendas of both the Borough Council and Norfolk County Council which he hoped would make some improvements to this issue.

3. Bollards – Resident circulated photos of vehicles parked around the village on Borough Council land and a plan received from Highways of recent works carried out in front of her property on Old Methwold Road, part of which stated that bollards had been moved just 1ft to prevent parking on the kerb. She said she would like to know who complained about the parking and why, because she believed the money could have been better spent on other areas in the village where parking really was an issue. Mr Storey stated that NCC granted £10,000 a year for County Councillors to spend on small highway improvements in the division they represent which for him included 16 parishes. He ascertains with all his parish councils the projects they feel the money should be spent on and then meets with Andrew Wallace to work out the best way for money to be spent, being mindful of the fact that this was tax-payers money. The flooding on Old Methwold Road had been reported on several occasions so £3000 was allocated towards this issue. The resident said no extra drainage had been installed and asked why money had been spent on moving the bollards which had no impact on the flooding. Mr Storey said the scheme is designed by Highways and that it was Mr Wallace who recommended moving the bollards. Mr Storey advised the resident to contact Mr Wallace which she said she had done and he informed her that moving the bollards was purely to prevent parking here. The resident said the work had not stopped the flooding and therefore the money had been wasted. Mr Storey advised the resident to contact him if the area floods again and he will advise Mr Wallace.

4. Parking on Grassed Areas – Resident expressed his anger about vehicles parking on grassed areas around the village, stating six vehicles were parked along Wilton Road at the weekend. Mr Storey said this issue often arises but Highways are reluctant to do anything about it. Another resident asked if an accident needed to happen before something is done and asked if Mr Storey could pose this question to Highways. Mrs Peckham said the Parish Council had raised this matter with Highways numerous times over the years and believed that until there was an accident, they would do nothing, adding that vehicles parking on these areas was preferable to them parking on the highway. She said the council found this very frustrating but their hands were tied because neither Highways nor the Police do anything about it. Mr Lambert said he and the Chair had met with Highways to look at these areas but were told they had no jurisdiction to do anything. Mrs Peckham encouraged residents to contact Highways directly as this may have more impact. Mr Cock said residents should bear in mind that no vehicle had been parked illegally whether this be on Highway grass or pavements therefore it was not a Police issue. He said most people park where they can and although parking along Oak Street is an issue, it is not illegal so people might just have to tolerate it.

Meeting declared closed at 7.45 pm.
