

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 12th day of JUNE 2023 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cole, Fenn, Lambert, Rayner and Storey, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Bane, Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson. Also present 9 members of the public and RAF Commander Geary.

APOLOGIES: None.

The Chair began the meeting by stating that he had just been informed he was under investigation for breach of the Members Code of Conduct. Mrs Peckham asked if he wished to continue to chair the meeting to which he replied he did not therefore Mr Storey proposed Mr Lambert, as Vice-Chair, take the chair, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Mr Lambert took the chair.

The Chair asked if anyone was recording the meeting and a negative response was received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Mrs Wilson declared an interest in Item 24 and Mrs Peckham in Item 27.

MINUTES: Mrs Wilson said she had not been present at the meeting with the loss adjusters as stated in Item 7. All agreed. Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting were amended accordingly and then approved. Mrs Fenn proposed, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The meeting was suspended for 10 minutes for Public Speaking.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – The RAF Commander reported several Bank Holidays throughout May had disrupted the flying program however in addition to routine currency and competency training sorties, 48FW aircraft was deployed on Ex Arctic Challenge. He then presented a cheque for £453.54 for remaining funds raised by the disbanded RAF Lakenheath British American Committee which members asked to be gifted to local Parish Councils to be used to further integrate the USVF community with local communities surrounding the station. The Chair thanked the RAF Commander for this donation. RAF Commander departed the meeting at 7.55 pm.

2. **Risk Assessment** – **Weekly:** Clerk said Glasdon had advised bin was irreparable and was asked to obtain quotations to replace like for like. Loose sign near the skate park entrance needed re-fixing. Clerk to contact Handyman. Clerk said the racist graffiti on the skate park which occurred during the weekend of 6th/7th May was being investigated by the Police. No other issues reported.

3. **Balance Sheet** – No queries.

4. **Allotment Pest Control** – No report for June as yet.

5. **NALC** – Newsletters circulated.

6. **Cllr Martin Storey Report** – Mr Storey spoke of his joy that the campaign to replace the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn had been successful and said the project should be finished by 2030. Following the elections, he will remain on the Planning Committee and the BC's new leader is Mr Terry Parish, further information was available on the website. He praised the Clerk for keeping councillors and members of the public well informed of various grants and funding available. He then said he had had many enjoyable experiences over the years serving in his roles of County Councillor, Borough Councillor and Parish Councillor and felt councillors always conducted themselves in the proper and correct manner to the best of their ability.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

7. Playing Field Boundary Wall – Clerk had circulated report from loss adjusters prior to the meeting and Mrs Peckham said the owners should now be invited to attend a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss a way forward. All agreed. Clerk to write to owners.

8. Changing Rooms – Clerk said J Gooch Electrical had looked at the door and a new one could be purchased for £55.99 + VAT. He had not been able to open it but said if a whole new unit was required, this would cost approx. £700 + VAT to supply, fit and connect. Clerk to meet him on site to assess whether a new unit is required.

9. Highways – Email received from Andy Wallace stating he would chase the owner of 2 Oak Street for a start date. Clerk to clarify this as he had previously said the work was issued to the contractor.

10. Doctor's Surgery Car Park – Mr Storey had not yet contacted the Practice Manager.

11. Overhanging Greenery – Still no update from Andy Wallace regarding overgrowing hedge at 50 Wilton Road despite the Clerk chasing several times. Clerk to contact Jay Moorose. Greenery at 53 High Street has been cut back.

12. Feltwell in Bloom Monthly Update – FiB had advised the Clerk the three strips were actually one strip divided into three to form pathways for dog-walkers to safeguard the plantings. Mr Rayner said the planters were delivered to FiB last weekend and they had asked for thanks to be passed on to the council. Mrs Peckham said the two planters at the Oakfields entrance looked lovely.

13. CIL Project Funding – Ongoing. Chair to obtain prices for war memorial work and church clockface for July round of funding.

14. Memorial Bench High Street – Mr Storey said Mr Lambert's daughter-in-law, Danielle, had made a superb job of painting the gold lettering and both Mr Storey and Mr Lambert thanked Mr Samuels who was present for his advice and donating the paint. Mr Samuels said The Wellington had paid for the paint and Mr Storey asked the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to them. Mr Lambert said his son, Andrew, would like to install the bench but the council would have to purchase special bolts for securing it to the concrete pad. Mrs McGeeney proposed Andrew Lambert install the bench and the council purchase the bolts, Mr Fenn seconded, 7 in favour, Mr Storey declared an interest and abstained. Mr Samuels said he would provide the chlorine crystals to clean the pad which he would undertake himself and Councillors thanked him for this.

15. Defibrillator – Clerk had obtained three quotations for the installation of the defibrillator; S Walker Electrical Services £120 + VAT, J Gooch Electrical Services £380 + VAT and CTE Electrical £595 + VAT. Both J Gooch and CTE had stated preliminary electrical work would need to be carried out so that the defibrillator could be installed safely and their quotations reflected this. Mr Storey proposed accepting S Walker quotation at £120 + VAT, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Clerk to inform all parties.

16. Grass Maintenance Contract Quotations – Mrs Peckham said she was not at all happy with the contractor's work at the playing field and felt the Clerk should meet with the owner before further work is carried out on Wednesday morning. All agreed. Mr Lambert said he had met the owner last month following a complaint about the churchyard which was in a disgraceful state. Mr Storey felt the contractor should not be paid if work was not up to standard. Clerk to arrange meeting with the owner and Mrs Wilson said she would also attend.

17. Request for a Memorial Bench on Chequers Green – Nothing further but Mrs Bane said she had been informed by a family member that they were looking into various styles of benches.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

18. Warren Energy Community Fund 2023 – Clerk said £500 had been awarded for a new bench which Mrs Peckham said could sit on the grass so a concrete pad would not be required, all agreed. Clerk had circulated prices at the time of the application and Mrs Bane proposed purchasing a four-seater bench, Mrs Peckham seconded, all in favour.

19. Anglo-American Car Show (Stuart Samuels) – During Public Speaking, Mr Samuels thanked the council for use of the playing field for this event and announced the amount raised of £1822.45 would be donated to the council to spend on the playing field. He requested use of the field again for next year's event on 18th May 2024 and Mrs Peckham proposed permission for this in principle, stating the field was left in an impeccable condition, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Councillors thanked Mr Samuels for this donation.

20. Barclays Bank Mildenhall Closure – Clerk had ordered the deposit card from Barclays.

21. Oak Garden Wall – Clerk said MWM (Anglia) would carry out the work in the next week.

22. Rangers – Clerk still awaiting report from April visit and said July visit is now scheduled. Mr Lambert said no work had been carried out on Hill Street and Mrs Peckham said the pathway from Paynes Lane to High Street had not been swept either. Clerk to submit work again including pruning of greenery on Moat Side. Mr Lambert said weed spraying had been done and asked Mr Storey why a hormone chemical had been used. Mr Storey will investigate.

23. Streetlight Contract Renewal – Clerk said NPower were refunding £17338.21 which they had taken in error via two direct debits however this did include an ERBS payment of £625.26.

24. Feltwell Community Group (FCG) – Mrs Wilson said preparations were coming together for the fete and looked forward to seeing the Councillors there.

25. Bus Shelters – Clerk read out specifications from Mr Sparkle, Breckland Industrial and Locus Cleaning. Mr Storey proposed Mr Sparkle carry out the work at £80, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Clerk to contact Mr Sparkle.

26. Float for Parade – Mr Storey said he would be unable to tow the float so Mrs McGeeney would try to find someone else.

27. Second Memorial Bench – Clerk asked four companies to quote for installing a concrete pad to the same spec as WW1 bench but was only contacted by two; Jamie Harris quoted £385 but would be unable to undertake the work until September and Peckham's Construction quoted £400 + VAT. Mrs Bane said the work needed to be carried out before September and proposed accepting Peckham's Construction quotation at £400 + VAT, Mrs Wilson seconded, 7 in favour, Mrs Peckham abstained. Mr Rayner said he had applied for a street licence and Clerk will add the bench to the insurance schedule.

28. Recycling Claim – Clerk said a credit had been received of £380.16.

29. Audit – Approve Accounts – Clerk advised internal audit had been completed. Chair read out the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements which were accepted as correct. Mrs McGeeney proposed, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. The form was then duly signed.

30. Casual Vacancy & Appointment of Internal Drainage Board Representative – Casual vacancy to be discussed in closed session. Borough Council had advised the Clerk that appointments to outside bodies such as the IDB would be made at their meeting on 13th July and would advise any vacancies after this.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

31. Highways – Clerk questioned whether the letter to 19 Wilton Road should be sent during nesting season and it was agreed to write after next month's meeting. Mrs Peckham felt residents should be made aware of NCC's reduced regime of weed spraying only once a year unlike two or three in previous years. Clerk to advise via village Facebook page and Parish Magazine. Mrs Peckham said someone had filled the potholes at the top of Paynes Lane with muck. Mrs Peckham asked Mr Storey when the 30mph and 40mph roundels would be painted as Andy Wallace had said this would be when white-lining starts in April. Mr Storey will enquire.

32. Road Closures – **Long Lane 22/5/23-17/6/23:** Clerk said she had persisted with the request to keep one side of the road open but the Highways Engineer had refused this on contractor safety grounds. Mr Storey said the road would be open this Friday but more thought must be given to the timing of future highway repairs in Feltwell to prevent the considerable inconvenience caused by recent repairs all taking place in succession. Chair thanked Mr Storey and the Clerk for their time spent pushing for the road to remain open. Mrs Peckham understood the inconvenience of the road closures but said the village had waited over four years for the works to be carried out which have at last been completed.

33. To Consider Residents' Concerns Regarding Hill Street Junction with St Mary's Street/The Beck and Speeding Along The Beck – **Hill St Junction with St Mary's St:** Email was read out from a concerned resident regarding vehicles not giving way at Hill Street junction. This issue had been raised with Highways before but Mrs Peckham felt the council should press for a STOP line here or perhaps consideration should be given to changing the structure of the junction. She also said white-lining needs renewing as it is almost non-existent. Chair suggested installing a sign along Hill Street before the junction to highlight it and advise The Beck was one way. Clerk to arrange visit with Highways. **The Beck:** Email was read out from the primary school about speeding and driving the wrong way along The Beck. Chair said the council cannot police either of these issues and suggested positioning the SAM2 further down. Mr Rayner said the SAM2 could only be sited in specific locations advised by NCC however he had spoken to the Headteacher and suggested approaching NCC about having another location along here but the problem was that verges are privately owned. Mrs Wilson suggested contacting the Police with both residents' concerns.

34. To Consider Parishioners' Request for Public Consultation on Planning Applications 22/00860/FM and 22/00866/FM if Re-Submitted – Mr Storey felt the public deserved a consultation which the applicant, Highways and all other organisations involved, to answer any questions. Mrs Peckham said the Planning Officer also ought to attend as the Parish Council had very little influence on planning applications. Mr Storey's understanding was that a new planning application was going to be submitted, probably in September, therefore the Parish Council would be consulted. Mrs Peckham said a public meeting should be held at that point, in conjunction with and hosted by Methwold Parish Council, so that an objective decision could be made on how to vote. Mr Rayner agreed and said this would ensure Methwold Parish Council obtains the same information. A member of the public considered it highly unlikely the Parish Council would be consulted again to which Mr Storey replied that he could only relay information received from the Case Officer and urged people to keep up to date with the planning application via the Borough Council website.

35. To Consider Playing Field Matters Raised in Email from Parishioner – Clerk read out email regarding safety concerns of playing field gate entrances including a Deadly Nightshade plant near one of them. Mrs Peckham stated both she and Mrs Bane had raised concerns about the entrance gates in the past and that two gates needed replacing. Chair agreed the gates needed to be looked at as children's safety was paramount. Mr Samuels was permitted to speak and suggested monies raised from the car show be allocated to this issue stating he would be happy to meet Councillors at the park the next day to assess what could be done. Chair thanked Mr Samuels and he, Mrs McGeeney and Mrs Wilson would attend. Chair will remove the Deadly Nightshade whilst he is there. In his email, the resident had also suggested installing a fence around the play area.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

Chair said years ago there had been a fence which was removed due to vandalism. Mrs Wilson and Mrs McGeeney felt a fence was necessary due to the number of children using the play area as it would give peace of mind knowing they were safe. Due to time constraints, Chair said the fence would be discussed further at the next meeting.

36. To Consider Resident's Enquiry re SAM2 Data – A request for SAM2 data was received from a resident which the Clerk had forwarded to Mr Rayner since he maintained the SAM2's. Mr Rayner replied he was unable to access the data since he used an Apple Mac system which was not compatible with SAM2 software. This information was relayed to the resident who suggested removing a statement from the website that stated data was available and then asked for contact details of local Police officers so she could make a formal Freedom of Information request. Mr Rayner said the Police had advised in the past that SAM2 data was unreliable but had contacted them for an update. He was advised by PC Jo Higgins that Norfolk Constabulary were unable to use SAM2 data for a number of reasons as the data isn't always an accurate reflection of the speed (the machines are not calibrated, devices are sometimes positioned in such a way that they detect speeds of vehicles beyond the speed limit, they take no account of authorised vehicles responding to emergencies, etc). However, the signs are extremely effective at slowing down the majority of 'absent-minded' speeders. Sadly, they do not have the resources to analyse the raw data, advising parish councils have to do that themselves but are always happy to receive an overview that can be used by the local Beat Manager and SNAP Panels as an indicator when deciding local priorities. She said generally speeding times are the same everywhere, school drop off and pick up, work start and end times, and went on to suggest the resident sets up a Community Speed Watch Group. The resident, who was present, said she would be happy to do this and Mr Rayner said he would furnish her with the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator details. Mr Rayner said he had purchased a laptop costing £178 enabling him to download SAM2 data and when he had downloaded this from the new machine a week ago, one vehicle had been recorded approaching Wilton Road from Hockwold at 78 mph, however he stressed no further details were given and this could have been an emergency vehicle. He would share the information but was unsure how effective it would be. The Chair proposed reimbursing Mr Rayner for monies spent on the laptop as he believed the ability to obtain this information was useful even if just top and average speeds were recorded, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour. Mr Rayner to submit his receipt.

37. Iron Bridge & Track – Anchor Ward – Mr Storey had requested re-opening this matter following Mr Field's indication that he would put money towards repairs if Anchor Ward residents and other users also contributed, and felt the council should write to Walderseys and G's again. Chair said there had been no response from Walderseys, Fields or G's when the Clerk had written to them in February so questioned how effective this would be. Mr Storey said the road is impassable for residents and the only way forward is for all parties to meet. Mr Storey said Highways would oversee the work if it were funded by all users and proposed writing to Walderseys and G's again, requesting they attend a meeting, and copying in the local MP, Liz Truss, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. Clerk to write to all parties, copying in Liz Truss MP. Mr Fenn felt all councillors should visit the bridge and track to assess its condition and all agreed.

At this point in the meeting, at 9.50 pm, Mrs Peckham proposed extending the meeting so that other matters on the agenda could be discussed, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour.

38. To Review Communication Methods – At the Annual Parish Meeting, the Parish Council was accused of not advertising planning applications 22/00860/FM and 22/00866/FM well enough. An email had been received after the meeting from a resident supporting these concerns. The resident was present at the meeting and had elaborated on this during Public Speaking. She felt planning applications could be better advertised and suggested adding links to planning applications via the agenda. Mrs Peckham said the links do not always work and Mr Rayner said a link to the Borough Council's planning portal where all applications could be viewed was already available on the

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

Parish Council's website. The Chair said he always used this method for viewing local planning applications. Mrs Peckham said all planning applications were also published in the Lynn News. Mrs Peckham suggested the Clerk advertise the Parish Council meeting every month via the Feltwell Village News Facebook page with a link to the agenda and previous month's minutes on the Parish Council's website.

CORRESPONDENCE

39. Police Connect – Emails – Circulated on receipt, none relating to Feltwell.
40. NCC – Emails – **Traffic Orders:** Emergency Closure of Lime Kiln Lane for Anglian Water works 17-25/5/23; Closure of Lodge Road from its junction with Old Methwold Road to its junction with Lynn Road for stud removal and installation works overnight 5-6/6/23 & 23-24/6/23; Temp 10mph speed restriction at Lodge Road for surface dressing works 12-14/6/23, **Press Release:** Flourish Awards launched
41. BCKLWN – Emails – CIL Project Funding Reminder Applications Open 1/7/23-1/8/23; **Press Release:** The Rural England Prosperity Fund
42. RAF Lakenheath – Email – **Notification of operations at RAF Feltwell:** 31/5/23 – Explosive Operations – 6 detonations 0730-1400 hrs, 8/6/23 – Explosive Training – 4 shots 0900-1400 hrs
40. Norfolk & Waveney Health & Care Partnership – Email – Updates
41. Rural Services Network – Email – Bulletins
42. Queen Elizabeth Hospital – Email – New Hospital Announcement
43. Anglian Water – Email – Pipeline Installation May 2023 Update
44. Sutton Parish Council – Email - Sutton (East Cambs District) Neighbourhood Plan Review – Pre-Submission Consultation (Regulation 14)
45. Brochures - Parish Magazine
46. **CHEQUES/PAYMENTS** – Mrs McGeeney proposed approving the payments, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour. Cheques signed for the following:- J Martin £226.96, S Sargent £83.50, T George £88.00, B Reeves £250.00, Norfolk Sound System £1020.00, TWR Accountants £420.00, David Ogilvie Engineering £1818.00. Direct Debits to Biffa £209.40, EDF Energy £41.20, SSE £1103.17, Vodafone £20.34. Standing Orders to K&M Lighting £100.21 and J Martin £1020.50.

47. PLANNING

23/00767/F: Single Storey Front Extension and Porch at 6A Newcombe Drive – No objections, 9 in favour, Mr Storey abstained – NO OBJECTION.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

48. Highways - Mrs Peckham said the Paynes Lane road sign outside the Social Club was missing.
49. Fence – Short Beck – Mr Cole said a fence on Short Beck was falling into the road.
50. Bench at Addisons Close – Clerk received email advising vandalism of this bench, Mr Cole had taken a look and said it needed attention. Mr Samuels kindly offered to repair it.
51. Behaviour - During Public Speaking, a resident said she had attended Parish Council meetings for many years and was appalled at the behaviour displayed at the Annual Parish Meeting by some members of the public, stating they showed no respect for the Parish Councillors. She felt Mr Rayner and Mr Storey had conducted themselves as well as they could under the circumstances, neither was rude and both should be applauded for the manner in which they dealt with the unacceptable behaviour displayed at that meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (CONT)

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – Chair proposed that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as applied by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting at this point as the matter next being discussed was a confidential issue relating to applications for the Casual Vacancy, all in favour.

52. Casual Vacancy – One application was received and this was from Julie Peacock. The application was discussed and Chair proposed Ms Peacock as the new Parish Councillor for Feltwell Ward, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. Clerk to write to Ms Peacock.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 10th July 2023 at the British Legion at 7.30 pm.

Meeting declared closed 10.10 pm.
