

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 9th day of OCTOBER 2023 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cole, Lambert (Vice-Chair) and Storey, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Bane, Mrs Peacock, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson. Also present 5 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mr Fenn, Mrs McGeeney, Mr Rayner (Chair) and RAF Commander Geary.

The Vice-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 Cole declared an interest in Item 30.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting were approved. Mrs Wilson proposed, Mr Cole seconded, 5 in favour, Mrs Peacock abstained having not been present.

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

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – The RAF Commander was not present due to illness so the Clerk read out his September report. In addition to conducting competency and currency training sorties from RAF Lakenheath, which included two weeks of night flying at the start of the month, the 48th FW hosted some Norwegian F35 aircraft for 2 weeks whilst they participated in Exercise Cobra Warrior. 48th FW conducted a 9/11 remembrance ceremony on 11/9/23. In addition, members of the Wing attended a plethora of Battle of Britain events around Suffolk and Norfolk this month. Mrs Vikki Quamina has joined the 48th FW as the new Community Relations Advisor and he hoped to introduce her in person at the next Council meeting. Planning continues for an Aircraft Crash Exercise that will be conducted at RAF Honington on 18/10/23 and plans are being finalised for 48th FW representation at Remembrance events in November.

2. **Risk Assessment** – **Weekly:** No issues reported. Tennis net needs adjusting again, Clerk to contact Handyman. **Quarterly Inspection:** Playing Field Group to look at items raised in the inspection report with Handyman. **Do Not Park Sign:** Clerk could only obtain two quotations to supply and fit car park gate sign, 2ft x 1.5ft approx. and most competitive was Apex Signs at £70 + VAT. Mrs Peckham said “Emergency Access Required At All Times” should be written underneath so Clerk will ascertain if extra wording affects the price. Mrs Bane proposed obtaining sign from Apex Signs if no uplift in price, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Clerk to contact Apex Signs. **Gates:** The Clerk, **Mrs Arnold**, Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peacock, Mrs Peckham, Mr Fenn, Mr Cole and Mr Rayner had met at the field to look at redesigning the entrances and decided to concentrate on the corner entrance first, considering it more urgent. They concluded that installing a holding area with a gate opening inwards from the road and another opening out to the playing field would be most effective. Mr Cole proposed obtaining quotations for this work, Mrs Peckham seconded, all in favour. Clerk to organise appointments with contractors on site to obtain quotations. Whilst at the field, it could be seen that removing shrubbery on the corner of Paynes Lane near this entrance would create a wider footpath, making the corner safer for pedestrians and those exiting/accessing the field. Mr Rayner thought this work could be funded via the Parish Partnership Scheme. Mr Storey said he may be able to fund it via his Road Safety Community Fund and asked the Clerk to forward him details of work required. During Public Speaking, Mr Samuels said he had tended to the gates but the gate near the scout hut kept getting caught on earth beneath. He asked if he could purchase new springs for three gates at approx. £55-60 including fixings. Mrs Peckham said only two would be required as the entrance on the corner was being redesigned. Mr Lambert proposed authorising Mr Samuels to purchase new springs for two gates at £40 max, Mrs Peckham seconded, all in favour. Clerk to advise Mr Samuels.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

3. Balance Sheet – Bank statement not received so Balance Sheet will be circulated by email asap.
4. Allotment Pest Control – No October report. Contractor advised no more vermin had been caught than usual however most were caught in traps along Hythe Road rather than those on the allotments.
5. NALC – Newsletters circulated.
6. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey said Norfolk Fire & Rescue is marking its 20th anniversary this year with its ‘Crucial Crew’ programme, educating fire safety to more than 80,000 children. He said construction of the new QEH is on schedule and gave brief information on the Healthy Weight Campaign launched 18/9/23, Travel Norfolk car scheme, ‘Chances’ employment assistance scheme, Norfolk Western Link mentioned in the Government’s Transport Investment Plan, Norfolk ‘Green Libraries theme’ and touched on a scheme which helps disabled people with farm tenancies. After speaking to Andy Wallace and Jason Moorsee, he must set a date for the roundels to be painted on Wilton Road and Lodge Road since this was being funded by his Road Safety Community Fund budget. White lining is all in hand.
7. Playing Field Boundary Wall – Clerk said Handyman had strimmed the grass next to the wall at the owners’ request so Phase 1 of the repair work could begin. After realising the total cost of repair, the owners then advised they would not be proceeding and requested help via a Parish or Borough Council grant. Grants for repairing private properties are not available and it was felt that it was the owners’ responsibility to make the wall safe and would not be fair on other residents who had duly repaired their walls if the Parish Council were to assist financially. Mrs Peckham said the only option was to go through insurance and proposed requesting the owners’ insurance details again with a six-week deadline, Mr Storey seconded, all in favour. Clerk to write to the owners.
8. Changing Rooms – Clerk to ask Handyman to tidy the boiler room.
9. Highways – Clerk received no response from Andy Wallace re siding out path at Oak Street therefore Mr Storey advised her to contact Jason Moorsee. Missing ‘Paynes Lane’ sign near the Social Club is in hand. Clerk read out reply from resident who was wholly dissatisfied with the Parish Council’s response to her email regarding parking opposite Newcombe Drive junction. Two Falcon Road residents spoke of their concern during Public Speaking, stating it was illegal to park in front of a junction and urging the Parish Council’s intervention before an accident occurred. It was agreed that whilst the Parish Council was not legally able to prohibit vehicles parking here, it could write to the Churchwarden to request visitors do not park in front of the junction and leave at least a two-car length gap which would allow vehicles to pull out of Newcombe Drive safely. Visitors with walking difficulties could park on Newcombe Drive and more able-bodied visitors could park on St Mary’s Street or The Beck. Mr Lambert proposed writing to the Churchwarden with this request, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Clerk to write to Churchwarden.
10. Doctor’s Surgery Car Park – Mr Lambert and the Clerk had met R H Landscapes, SP Landscapes & Icen Tree Care on site to look at hand-cutting the inside of the overflow car park hedge and topping to 7ft. Quotations were received from all three and Mrs Peckham proposed R H Landscapes undertake the work, being most competitively priced at £650 + VAT, Mrs Bane seconded, all in favour. Clerk to contact R H Landscapes and obtain date for work to be undertaken to ensure car park is open. Clerk said Hastoe Housing will remove the broken fence.
11. Overhanging Greenery – Clerk said Dan Jordan had tried contacting the owners of 50 Wilton Road but to no avail so would call in again when next in the village. Front greenery of 19 Wilton Road had been cut but the conifers at the side still need cutting back from the road. Clerk to write to owners again to ascertain if a date has been set for this work. Greenery overhanging the footpath still needs cutting back from 6 St Mary’s Street.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

12. Feltwell in Bloom Monthly Update – No update.
13. Grass Maintenance Contract Quotations – Clerk said contractor would apply herbicide again despite advising he had sprayed 4-5 times already this year which Mrs Peckham thought unlikely. Clerk said Andy Wallace is awaiting a response from Tarmac regarding Mr Storey's request.
14. Oak Garden Wall – MWM (Anglia) would carry out this work by the end of the week.
15. Rangers – Paynes Lane to High Street alleyway had been cleared and swept but no other work was carried out. Mr Storey to ascertain from Andy Wallace if the pathway from The Beck to St Mary's Church belongs to Highways.
16. Bus Shelters – A suggestion during Public Speaking of charging those who fly-posted was discussed. Mrs Bane felt if the posters were advertising activities in the village then those people should be spoken to rather than written.
17. Audit – Approve Accounts (Email Address) – Clerk said this is ongoing.
18. 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: Clerk had no response from Andy Wallace re 'Give Way Ahead' sign so will contact Jay Moore. **The Beck:** Update awaited re price for SAM2 post.
19. To Consider Playing Field Matters Raised in Email from Parishioner – **Gates:** See Item 2.
20. To Consider Resident's Enquiry re SAM2 Data – No update.
21. Iron Bridge & Track – Anchor Ward – Mr Storey to keep the council updated on this matter.
22. To Consider Bid for Parish Partnership 2024/25 – Trod still not yet installed by developers but will continue to be monitored. Clearing and resurfacing of pathway on the corner of Paynes Lane and into new entrance onto playing field could also be considered (as per Item 2).
23. Playing Field – **Do Not Park Sign:** See Item 2.
24. Handyman Vacancy – Vacancy advertised on noticeboards, Facebook and website but no applicants yet. Clerk will try to contact Mrs George regarding a leaving gift.
25. Insurance Renewal – Clerk said Zurich could only reduce their quotation by £19.04 as any further reduction would leave assets underinsured. The premium is likely to remain the same each year as the LTA does not offer a fixed price but instead applies a 10% discount to the yearly premium. Several factors such as index linking and claims made can affect the premium. Clerk had emailed this information to the Councillors as requested at the last meeting and as 8 were in favour of staying with Zurich due to the ongoing matter with the playing field boundary wall, had renewed with Zurich. Mr Storey proposed ratifying the decision to stay with Zurich at £1372.02 on a 3-year basis, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour.
26. Request for Use of Changing Room Toilets – Clerk said the interested group had failed to find a date and would be grateful if the offer could be carried over to next year.
27. Remembrance Sunday Service Books – Chair was not present to advise price.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

28. Green Bag – Clerk had only written to owners last week so felt more time should be given for its removal, all agreed.

29. Long Lane Development – Clerk awaiting response from Flagship.

30. Allotment Update – Mr Storey, Chairman of the Allotment Management Committee, spoke of the Committee's plans to halve garden allotment plots along the left-hand side (18/19 to 10/11), amalgamating the bottom halves to form a farm allotment and letting the top halves as garden allotments. He asked for the Parish Council's support of this proposal which had arisen due to the number of vacant allotments along this side and the cost to clear and maintain them. Existing tenants would be given 12 months' notice and plots would be accurately measured by a Geospatial Officer. Mr Storey proposed the above plans for the garden allotments be approved by the Parish Council, Mrs Wilson seconded, 5 in favour, Mr Cole declared an interest and abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE

31. Norfolk Police – Email - Norfolk Police & Crime Commissioner Budget Consultation 24/25

32. NCC – Emails – **Traffic Orders:** Emergency temp closure of Sedge Fen Road, Southery 27/9/23-3/10/23 (burst main works); Temp restriction on St Mary's Street, 9.30 am - 12.30 pm and Bell Street, 10.50 am - 11.20 am on 12/11/23 (Remembrance Sunday). **Press Release:** NCC's satellite enabled rural connectivity project wins Access Innovation Award

33. BCKLWN – Emails – Cllr Terry Parish (Leader) 'Permitted Development Rights information on consultation'; W.Norfolk draft corporate strategy; Careline Scam. **Press Release:** Small Grants Scheme; W.Norfolk Wins Community Lottery celebrates its 5th birthday!

34. RAF Lakenheath – Email – **Notification of operations at RAF Feltwell:** 21/9/23, Explosive training, 6 detonations 8am-4pm

35. RAF Mildenhall – Email - Invitation 'Save the Date' Tri-Wing Yuletide Reception 1/12/23

36. Norfolk & Waveney Health & Care Partnership – Email – Updates

37. Rural Services Network – Email – Bulletins

38. TWR Accountants – Email – September Newsletter & Tax Tips

39. Queen Elizabeth Hospital – Email - Update

40. Wicksteed – Email – Newsletter

41. Healthwatch Norfolk – Email – Newsletter

42. CPRE – Email - Take action against local flooding

43. Brochures - Parish Magazine

44. **CHEQUES/PAYMENTS** – Mrs Bane proposed approving the payments, Mrs Arnold seconded, all in favour – S Sargent £125.35, T George £97.19, HMRC £239.12, RBL Poppy Appeal £50.00, S Arnold £43.64, DM Building Services £100.00, Fenland Leisure Products £216.00, Zurich Municipal £1372.02. Direct Debits to Biffa £237.34, EDF Energy £46.67, SSE £1069.84, URM £86.40, Vodafone £20.34. Standing Orders to K&M Lighting £100.21, J Martin £1020.50.

45. PLANNING

23/01240/FM Erection of a grain store with concrete pad to the front at land at Grange Farm, Old Methwold Road – 7 in favour, Mr Storey abstained. SUPPORT.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

46. Councillor Resignation – Mrs Bane handed in her resignation and Councillors were saddened by this. Clerk to organise vacancy advert.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 13th November 2023 at the British Legion at 7.30 pm.
Meeting declared closed 9.00 pm.