

MINUTE 199 (Annual Parish)

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 15th MAY 2023 at the British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.00 pm.

COUNCILLOR'S PRESENT: - Messrs Rayner (Chair), Cole, Fenn, Lambert and Storey, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Bane, Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson. Also present 24 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: No apologies were received.

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: None.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 9th May 2022 were approved. Mrs Wilson proposed, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

CHARITY ACCOUNTS – Clerk gave report of Rawlins Charity: In 2022, 20 donations of £5 were made plus £10 to the church – total of £110.00. Balances @ 31.3.23 were £1621.39 COIF Deposit and £22.63 Barclays, a total of £1644.02. Mr Storey proposed the accounts are accepted, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all agreed.

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

1. Grants – A resident asked if future grants or CIL monies received could be allocated to areas other than the playing field where she felt a lot of money had already been spent, and gave repainting railings around the Memorial Garden, extra seating and repainting of the clockface as examples. Chair said an application was being submitted for the next round of CIL funding for work on the War Memorial and clockface but her request would be taken into consideration.

2. Planning Application – A parishioner asked why residents were not made aware of two recent planning applications (22/00860/FM and 22/00866/FM). Chair said the Parish Council had already submitted their decision on these applications and would not be re-voting on them. He said any objections or concerns should be submitted via the BCKLWN Planning Portal as the Borough Council were the planning authority and the Parish Council had no more information than what was available there. He said it was the Borough Council's responsibility to advertise planning applications via newspaper adverts and letters to neighbouring properties affected by them and that the Parish Council advertised applications via their meeting agenda which was displayed on their noticeboard and website. Another member of the public, who was not a parishioner, then loudly and aggressively asked the Chair why the Parish Council had not objected, using language that was completely unacceptable in the extreme. As the meeting quickly became heated, with one parishioner shouting at Councillors and storming out of the building, it was closed by the Chair at 7.11 pm. Mr Storey then asked for permission to speak as a Borough and Norfolk County Councillor which the Chair granted and the meeting was re-opened. Mr Storey gave the latest

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (CONT)

position on the planning applications. He said the Borough Council was currently in the process of obtaining further information required by three of the consultees and once obtained, it was possible local Parish Councils would be consulted again, possibly later in the year, depending on how long the information took to gather. A parishioner then asked the Parish Council to request a public consultation if the application was re-submitted and Councillors agreed to discuss this at the June Parish Council Meeting. Mrs Peckham felt that if a public consultation were to take place, the Planning Officer should be in attendance. Mr Storey agreed and said the applicant or their agent should also attend and if objections were raised on planning grounds then the Borough Council's Planning Committee would have to consider them. Mr Storey said members of the public should submit their opinions via the planning portal or contact him to take them forward. A parishioner said there had been several major amendments to the application, for example, moving the access/egress road to Lodge Road and asked if there should have been a consultation with the consultees regarding this. Mr Storey said the Borough Council had most of the answers and the Parish Council did not play a major role in planning applications. The same parishioner then asked if the Parish Council was concerned about the health and well-being of residents and another asked why the Parish Council had not objected to the applications. The Chair replied that each planning application was considered in depth as to how it would affect the parish and as the proposed route for the planning applications was on the edge of the village, not through it, and smells/pollution met environmental standards, then no objection was made. A parishioner said it appeared from Parish Council minutes that only a small discussion had taken place on the planning applications yet other issues such as dog bins, benches etc had a lot more context and asked if the Parish Councillors cared about the village at all. Mrs Peckham said minutes relating to planning applications were sometimes sparse as the Clerk only had to minute the decision made and reiterated that the Parish Council has little influence on planning applications. Another parishioner said she had only recently found out about the planning application and asked if communication from the Parish Council to parishioners could be improved. The Chair said communication methods could be reviewed but as applications were often received after the Parish Magazine deadline and not everyone used the internet and social media, it was difficult to reach everyone. Mrs Peckham then stated that there was a vacancy on the Parish Council if any parishioners wished to apply.

Meeting declared closed at 7.52 pm.
