

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 14th day of OCTOBER 2024 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cole, Fenn, Lambert, Rayner and Storey (arrived 8.20pm), Mrs Arnold, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson. Also present 2 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peacock and Sqn Leader.

The Chair asked if anyone was recording the meeting and Mr Cole replied that he was. All present consented to be recorded.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting were approved. Mr Cole proposed, Mrs Arnold seconded, 2 in favour, Mrs Edwards, Mr Fenn, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson abstained having not been present.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: There were no issues raised by the public.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – Sqn Leader Eaton was not in attendance due to US Bank Holiday so had forwarded his report again. Chair said this was disappointing as he had recently been assured by Sqn Leader that he would be present. In his report, Sqn Leader thanked the Council for hosting and supporting the presentation of a new Standard to the Norfolk Royal British Legion last month. He asked for Remembrance Day plans to be sent asap to Vikki Quamina to maximise USVF participation. RAF Feltwell will be used for joint USVF/British Army training activity during October, specifically w/c 14th and 28th. Some helicopter activity is possible and use of explosives but the latter part of the month should be less disruptive to residents as it will focus on airfield damage repair. Clerk said John Tillotson (RAF Commander's Support Officer) had advised the Medical Group activity was being carried out to maintain competency so that vital medical support could be provided wherever tasked. He said the runway is not serviceable and only for maintenance use. Mrs Arnold had not been able to ascertain if planning permission for the runway was subject to any planning conditions, specifically that it was not to be used for take-off and landing purposes, but Clerk said Sqn Leader had informed her that no such conditions were attached.

2. **Risk Assessment** – **Weekly:** No issues. Handyman has cut back greenery around the entrance near the cub hut again which Mrs Peckham said should be cut back to ground level when the leaves have all fallen. She said Highways should cut around the perimeter but probably won't so Clerk will obtain a price from a local farmer for this work. Hamills have plugged the stump behind the gym equipment. Two fluorescent lights have been replaced with LED in the Changing Rooms. Mr Lambert assisted the Handyman in removing the basketball unit and Clerk had obtained three prices for concreting the new one into the grass next to the concrete pad. Mr Cole proposed accepting Peckham's Construction's quotation of £350 + VAT as it was most price competitive, Mrs Wilson seconded, 6 in favour, Mrs Peckham abstained. **Resurfacing:** Work has been completed. **Quarterly Inspection:** Took place 24/9/24. Clerk to ask Handyman to deal with low risk items such as tightening loose fixings. Whilst on site, Online Playgrounds inspected and subsequently removed the cantilever swing as the hanger needed complete replacement. Cost for supply and installation was quoted at £543.20 + VAT and as 6 Councillors had been in favour of this, the hanger had been replaced whilst contractors were undertaking the resurfacing work thus saving £91.20 on mileage. The inspector had also replaced cableway parts identified in the service (brake spring £64 + VAT and new trolley £205 + VAT).

3. **Balance Sheet** – No queries. Chair will transfer sufficient monies from the BSA to cover this month's payments.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

4. Allotment Pest Control – August, September and October reports received. Mr Cole reported sightings of rats in his polytunnel.

5. NALC – Updates circulated.

6. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey said there was a limited number of single Norfolk Oak trees available via the 1 million tree project. NCC leader Kay Mason-Billig was not in favour of the 2/3 solar farm applications and losing 12,000 acres of food-producing land to renewable energy production. Safety inspections carried out on 60 Norfolk schools known to have plaster and lath ceilings resulted in 15 requiring immediate work. The new QEH is one of four hospitals still being taken forward and is on schedule for completion by 2030. All information can be found on Borough Council and NCC websites. **Other matters:** Clerk said Mr Wallace had no update on the roundels so the Chair asked Mr Storey what ‘top priority’ meant and Mr Storey said he hoped they would be completed this financial year.

7. Playing Field Boundary Wall – Continue to monitor wall. Mrs Peckham said the enclosed area looked very tidy.

8. Highways – **2 Oak Street:** Clerk said Mr Wallace had no update.

9. Overhanging Greenery – **50 Wilton Road:** Clerk said Mr Andy Wallace had no update. Mrs Peckham said Highways had repositioned the Give Way sign above the hedge and added a light so it was more noticeable. **Other matters:** Clerk said Highways had written to 2 Falcon Road and Feltwell Surgery. Clerk said Borough Enforcement would not do anything about the overgrown frontage of a privately-owned bungalow on Old Brandon Road unless vermin were present but had suggested contacting Land Registry to obtain the owner’s details. The hedge around 2 Western Close has still not been cut so Clerk was asked to write again. Clerk to write to 12A Vincent Close as their greenery is hanging over a neighbouring pavement.

10. SAM2 Data – Chair said no SAM2 data was available again this month as the unit on Paynes Lane was still obscured by greenery. Mrs Peckham said that SAM2 hadn’t been working since June and would be better sited elsewhere.

11. Iron Bridge & Track – Anchor Ward – Ongoing.

12. Long Lane Development – Clerk had heard nothing from Flagship regarding a start date so will chase again. Mrs Wilson said the plot and barn had been sold.

14. Premises Licence – Fire Risk Assessment – Chair said CTE Electrical had started works last week for completion by w/c 4/11/24 when CTS Security are installing the fire alarm.

15. St Mary’s Church: Yew Tree & Church Clock Enquiry – Clerk said an invoice for £150 had been received earlier that evening.

16. Damage to Playing Field Entrance, 2nd June 2024 – Clerk said Zurich processed the claim on 4/10/24 and a payment of £4412 had been issued to cover the removal of damaged fence, supply and installation of replacement (£4357 + VAT), and a new sign (£55 + VAT). No update from their solicitors (DAS Beachcroft) regarding the third party claim but Clerk will continue to chase.

17. Overgrowth around Dog Bins – Clerk will continue chasing Hemingford Construction to clear all greenery around the dog and rubbish bins near the Chinese.

18. Empty Freebridge Houses – Mrs Edwards is meeting Portfolio Manager at the end of October.

MATTERS ARISING

19. To Discuss Parish Partnership Scheme 2025/26 – Clerk advised deadline of 6/12/24.

20. Allotment Committee Member Resignation – Mr Cole said he would sit on the Allotment Committee if no-one else wished to. Chair said the Terms of Reference state allotment tenants cannot sit on the Allotment Committee and as Mr Cole is a tenant, Mr Lambert said it could present a conflict of interest. Mr Cole said he currently shares a tenancy with his partner and although they had paid their allotment rent, they had not yet signed the contract so it could be renewed in his partner's name only. Mrs Peckham said it could be beneficial to have someone interested in the allotments on the Committee and proposed Mr Cole as the new member of the Allotment Committee subject to the tenancy being transferred to his partner, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Mr Cole asked anyone else interested in being on the Committee to let him know.

21. Email from Practice Manager, Feltwell Surgery re Car Park Lease – The Practice Manager responded stating that due to the increasing rent and maintenance costs of the overflow car park, the Surgery would not be renewing the lease in October 2025. Other uses for the land were discussed but it was decided to diarise the matter for January's meeting. The Practice Manager had also remarked that the Clerk had been wrong to state that last year's hedge cut carried out by the Parish Council at a cost of £650 should have been undertaken by the Surgery as per terms of their lease as actually the Parish Council had offered to cut the hedge whilst Hastoe Housing's contractor was on site cutting their part of it. The Clerk said this was incorrect and Mr Lambert agreed stating the Parish Council had cut the hedge because the Surgery had not and it was extremely overgrown.

22. Highways – Clerk said the Vincent Close sign had been in situ the whole time and could be seen now that obstructing greenery had been cut back. Highways said the malfunctioning 30mph flashing speed signs along Lodge Road and Wilton Road are in hand.

23. Street Light Bracket Survey & Electrical Inspection, Testing and Certification – Clerk said K&M were currently surveying the brackets and carrying out their electrical inspection, testing and certification of Council street lights. She had only been able to obtain one quotation for inspecting the concrete columns which was from Frith Blake Consulting who had carried out the last inspection in 2019. Mrs Peckham proposed accepting Frith Blake Consulting's quotation of £340 + VAT to undertake this work, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour.

24. Feltwell in Bloom – Mr Lambert felt the Council should replace the two stolen planters but Mrs Wilson believed money was already being raised by parishioners. Mr Storey suggested paying for any shortfall. All agreed, Clerk to contact Feltwell in Bloom.

25. High Street Parking – Mr Lambert said the situation had worsened over the past few days and that bollards might be the answer. Mr Storey said the extra slab should be removed entirely as it was causing a dangerous situation and advised the Clerk to contact Kevin Allen at NCC.

26. Christmas Tree – Festival of Light weekend is 30th November/1st December therefore both trees needed to be decorated by 29th November. Mrs Edwards, Mrs Wilson and the Clerk will do this.

27. Remembrance Sunday – Chair said arrangements were in hand and personnel from RAF Feltwell, the Space Commander, EOD and Airman Training School would be attending. Mrs Peckham said the concrete bases underneath the two memorial benches on Bell Street needed cleaning in time for this. Clerk to speak to Handyman.

28. Damaged Street Light at Mulberry Close – Report received from Norfolk Street Lighting stating that a vehicle had reversed into a street light in Mulberry Close during the evening of 23/9/24, damaging it beyond repair. Amey were called out to make the area safe in conjunction with UKPN at a cost of £1933.84 + VAT. Clerk said K&M Contractors quoted £1049.43 + VAT to install a new

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

street light and UKPN would reconnect supply at £1440 + VAT to be paid upfront before work could start. Councillors had agreed to lodge an insurance claim with Zurich and payment of £4173.27 (net of £250 excess) had been processed. Their solicitors, DAS Beachcroft were dealing with reclaiming the excess from the third party.

29. CIL Project Funding – Chair watched the latest round of CIL applications online and was shocked that the new sifting panel were changing rules whilst sitting around the table. Whereas in the past, CIL applications only had to be supported by Parish Councils, Parish Councils are now expected to allocate any available CIL monies towards them for them to be successful. Mrs Peckham said this was unjust as Parish Councils only receive 5% of CIL monies whereas Borough Councils get 95%. Chair said projects were also merited on the number of successful applications each village had already had. He said the new rules had not been published and he had only become aware of them during the panel's discussion so this was something to be mindful of if applications come forward.

30. Funding Available for Additional Bus Stops – Mr Storey said funding was available from a two-year £1.25m project being run by NCC until September 2025 so locations could still be put forward.

31. Age UK/Citizens Advice Event for Elderly – Mr Storey said Stoke Ferry Parish Council are running a public event with Age UK to offer elderly residents advice/help with grants etc they may be entitled to. He felt Feltwell residents could benefit from such an event which he would support. Mrs Wilson said this was a good idea and suggested holding the event in the Church during one of their coffee mornings which are extremely well-attended particularly by elderly residents. She said Feltwell Community Group would be happy to help and both the Chair and Mrs Edwards also offered their assistance. Clerk said Jacob Medlock had been in touch regarding a 'Beat Your Bills' event run by the Borough Council and was also interested in taking part.

CORRESPONDENCE

32. BCKLWN – Emails – Deadline for Planning Meeting Brought Forward; Consultation: Help Finalise Economic Vision & Strategy for KL&WN; Safe Venue Hire & Due Diligence Training; Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control Order) Renewal December 2024; London Hearts Defibrillator Funding; Statutory Review of Members Allowances

33. NCC – Emails – **Road Closures:** St Mary's Street 22/9/24 12-4.30 pm for RBL Rededication Service & Ceremony; Southery Road for BT cabling works 7-8/10/24

34. RAF Lakenheath – Emails – **Notification of RAF Feltwell Operations:** 12/9/24, 5 detonations, 9 am–12 noon; 13/9/24, 1 explosion, 12 noon–2 pm; 2/10/24, EOD and RAF Lakenheath Security Forces demolition training, approx. 42 small detonations, 9 am–2 pm; 9/10/24, explosive training, 2 detonations, 9.30 am–4 pm; 17/10/24, explosive training, 4-6 detonations, 9.30 am–4 pm

35. Barclays – Letter – Reduction of interest rate on BSA from 1.50% to 1.40% from 19/12/24

36. Rural Services Network – Email – Bulletins

37. Norfolk Community Safety Partnership – Email - Training Event for Venue Hire Staff

38. Excite Solutions – Email – Promotion of grounds maintenance service

39. Brochures - Parish Magazine, NBB

40. **CHEQUES/PAYMENTS** – Mrs Edwards proposed approving October payments, Mr Fenn seconded, all in favour. Payments were approved and cheques signed for J Martin £123.84, S Sargent £122.40, D Wilkinson £88.56, J Rolph £150.00, R H Landscapes & Maintenance £576.00, HMRC £259.59, Zurich £1586.47, Fenland Leisure £9265.20, Amey LG £2320.61, UKPN £1728.00. Direct Debits to Biffa £236.79, British Gas £70.90, Vodafone £21.95, URM £69.12, Anglian Water £177.64. Standing Orders to K&M Lighting £100.21, J Martin £1082.38.

41. PLANNING

There were no planning applications.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

42. Highways – Mr Lambert reported potholes along Short Beck near the garage. Mrs Wilson said Southery Road is becoming very dangerous again and would only worsen in the winter months. Clerk will contact Highways.

43. Allotment Work – Mr Storey thanked Mr Lambert and Mr Fenn for their hard work at the weekend to clear debris etc so various allotments could be topped and rotavated.

44. Grass Dumped in The Beck – Mr Cole said grass cuttings had been dumped in The Beck. Mr Lambert said Highways used to cut the grass but residents complained that it was not being cut well enough so now do it themselves.

45. Tree – Mrs Peckham said a tree on the corner of the junction of Paynes Lane with Lime Kiln Lane needed to be cut back.

46. Street Light – Chair said a street light on Old Methwold Road junction Lodge Road temporarily fitted with an old style lantern had still not been replaced with LED. Clerk to speak to K&M.

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 11th November 2024 at the British Legion at 7.30 pm.

Meeting declared closed 9.38 pm.
