

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 15th July, and continued on Tuesday 28th July 2020 at 5.30 pm
(held outdoors under Covid restrictions)

1 Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Those present : John Ramm (Chairman), Councillors : Andy Beal, Antonia Hardcastle, John High, Carolyn Newman, Martin Pearce, Rachel Prior, and District Councillor Karen Ward and Louise Stevens.

2 No interests or dispensations were declared.

3 To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 18 March 2020.
Councillors confirmed they had read the minutes and John Ramm signed them as approved.

4 Matters arising from the minutes

It was agreed that these would be covered by items already on the agenda.

5 To receive reports from Country & District Councillors

District Cllr Karen Ward updated the meeting about the NNDC's response during lockdown : we are now in a "recovery" phase and a full report has been circulated to Councils giving guidance for this phase and actions to be taken should there be further infections. £51m of grants have been paid to support businesses in north Norfolk, and £2.6m is still available for small business. Unfortunately this does not include those who are self employed. Public toilets are now open, including those at Morston. The National Trust had declined to reopen them on the grounds that they would have to be cleaned. The NNDC took the initiative to have the mess cleared up, and the toilets made ready for use. Bins along the coast will be emptied daily, and more frequently if necessary. Anyone seeing overflowing bins or offensive rubbish should call the NNDC. Planning appeals and the issues which had been suspended during lockdown are now proceeding.

Karen Ward also reported that it is planned that power lines from two new north sea wind farms will come ashore either side of Weybourne which will cause years of ugly mess and disruption.

6 Finance

a) To approve payment of outstanding bills

Dennis Francis	£100
Eddie	£35
Indigo Waste	£41.40

£589.11 received for glass from the bottle bank has been paid in.

b) **Annual Accounts**

Louise Stevens presented the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020. Our income (£7965.94) was lower than last year as it does not include Parish Room loan repayments, and a quarterly contribution from the Wiveton Bell, which was due in March. A recycling credit was received after the year end, and there is an outstanding claim for VAT refund which needs to be submitted. Our expenditure (£5,155.39) was also lower than last year.

Louise undertook to clarify whether any further repayments are due from the Parish Room and to inform the Parish Room Treasurer.

The Accounts were discussed and approved (Proposed by John Ramm, Seconded by Carolyn Newman). The Audit return forms were presented and signed by the Chairman. Louise will submit the VAT claim form.

It was noted that the Wiveton Bell did not pay their customary donation for the use of the Car Park due in March, and the June donation is outstanding.

The Chairman thanked Louise for undertaking the preparation of the Accounts and submitting them. It was agreed that we would renew the search for a Parish Clerk.

7 Planning

a) to consider outstanding planning applications

The Anchorage applied for a change to the front porch and to move a window. The PC has no comments to make.

The Wiveton Bell : the issue of the decking in front of the pub has still to be resolved and the Planning Office will be dealing with this. Karen will speak to the Enforcement Officer for an update.

The Appeal by Open Reach for the retention of the second telephone mast, opposed by the NNDC has been delayed but should now be proceeding.

Longfield : there is a new application for retrospective planning permission for works done around the pool terrace and for alterations to the approved landscape plan and the hedge along Sandy Lane. The Parish Council fully supports the report written by the Landscape Officer which is on the NNDC planning website. John Ramm has replied to this on behalf of the Council.

(the meeting was adjourned at this point because of heavy rain and continued at 5.30pm on Tuesday 28th June. Apologies were received from Karen Ward. All Parish Councillors were present.)

8 Highways and Footpaths

There is considerable concern about the use of Sandy Lane by vehicles. Highways and the County Council have been asked to clarify in writing what use is legal.

Martin Pearce and Steve Beal have agreed to draw up an appropriate planting plan to be undertaken during the winter months.

Speeding both on Blakeney Road and A149 was discussed, together with the increasing amount of large vehicles making use of the Street as a short cut. Martin offered to write a briefing note on the issues involved, previous attempts to get Highways to take action, and the options open. (To be on our September agenda.)

9 Village Maintenance and Grass Cutting

A detailed schedule has been completed by Martin and approved; it was agreed to continue to use our existing contractors.

There are several points in the Village where overhanging hedges are an increasing problem. John High agreed to make a list of places where they need to be cut back and householders will be asked to take action at an appropriate time, bearing in mind preserving berries for wildlife.

The Village Car Park will require maintenance, particularly near the entrance. Parishioners are reminded that their support, by using the bottle bank, provides revenue for the village.

Parking around the Green is again becoming a problem. It is illegal to park on the Green, and it was agreed that appropriate signage would be placed around the edge. Antonia undertook to organise this.

The wildflower area on the South Side will need to be reseeded next year.

The kiosk housing the defibrillator needs a notice showing its purpose. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to put the wording at the top of the kiosk, in the space which used to say "telephone". Antonia agreed to organise this and continues to check the defibrillator regularly.

10 a) The allotted Land

A plan of the allotted land was discussed and it was agreed that the top section nearest the road could be divided into six or eight plots which would be available to parishioners to rent for parking cars or boats. John and Martin will measure up possible plots. An area will also be left clear to be available for overflow parking when there are events in the village.

Steve Beal was thanked for cutting the grass on the allotted land. Grass and hedge cutting will be included on the village maintenance schedule.

The bottom part will be preserved as a wildlife area and appropriate trees could be planted there in the winter. Boats and trailers still require to be removed.

10b) Allotments in Chapel Lane

A formal agreement for use of the allotments in Chapel Lane has been drawn up, and invoices will be issued for their use. The PC will be responsible for maintenance of the perimeter wall and check that the use of the allotments is appropriately covered by our public liability insurance.

11 Covid 19

Both the NHS and the NNDC are preparing for the possibility for a second "spike". The response to caring for vulnerable people in Wiveton was discussed and it was felt that it had worked well. The PC expressed their thanks to all those who have been involved by "buddying" with regular phone calls, undertaking errands and keeping an eye on their neighbours. The likelihood of another "lockdown" is real and we will need to continue to look after anyone who is affected.

12 Correspondence

County Cillr Marie Strong reported that our application for a Bus Stop on the A149 near the exit of Hall Lane has not been approved as all funding has been allocated. We may be eligible to apply under the Partnership Scheme (note a bus stop costs c£4,000 and the PC would have to contribute half of this).

Mr Clive Hallam has written to the Parish Council as he is considering purchasing a piece of land on the corner of Bridgefoot Lane and Glandford Road and would like to put an access gate onto it. He has been advised to consult the Planning Office and reminded that this is a protected piece of land as it lies within the Conservation Area.

Parishioners' Questions

The agenda had been circulated in advance on the Village email and parishioners were asked to raise matters they wished discussed. Six replies were received : four raised the issues of dangerously fast traffic on the Blakeney Road and lack of signage, three asked about the vehicular use of Sandy Lane, two asked for the red warning notice opposite the end of Hall Lane to be replaced, one asked for the grass on the corner opposite the Bell to be cut to improve visibility.

Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 16th of September in the Parish Room at 7.30pm subject to safety advice on Covid.

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