

Earsham Parish Council

Minutes

of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held by way of video conferencing on Wednesday 25th November 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Stephen Wood (Chair), Karl Gunton, Keith Reeve, Jim Bennett, Tony Leech and Nick Meade

Also present: District Councillor Brendon Bernard, County Councillor Margaret Stone, 2 members of the public (Geoff Hall and Peter Goodfellow) and Lynda Ling (Clerk)

1. **Welcome** – Cllr. Wood welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **To receive and accept apologies from members unable to attend** – None
3. **To receive any declarations of interest, in particular matters to be raised at this meeting** – None
4. **Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 30th September 2020** - Agreement was proposed by Councillor Wood and seconded by Councillor Bennett **ALL AGREED**

Standing Orders were suspended at 19.34 and reconvened at 19.48 for comments from members of public:-

Peter Goodfellow asked if there was still a mechanical road sweeper visiting the village as he had noticed a lot of leaves lying in guttering. Cllr. Reeve confirmed that a sweeper still visits. The bins for the collection of crisp wrappers needs emptying – Cllr. Gunton will call Gemma Collins to advise.

Geoff Hall spoke of the cutting of the playing field by a volunteer from the Football Club and an incident whereby people had been asked to leave. Peter confirmed that signs are put out to advise of grass cutting taking place for H & S reasons, however will investigate.

Geoff Hall reminded the council that letters should be sent to those residents inconvenienced by the recent bridge works.

County Cllr. Margaret Stone thanked all involved, including Jenni Sykes who had been very involved with the access to the bridge works, and suggested that perhaps in Spring the Parish Council may like to organise a gathering to thank everyone. Margaret was very happy to have been involved in the project and said it meant a lot to her.

5. Reports

Police – The Clerk gave a brief description of a recent Community Update she had received which highlighted the work the police had been doing in the local area which included speeding patrols in nearby villages, foot patrols in Harleston and recent ASB incidences around the Pulham's which appear to have reduced since there has been a police presence.

County Councillor Report – Councillor Stone reported:-

- **Museums and Libraries** are still in lock-down with staff being redeployed to other things like working online
- **Council Tax** – A consultation on the County Council proposed share of Council Tax and its savings proposals ends on 14th December 2020. It is proposed to have an increase of 2% for adult social services which is one of the areas of expenditure under the highest pressure.
- **COVID19** – A Norfolk Covid 19 Engagement Board - Norfolk still has low numbers of cases, although some area's had greater numbers than others, Norwich, Great Yarmouth and Wymondham being the highest.
- **Vaccinations** - It is hoped there will be the start of a mass vaccination programme starting before Christmas.
- **Planning Paper** – There were approximately 18 – 20k undelivered planning permissions in the Greater Norwich area, so the aim will hopefully be to get those delivered first rather than new builds.
- **Angles Way** – Posts on Facebook have received many positive comments, photographs of the works have also been posted.

District Councillor Report – District Cllr. Bernard reported:-

- **COVID19** – The Government will be announcing which Tier this area will be placed in tomorrow.
- **Budgets** – As with most councils at this time of year, the discussion on budgets is ongoing.
- **Waste** – Some reassessment is ongoing between South Norfolk and Broadland Councils on the waste systems currently operating.
- There are currently no statistics on unemployment or homelessness for this area at the moment.

Chairman's Report – The Chairman reported that residents at the back of the Village Hall had looked after the area and now had some green rubbish to get rid of. After a short conversation, Cllr. Meade said he would arrange collection and disposal.

The Chairman also said the Village Hall needed some exterior maintenance, i.e. overgrown ivy and the porch over the entrance door are in need of work. It was agreed to ask Scott Bone to have a look and get a quote for the work.

The dumped mattress which was reported at the last meeting was now gone, the Clerk reported this to Highways after the September meeting.

Parish Councillors reports –

Cllr Gunton reported that he has repaired the Village Sign where some brickwork had been dislodged.

Cllr. Wood informed members that a complaint has been received from a resident regarding the height of a fruit cage on the allotments. Cllr. Wood had visited the site and reported that the cage was smaller than others on the allotments however he had noticed that the hedge was lower along that part of the boundary. **Cllr. Wood** suggested letting the hedge grow up slightly to block out the cage. Cllr. Meade then went on to report that after last month's meeting regarding the flooding that takes place on School Road and Church Road, the clerk had contacted Highways who were keen to sort out the issue, particularly on Church Road as they had attended the area last year to try and clear a drain. There appears to be a culvert outflow in a ditch which looks to be overgrown across the field and on speaking with other people thought this could be the issue. This will be looked into further for clearing possibly with a mini-digger.

Clerk's Report –

- Communications with Norfolk County Council about the flooding on Church Road. The Clerk was informed that Dukesway also suffers from flooding and this needs reporting to Highways.

6. Village Items – Update on all village items, including collapsed footbridge, sign on School Road, WW1 Commemorative Plaque, planters, and millennium film

Footbridge – Covered earlier in County Councillor's report.

Sign on The Street – Last meeting, Cllr. Wood offered to contact a colleague of his to see if he could help with the construction of a cast iron column, this however proved to be very expensive at around £3k. Cllr Meade has investigated having one made and has a quote of £1752 inc VAT and Carriage. It was agreed to discuss this at a future meeting and include it in the budget for next year. Cllr. Meade also reported that the fingerpost by Corner Lodge was falling apart and this too may need replacing. The bench on the corner of Pheasant's Walk had disappeared suddenly so investigations will be made as to where it has gone.

WW1 Commemorative Plaque – Cllr. Meade informed members that this was still with the stonemasons, who had tried to match the stone for Violet Hewitt tribute to the stone for the airfield.

Planters – Deferred but Cllr. Gunton has had a conversation with Cllr. Leech about this.

Millennium Film – Cllr. Meade informed members that the original makers of the film haven't seen it yet so it won't be sent out until they have. Copies are £12 per disc which is very expensive, however Cllr. Meade has downloaded an app and managed to copy onto a DVD.

Parish Partnership Scheme – The application for another SAM2 machine has now been submitted to NCC Parish Partnership Scheme along with 4 brackets and a data collection unit this would bring the Parish Council share of costs to £1675 which will be covered by CIL monies. The Clerk will be notified by March 2021 if the Parish Council bid has been successful.

7. Planning Applications – 2020/1744 –

Proposal: Notification for Prior Approval for a proposed change of use and associated building works of an agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (QA and QB) Location: Agricultural Building At Church Farm Church Road Earsham Norfolk

Applicant: Mr M Freeman Application Type: Prior Notification - Agricultural to Residential
This application has been Approved

8. Streetlighting - The clerk informed members that there had been some discrepancies between the records that were held by TT Jones (Contractors) and EON, but that these were now resolved and the new Certificate for the UMS lighting stock had been completed. EON have also had a copy of the Certificate so the Parish Council should be seeing some significant savings in their electricity costs very soon.

9. Finance –

- **Approval of items of expenditure invoiced since the September 2020 meeting and note balances -**
Payments already made – Parish Council - £223.69 – Playing Field - £680.65 and Allotments £311.26 (payments are excluding VAT)
Payments for approval at this meeting – Parish Council - £1350.97 – Playing Field - £13.00. Agreement proposed by Cllr. Leech, seconded by Cllr. Gunton **ALL AGREED**
Balances in bank accounts as at 20th November 2020 – Parish Council £46,441.98, Playing Field £7514.40 and Allotments £466.17.

The Parish Council accounts include £6714.09 CIL monies (completion of LED lanterns paid since last meeting £5630.83) and the Playing Field accounts includes £2,140.29 ring-fenced money for the repair and replacement of play equipment.

- **First Draft of 21-22 Budget –**
Members considered the budget and asked for some additions to be included:-

To add £2,000 to the budget for the replacement cast iron post
To add £500 to the budget for new planters for the village
To increase the budget from £200 to £500 for Village Hall Car Park works

The Clerk will make the changes and send out to Councillors for further discussion at the next meeting.

- **Conclusion of Audit 2019/20** – The Conclusion of Audit 2019/20 documentation is now back from the external auditors and will be displayed on both the website and the noticeboard. The Clerk confirmed that there were no issues with the audit itself.

10. Playing Field/Play Equipment/Bowls Club –

Cllr. Meade – Confirmed that he had ordered Field Maple trees for the Playing Field to replace the ones which had died, as discussed at the last meeting.

11. Significant correspondence – The clerk commented that all correspondence had been forwarded to councillors and had been dealt with or replied to.

12. Business for next meeting – Budget, Works on Village Hall, Speed sign on School Road, Commemorative Plaque, Millennium Film, Flooding issues in village, Precept

The meeting was adjourned at 21.04pm and reconvened at 21.06pm for public comment

A comment was put forward regarding the lack of 30mph signs on School Road. It was agreed to look into this and contact Highways.

15. Date of the next meeting – To be confirmed depending on precept deadline.

Cllr. Wood thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21.10pm.

Signed

Dated