

22nd JUNE 2021

The monthly meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday 22nd JUNE 2021 in the Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Councillors present :- Mr R Leighton (RL Chairman, Mr A Ketteringham(AK)) Vice-Chairman, Mrs A Binns (AB), Mrs J Lusher(JL), Mrs A Shepherd(AS), Mr K Collins(KC), Mr J Leggett(JLg), Mr L Ready(LR), Mr A Thomas(AT).
Also in attendance - Mr F Eagle (FE) District/County Councillor, 9 Members of the Public & the Clerk Jean Sangster .

The minutes of last meeting held on 27th MAY 2021 had been circulated and were passed and signed.

District and County Council Reports

FE reported that Breckland had been most helpful to businesses with start-up grants and funding for improvements to shop fronts.

1.5 million had been set aside for emergency housing for 35 people at Elm Road Thetford.

NCC had secured Government grants to extend the existing E-Bikes Scheme.

Permission has been granted to build a new special school with 170 new places just outside Norwich at Easton for children with learning and cognition needs aged 4 -19.

He advised that he has requested additional verge cutting out of his budget.

Also that changes proposed to Government Boundaries could mean that Ashill and surrounding areas could be moved to West Norfolk Constituency and if we have any objections these should be made on the Consultation.

It was pointed out that although the footway in Swaffham Road had been cut back well the soil had again been placed on the bank which will just fall back onto the path when it rains as had been pointed out previously and it was asked why the soil cannot be carted away. This will be investigated.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Before FE left the meeting a member of the Public wished to pose some questions to him regarding footpaths, verges and overgrown hedges in the village.

After much discussion FE pointed out that it is not the responsibility of Landowners to keep footpaths cut only to ensure they are reinstated and not blocked. He suggested that maybe the purchase of strimmers could be considered and volunteers could keep these cut back and he will look into this.

The Chairman pointed out that with funding being reduced it was more important for money to be put into Social Care but if people wished to pay for the cutting of footpaths then the Precept would have to be increased in the future to cover this.

With regard to overgrown hedges, residents will be reminded in Ashink that they are responsible for keeping hedges from overhanging the pavement.

At this point FE left the meeting following thanks from the Chairman.

A resident queried why he had heard complaints of too many Speedwatch sessions being held and the Chairman pointed out there has to be a happy medium and that PC felt that they were doing a good job.

The meeting continued with :-

Matters arising from last meeting

Highways – Question of potholes being repaired outside Care Home in Watton Road as markings seem to have faded will be investigated.

It was pointed out that cars are still parking on pavement in Hale Road preventing wheelchair users and pushchairs access to pavement and this will be followed up.

SAM2 – Various emails had been received from Mr Street regarding the problems with collection of data. The Team had requested that they take over the SAM2 however the Clerk had consulted with the Norfolk Assoc. and it was confirmed that this should remain the property of PC who are responsible for Insurance, maintenance and the siting. Following discussion on this matter it was proposed by AK seconded by JL that this remain a PC property but the data could be collected by a member of the Speedwatch and circulated to PC.

Play Equipment – All checked. RL & AT had met the ROSPA Inspector on site. He had advised of several problems mainly with roundabout, newer swings position, Multiplay and one piece of fitness equipment. Once report received the Clerk will request that FreshairFitness make adjustments and other matters will be discussed at next meeting. He also advised that a 'No Kite Flying' notice be displayed..

Playing Field – Driveway – still no quotes but is in very poor condition.

Police – PC Button had been invited to attend meeting but was unable to be there. AK & Clerk had sent apologies for next SNAP meeting but both hope to attend the following one in September. June Newsletter displayed.

Footpaths – RL pointed out that if these are well walked the grass should be kept down.

Community Centre – It is proposed to hold AGM on 7th September and following this the Centre should reopen.

Bowls Green – This has been marked out and sprayed. Topsoil to be delivered and the request made for wire fencing to be taken down between 2 Horse Chestnut trees to gain access, was granted.

Car Scheme - Reply from Manor Farm Surgery that they would be able to carry out Medicals but until all drivers could be accommodated this is put on hold.

Community Assets – It was felt that this should be investigated further. RL & Clerk

Notice Board – Clerk has now applied for Match Funding grant.

Litter Bin – New bin received. Agreed to repair old one and place this just inside fence on playing field.

Volunteers for bench refurbishment – Volunteers now coming forward so agreed that JLg would order brushes and treatment solution.

Kiosk Shelving – JLg had donated shelving for new bookshelf and this will be attached to kiosk.

Dunnetts Close Former Garage site – Residents of Old allotment Close have been requested to contact Victory Housing (Formerly Flagship) direct as PC has received no response.

Doctor's Surgery Complaint – Following the request from Watton Surgery that PC acknowledge that information received was incorrect, the Clerk has placed an apology in Ashlink. RL felt very strongly that in future comments from Facebook and other Social Media sources should not be considered by PC.

Reply had been received from Minister of State for Housing via MP following our letter re infrastructure but he assures that the New 'Planning for the Future' White Paper should cover this problem.

Dog Bin for Fairholme/Hale Rd. Clerk has now received notification from Breckland that Licence granted so she has ordered this.

Correspondence

Weekly newsletters from NorfolkALC and Breckland circulated.

Included in NorfolkALC was letter from the Pageant Master Bruno Peek informing of the proposed Jubilee Celebrations next year and the lighting of Beacons across the country. AK assured everyone that the replacement Beacon will be in place and ready for use again.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

3PL/2021/0819/F for Mr Aaron Fell at 3 Pond Loke (Old Hall Farm) for single storey garden room. To be returned with no objections.

ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment for JUNE proposed by RL seconded by JL :-

Direct Debit - SWALEC payment for Power supply May.	£271-89
K & M Lighting Services Maint St Lights	£127-19
Mrs J Pickard Play field Warden Jun.)	Undisclosed
Jean Sangster Clerks Salary Jun. + 18hrs)	
Expenses Jun	£100-09
Renewal ZOOM Licence	£109-18
HMRC PAYE Apr. May Jun.	£560-85
Ashill PCC 2/3 rd donation 137 for Maint. Churchyard	£527-48
Half year	
Ashill Comm Centre Hire Hall May & Jun. + Cleaning	£68-00
Advancedscape Purchase new dog bin	£160-00

Current Account Details – Circulated to Members for confirmation.

The Clerk advised that Breckland Council has notified of Recycling Credits of £937-42 to be paid into our account. This is about same as last year and thanks expressed to the village for the continued use of the Recycling banks at the Community Centre.

Business Saver A/C updated.

Audit Notice period displayed and all documents have been sent to External Auditor.

Any other Business

Work had been carried out in Churchyard by volunteers and thanks were expressed to all who had helped. This will be completed next week. New hedging will be looked into.

It was agreed by all that Clerk should complete the Boundary Consultation with objections to being moved into West Norfolk Constituency as this Fen area is totally different to the much more populated area of Mid Norfolk which has served us well.

Agreed to replace trees next winter.

RL welcomed JL back to the village after such a long time away recuperating. We hope to see much more of her now and wish her well on her road to recovery and RL presented her with a bouquet of flowers from the Council.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

The following resolution was agreed and passed :-

“That under Section 100(A) (4) of Local Government Act 1972, the Press & Public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on Grounds that it includes the likely disclosure of confidential information”.

To Discuss Allotment Sites.

Date of next Meeting – Tuesday 27nd JULY 2021 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

Meeting Closed at 9.45pm

Signed

Date