

23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

This was a virtual meeting using Zoom.

This meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2021 at 7.30pm.

Councillors present : Mr R Leighton (RL) Chair, Mr A Ketteringham (AK) Vice-Chair, Mrs J Lusher (JL), Mrs A Shephard (AS), Mr K Collins (KC) Mr J Leggett (JLg), Mr L Ready (LR), Mr A Thomas (AT). Also in attendance Jean Sangster Clerk & Mr Fabian Eagle County/District Councillor.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs M Forsyth (MF) due to illness.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

This meeting was also attended by Mr David Dent Chair of Wayland Chamber of Commerce and Bronwen Tyler Chair to Wayland Partnership who presented a Power Point programme to give information on setting up a Digital Centre at Wayland House. This received a very positive response and Ashill Parish Council offered to support the project in principal. The Chairman thanked them for joining to present this information and wished them well.

The minutes of the meeting held on 26.01.21 had been circulated, read and passed and will be signed when normal meetings recommence.

## REPORT FROM DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCLLOR

Mr Eagle reported that NCC had agreed their Budget and there would be funds for the repairs to roads and flooding problems. He hoped to put in place a team to act as flood volunteers in each Parish with barriers held by them to be put in place in an emergency. Mr Freeman has agreed to assist with the flooding problem with Bennett Homes. A request for all drains to be cleared will be put forward to Highways and the Speed signs that we had before are to be returned to the village with the proviso that someone ensures that they are moved on a regular basis.

He also advised that Breckland had agreed their Council Tax rate for 2021/2022 and that the Elections in May are to go ahead. Also that the Census is to be carried out on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2021.

He will look into the possibility of providing cardboard bank.

MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC – no public in attendance.

## MATTERS ARISING

Highways – Still many matters outstanding but David Jacklin has now been promoted so Clerk is to request a meeting with the new Highways Engineer to go through the many problems.

Items to point out are :- potholes along Hale Road, Watton Road near Lodge Farm, at crossroads in Sth Pickenham, the verge in Dunnetts Close, the edge of footway from Ch.St to The Woodlands entrance has been run over by lorries, question why gullies have been filled in to frontage of new bungalows next Comm. Centre.

SAM2 sign – Data to be collected and then this will be moved back to the first position in Hale Road.

Play Equipment – All checked.

Playing Field – Reported that moles have returned and RL will deal with these.

Quotes for maintenance of areas at Comm. Centre, The Limes and Acacia Avenue now received as follows :- CGM Group – Community Centre £2630-46 Limes/Acacia £537-60

TTSR – Community Centre £1542-00 Limes/Acacia £720-00

It was proposed by JLg seconded by KC that TTSR be given contract for 1 year. JL abstained from voting due to family connection but this was agreed by remainder of Members.

23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2021 Cont.

Acacia Avenue – The Cherry tree has now been removed and residents have asked if this will be replaced. It was agreed that any trees removed on Limes had been replaced by residents as a memorial so this should apply to Acacia. Clerk to advise residents that ONE tree can be planted if they all agree.

Police – No report received but AK had been advised that PC Jo Higgins has been moved to another area. The clerk was requested to write to Sgt Howes to express our thanks for all she has done for the village and disappointment and concerns about the future of Policing in our area.

Speedwatch – No sessions held this month. The signs supplied by County Councillor will be responsibility of KC.

Litter Bin – The new bin at Comm. Centre has been badly damaged by car driving into it. This had been reported to Police but no response and Clerk to check the excess on Insurance before decision made on way forward.

Community Centre – BOWLS. Still to arrange to discuss siting and work with Comm. Centre Committee. KC informed that the containers are now dry. Quote awaited for driveway repairs.

Footpaths – Mr Ralli has asked for marker posts across his land to depict the correct route.

Warden to liaise with him to ensure this is displayed correctly on new map.

Maps – AS informed that these are being dealt with.

Car Scheme – Clerk has contacted the drivers on her list to ask if they are willing to continue when we are able to start again and most have agreed.

Future Meetings – Annual Parish Meeting will be held in April via video link.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in May but we are awaiting confirmation from Government that virtual meetings will be allowed to continue after beginning of May.

Any Other Matters – Notice Board. It was agreed to get quotes and apply for grant.

Street Lights – Residents keep reporting lights not working to NCC who then send information to incorrect email. It should be noted that most of the lights in the Parish are the responsibility of Parish Council and faults should be reported to the Clerk in first instance or a Councillor.

Ashlink – The Editor has offered to display a separate notice for the dates of Parish Council meetings in the hope this will encourage more interest in attending meetings.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

NorfolkALC - Weekly briefings circulated along with the weekly briefings from Breckland. Breckland has advised that the Textile Bank payments for 2020-2021 are being reduced due to the market value for textiles being lowered.

Email from George Freeman MP regarding the flooding problems throughout Norfolk.

Chairman has received letter from CADENT informing that no work should be carried out near Gas Main without their permission.

## **PLANNING**

**Returned between meeting** – 3PL/2021/0083/HOU for single storey side extension for garage and annex at 21 Fairholme Close with no objections but concerns re size (over development).

**3PL/2021/0173/F** – Demolition of existing property/garage and erection of a new family dwelling and garage at Milton Lodge 20 Fir Park. Discussed and to be returned with no objections.

**Application granted** – 3PL/2020/1398/HOU for 5 The Mere

**Application Refused** – 3PL/2020/1494/F at west Dragonfly Lodge Watton Road.

## **ACCOUNTS**

The following accounts were passed for payment for February proposed by JLg seconded by JL :-

**Direct Debit - SWALEC payment for Power supply Jan. £272-42**

Mrs J Pickard Play field Warden Feb.	)	Undisclosed
Jean Sangster Clerks Salary Feb.+ 13hrs	)	
Expenses Feb.		57-80
AW Water Supply.		14-28

Details of Accounts and Bank Statement circulated.

CASUAL VACANCY

The Clerk advised that due to Mrs M Forsyth being unable to attend any meetings for the last year she had consulted the County Assoc. and had been informed that Mrs Forsyth could no longer remain a Member of Ashill Parish Council. The Chairman had advised her of this and she agreed to stand down. The Clerk to write letter to MF to express thanks from the village for all the work she has done over the years and agreed that flowers would be sent.

This means that there is now a vacancy and this will be advertised as per directions from Breckland.

The Chairman expressed concerns that the recent YouTube showing of the antics at Handforth Parish Council could put people off from coming forward to serve as Councillors but not all Parish Council meetings are allowed to be conducted in this manner.

Any Other Business

Thanks to be expressed to all the people who have taken on the litter picking in the village as it has made such a difference and how tidy everywhere looks. Also thanks to the playing field warden for keeping the Community Centre field so clean and tidy throughout the last year.

JL advised that she will be moving from the Care Home in Watton to Rehabilitation Centre in Ipswich for a few months but will still keep in touch via video link. Good wishes expressed for her recovery.

It was agreed to support the suggested Digital Centre at Wayland House as felt that it will be good for younger people in the area.

Once lockdown is over we will need to elect a new representative to serve on the Wayland Partnership committee.

Add to list for Highways – Clearing of drains throughout the Parish.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.**

**Signed.....Date.....**