

27th APRIL 2021

This was a virtual meeting using Zoom.

This meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday 27th APRIL 2021 at 7.30pm.

Councillors present : Mr R Leighton (RL) Chair, Mr A Ketteringham (AK) Vice-Chair, Mrs J Lusher (JL), Mr K Collins (KC), Mr J Leggett (JLg), Mr L Ready(LR), Mr A Thomas(AT), the Clerk Jean Sangster & the TWO applicants for the Casual Vacancy. Mrs A Shephard(AS) joined the meeting later.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Fabian Eagle County/District Councillor

The minutes of the meeting held on 23.03.21 had been circulated, read and passed and will be signed when normal meetings recommence.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW COUNCILLOR

The two applicants had submitted their application forms to the Clerk along with letters for consideration and these had been circulated to all Members. A vote was taken as follows :- Mrs Andrea Binns 6 votes Mr Gareth Norman 1 vote so Mrs Binns was duly elected and will sign all documents. Thanks expressed to Mr Norman for his interest.

MATTERS ARISING

Highways – Meeting arranged for Thursday 29th April at 10.00am at Community Centre.

Matters to discuss with him :- Watton Road from Care Home to Lodge Farm surface breaking up, visibility from Woodlands access, question of hedges being removed to frontage of cottages in Church Street and query if this is a conservation area plus all the matters already reported ie TROD, potholes.

SAM2 sign – This to be moved back to position in Hale Road outside Green Hedges.

Play Equipment – All checked. The step on Multiplay is still in need of repair. Benches are getting rusty and need treating. Roundabout surface is beginning to break up and Mr Blackburn will be asked if he can repair. The clerk raised the question if we need to meet the Inspector from ROSPA in June and it was agreed that Chair and Vice-Chair will meet.

Playing Field – No quote received for driveway. Request for field to be used for Fun Day in July from Mr Beckett and this was granted.

Police – AK attended the recent SNAP meeting but there was nothing to report for Ashill. PC Oily Button hopes to meet us soon.

Speedwatch – Mr Street has sent report for last few sessions. He also advises that they are receiving complaints from Public about lack of speed signs in the village and that Parish Council do not seem to be doing much to get traffic calming in place. It was felt that PC have done their best over the years and it was suggested that RL meet the Team and explain just what has been done.

Footpaths – Warden reported that he may be able to get posts and he will contact Clerk when he knows how many discs are required. Map under way.

Community Centre – Query reopening as Government has still not allowed ZOOM meetings to be extended so it may be necessary to hold the May meeting in main Hall. It was agreed that if this is the case then the PC will pay for the Hall to be sanitised afterwards.

BOWLS – Long discussion followed and it was proposed by LR seconded by AK that a ‘peppercorn rent’ of £5-00 per annual be charged. This was agreed with RL abstaining.

Agronomist is attending on Thursday 29th to give report on soil. Further news next meeting.

It was suggested that any grants available should be applied for by PC for Council projects. Clerk to look into these.

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Car Scheme – No news at the moment.

Community Assets – No news at the moment.

Notice Board – Clerk to obtain more quotes.

Dog Bins – The replacement dog bin for Church Street has arrived.

Garden Club - They have requested that 2 barrels are replaced and it was agreed that AK get a barrel and cut in half. The Community Garden is asking for permission for another bin to be placed on triangle in Cressingham Road and this will be looked into when we meet Highways.

Tree Warden – Mr Fletcher is willing to mentor a person and this will be looked into.

Odd Job Man – Much discussion took place over volunteers and employing a person. It was agreed to advertise in next Ashlink for volunteers to carry out the treatment to benches and if no-one comes forward to look into employing someone although there is no provision in Budget for employing another person. This will be taken into account for future Budget but RL felt that it was the duty of the Council to keep these benches in good condition.

CORRESPONDENCE

NorfolkALC - Weekly briefings circulated along with the weekly briefings from Breckland.

K & M Lighting Services – New Maintenance Contract for 2021 onwards. Agreed to sign.

Email received earlier in month from Mr J Brooks an allotment holder expressing great concerns about the wildlife should the allotments be sold which he strongly objects to. The Council feel that there is so much wildlife elsewhere in the village that this will still be ecologically diverse and the Clerk to write back and explain this.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications Granted

3PL/2021/0083/HOU – 21 Fairholme Close for self-contained annex.

3AG/2021/0008/AG - Romandy House for new agricultural building.

3PL/2021/0173/F – Milton Lodge, Fir Park for erection of replacement family dwelling.

3PL/2021/0273/HOU – Inglenook Cottage, 8 Hale Road for extension to front.

Discussion re 3PL/2021/0482/F & 3PL/2021/0483/LB for conversion of the Coach House.

The Glebe, Church Street into two dwellings. It was proposed by KC seconded by AK that this be objected to on grounds of parking problem in Church Street already, poor visibility from access with speeding traffic entering Ch. St. Query if in conservation area. This was passed by 7 votes to 1.

Discusion re 3PL/2021/0540/F for reversion to two dwellings and single storey rear extension at 3 Goose Green. It was proposed to object to this application on grounds of there being no allocated parking available and there is already too many vehicles parking on The Green. This was proposed by KC seconded by AK and agreed by 7 votes to 1.

ACCOUNTS

Direct Debits paid- SWALEC payment for Power supply Mar. £301-05

27.04.21 Information Commission Data Protection £35-00

Urgent payment to STV International Ltd 4 Litter Sticks £63-98

The following accounts were passed for payment for APRIL proposed by KC seconded by

JLg:-

K & M Lighting Services Maint St Lights Apr.	£127-19
Mrs J Pickard Play field Warden Apr.)	Undisclosed
Jean Sangster Clerks Wages April + 18hrs)	
Expenses Apr.	£102-02
Norfolk County Council Rent Ashill Estate	£850-00
Environment Agency Drainage Ashill Estate	£14-99
Ashill & HH Garden Club Donation 137 for Planters	£50-00
Community Gardens Donation 137 Planters	£82-50
Norfolk ALC Annual Subscription	£316-30

Details of Accounts and Bank Statement circulated.
Date for Audit 2021. This is to be completed by 30th June 2021.

Matters arising from Annual Parish Meeting

Street Lighting – It was agreed to put this on hold for the time being.

Doctor’s Surgeries – Following the information received at APM it was agreed that Clerk write to our MP and Local Authorities to ensure that when Section 106 money is stipulated to provide a Doctor’s Surgery on the development sites that this money is actually put to this use as soon as development commences. All the surgeries in Watton and Swaffham are already over-subscribed and it is becoming increasingly difficult to get an appointment. It was suggested that maybe Ashill could provide a satellite surgery.

Any Other Business

Following the play inspection it was noted that there are several gaps in the tree line to southern side of playing field and it was agreed that the trees that had been removed could be replaced. It was also suggested that as Mr Norman has financial experience that he be called upon for advice in the future on our investments.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

The following resolution was 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 - New Site for Allotments, Staff Wages and Reserve Account.

Date of next Meeting is to be 25th May 2021 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre and will be the Annual General Meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed.....Date.....