

27th JULY 2021

The monthly meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday 27th JULY 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 A Thomas(AT). Also in attendance the Clerk Jean Sangster & 7 Members of Public.

Apologies were received from Mr F Eagle (FE) District/County Councillor but NO apologies from Mr L Ready (LR),

This meeting was attended by James Heaton from Breckland and Rick Martin from Norfolk Community Action to give advice on affordable housing. The main way of obtaining Social Housing for Local people is through exception sites but Ashill has already provided this in the past so Rick Martin explained about Community Led Housing which means the Parish Council would have much more control and could provide houses owned by village. Mr Heaton requested that we advise within 2 months if we are interested in following either of these routes and this will be discussed further. The Chairman thanked them for their attendance.

The new Beat Officer PC Justin Johnson also attended stating that Ashill has a low level crime rate but he hopes to get out more into the Community. He was asked about the 40mph being extended beyond the Recycling Centre in Swaffham Road and if the Police would support us in trying to get Highways to do this. Suggested that Police are copied into request to Highways. He was advised that there had been a problem with the van parked on road outside Fairwinds in Watton Road when a combine harvester could not get by and held up traffic. PC Johnson felt that there was very little that could be done as the van was not breaking the law but it was pointed out to him that this is the only route into the village for the farm machinery and as the gas main is very near the surface along this stretch of road this is surely a safety issue if a large vehicle was to run over this. However he did not think the Police could help. Chairman thanked him for attending.

The minutes of last meeting held on 22nd JUNE 2021 had been circulated and were passed and signed.

As Mr Eagle knew he had prior engagement he had spoken with AK and the Clerk. He would like to purchase out of his County Council Budget some flood defences for his area to be shared among the Parishes but this requires a Parish to buy these and then be reimbursed from County so he asked if Ashill would be willing to do this and he would ensure that they would benefit. These would cost approx. £4000-£5000.

It was proposed by AK seconded by JLg that Ashill Parish Council purchase these and ensure that they are reimbursed. All agreed.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

A member of the Public asked why there had been an additional charge of £20-00 on to the hire charge for the cleaning of hall and wished to know why the Yoga Club could not use the hall yet.

The Clerk pointed out that this was NOT a Parish Council matter but the Chairman seemed to get involved in this discussion with KC the Chair of Community Centre who tried to explain that the matter had already been sorted. However this did cause friction between both parties before moving on.

Matters arising from last meeting

Highways – Only correspondence is for the NCC Partnership Scheme and Members were asked to consider if there is anything we could apply for. Applications by December. Report large pothole outside The Willows Hale Road.

SAM2 – AK had visited Mr Street to explain the concerns of the Council and that communications between the two need to improve but that Council is pleased with what Team are doing.

However the report that had gone into August Ashlink once again put the Council in a very poor light but Mr Street had now realised this and an apology had been placed on village facebook. Both parties will be notified when SAM2 is moved to the specified locations.

After much discussion it was proposed by RL seconded by JLg that the batteries and charger be handed over to Mr Street with the keys for him to change and a letter to be drawn up and signed. A vote taken was passed by 6 votes for and 2 abstentions. The Clerk wished to record that she was not happy with this having been told that the equipment should remain in Parish Council hands.

Play Equipment – Report now received from ROSPA. The following items were noted for action :-

Roundabout – gap between ground and frame a concern. Agreed to ask the Inspector if placing a rubber edging on frame would be allowed.

New Swings - these have to be moved as they are a hazard to people on pathway. Clerk to check if moved further onto field if we will then be told that they are too close to fitness equipment. Agreed to tie swings up until this matter can be resolved. Quotes to be obtained for moving from My Hyde and Mr Gooding.

Multiplay – step corroded and suggested that this be removed and replace with concrete support. Again to be checked with ROSPA.

Twist & Step – Loose in ground. Clerk to contact FreshairFitness.

Kite sign will be displayed.

Playing Field – Driveway – still no quotes but Clerk to find some other maintenance people so that grants can be applied for.

Police – Dealt with. Next SNAP meeting is 28th September – the same evening as our monthly meeting so unable to attend. July newsletter on notice board.

Footpaths – Letter of thanks sent to Mr Tufts for getting the paths on his land cut.

MAP – still not available but being dealt with. However AS asked if she could draw up a map of Hale Road to display in bus shelter as addresses of properties very confusing and drivers having difficulty finding these. This was agreed.

Community Centre – KC asked if it would be possible to have a Defibrillator at the Centre and this will be investigated. **Bowls Green** – Still awaiting further work.

Community Assets – Suggested that a working party be formed to take this forward.

Notice Board – Clerk advised that grant was successful and asked if she could now place the order. This was agreed.

Litter Bin – Both bins to be sited shortly.

Dog Bin – JLg has now sited the new bin near bus shelter at top of Fairholme. Thanks expressed.

Volunteers for bench refurbishment – JLg to purchase equipment and then arrange with volunteers.

Dunnetts Close Former Garage site – Resident of Old allotment Close had advised that former water tower site had now been cut but no action on garage site. Clerk to contact again.

Boundary Changes – Clerk to send in comments as Parish Council not happy with being moved from Mid-Norfolk to West Norfolk constituency as felt not relevant to this area.

Grants – Various available at the moment. Keep details.

Jubilee Tree Planting & Celebrations – 70 trees free but where to plant. Speak to Mr Fletcher. Mugs are available and this will be discussed at next meeting with view to contacting organisations.

Church Parking – Rectory parking to remain until sold but should not be sold at the moment.

Correspondence

Weekly newsletters from NorfolkALC and Breckland circulated.

Briefings from NCC.

NCC County Farms – Request for capital funding ideas for farm improvements. Clerk to reply with drainage of Ashill Estate.

Breckland – Advice re new Housing Service called Locata for applying for housing. Concerns that this is all online.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Returned between meetings 3PL/2021/0966/HOU for 2 Holmere Cottages The Green for glazed Conservatory to rear with no objections.

Discussed

3PL/2021/0181/DOC – Discharge of Condition no 11 Land adjacent to The Willows Hale Road. No Objections.

3PL/2021/0984/HOU – 5 Pond Loke for single storey rear living room extension. No objections.

3PL/2021/0333/HOU – 44 Acacia Avenue to demolish existing conservatory and garage and erect Single storey rear and side extension. No objections.

TRE/2021/0163/TPO – 2 Woodlands Ashill. Tree Work on Beech Tree due to rotten base.

3PL/2021/1075/HOU – no 1 Swaffham Road for two storey domestic extension No objections

Applications granted

3PL/2021/0613/HOU – 35 Cressingham Road for new bay window.

3PL/2021/0819/F – 6 Pond Loke for single storey garden room.

ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment for JULY proposed by KC seconded by AK:-

Direct Debit - SWALEC payment for Power supply Jun	£290-88
K & M Lighting Services Maint St Lights Jul.	£127-19
Mrs J Pickard Play field Warden Jul.)	Undisclosed
Jean Sangster Clerks Salary Jul. + 21hrs)	
Expenses Jul	£89-70
Bidwells LLP Negotiating Fees to date	£2160-00
Playsafety Ltd ROSPA Play Equipment Inspection	£174-60

Current A/C and Business Savings A/C details circulated as money transferred from Capital Fund for payment of Bins and Bidwells.

Rental Charges for containers discussed. Review when Comm. Centre reopened.

Clerk advised that again she had received queries from Auditors but she had dealt with these and hopefully matter closed.

Any other Business

Reported that there are several hedges growing over the pavements and it was proposed that people should be contacted about these.

Fen Edge – This is a new Lottery Funded Landscape Partnership for the Brecks offering to come to events to promote the scheme. It was suggested that the Engagement Officer be invited to come along to a meeting to provide further information. Clerk to arrange.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

As the Land Working Party had nothing to report this month this was not passed.

Date of next Meeting – Tuesday 24th AUGUST 2021 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

Meeting Closed at 10.00pm

Signed

Date
