

ASHILL PARISH COUNCIL

1148.

26th SEPTEMBER 2023

The monthly meeting was held on Tuesday 26th SEPTEMBER 2023 in the Community Centre at 7.00pm

In attendance: Mr A Ketteringham (AK) Chairman, Mr R Leighton (RL) Mrs A Binns (AB), Mr A Howell (AH), Mr J Leggett(JLg), Mrs J Lusher (JL), Mr J Pearson (JP), Mrs A Shepherd (AS), Mr A Thomas (AT), 12 Members of the Public, the Clerk Jean Sangster. Mr F Eagle arrived later.

The minutes of meeting held on 22nd August 2023 had been circulated and were passed and signed as a correct record.

There were no additional Declarations of Interest.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT /COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Given later.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Residents of bungalows opposite Millfield were most concerned to learn that Highways are to reinstate two grips that had been filled in when site developed. These had been in existence when this was agricultural land and after discussion it was agreed to ask Highways to visit before any work done.

Concerns were also raised regarding the access to the permissive path next Seaview Cottage Hale Rd. and the lack of parking area and footway that was conditional. This is all being investigated.

Reported that VAS in Hale Road not working.

Resident of Sw.Rd. had sent in to Breckland a very comprehensible letter re the planning application for 3 bungalows in Sw. Rd.

Drains still need attention.

MEETING CONTINUED

Matters arising from last meeting

Highways – The problems in Ch. St. had been reported and FE has agreed to £500 being spent from his NCC fund to cover the cutting back of vegetation. Request to meet Mr Jacklin to mark where the boundary is and who is responsible for trees with TPO's.

Meeting to be arranged with Highways re siting of gates.

New Highways Engineer is Darren Walmsley who has taken over from Jack Griffiths.

Report from Mr Eagle – He explained that the developers of Hale Road site had now contacted Highways with regard to the footway and parking area.

He also advised that Breckland Planners wished to consult with Parish Councils regarding conditions set down when planning applications are passed but never adhered to. Meeting to be arranged.

Breckland are promoting business in the market towns with Rural Business Awards.

He was asked to 'Call-In' the planning application for Sw.Rd. and to put our points forward.

Play Equipment – Monthly Inspection was carried out. Matting still to be placed under old swings. A discussion followed regarding the surround to roundabout and how to pay for this.

RL proposed seconded by JP that money should be used from the Capital Fund to pay for this repair as no clear directive has been received on Capital spending.

An amendment was made by JL seconded by JLg that the use of Capital Funds should be clarified before going ahead. A vote on the amendment was 3 to 6 so funds to be taken from Capital and RL agreed to get quotes. At this point the Clerk expressed grave concerns about using this money and wished it to be recorded that she did not agree with this action and is contrary to rules on Capital spending. The Chair also expressed concerns and will seek further advice.

Playing Field – VOLUNTEER WORK – Now arranged for Sunday 1st October. However it has become clear that the Football Team have also arranged an additional match on same morning which means much of the work planned cannot be carried out at same time.

The Football organisers joined the meeting to request an additional compound area for goals posts to be stored and this was granted.

Police – Consultation launched on Budget for 2024/2025. Comments from Public can be made online.

Speedwatch – Sessions to resume once road closures over. Thanks expressed to Mr Fletcher for his years of dedication to the scheme.

Footpaths – The one opposite shop to Ashill Estate needs trimming.

Community Centre – Fete a great success – thanks to all concerned.

Ashill Estate – At this point AK handed over the Chair to RL and left the meeting whilst following two items were discussed.

Rent Review - NCC had advised that this is to be increased to £2283-00 per annum but this was thought to be excessive and following discussion it was proposed by RL seconded by AT to offer £2000-00 per annum and to ask what their figures were based on.

Land to Let – Former Surveyor’s Land Cress. Road

Tender received from Mr A Ketteringham for £140-00 per annum. There being no other interested parties it was proposed by RL seconded by JLg that this be accepted.

Marl Pit Sw. Rd. Tenders received from Mr O Jones for £100-00 and from
Mr R Howell for £50-00

It was proposed by JP seconded by AS that the tender from Mr Jones be accepted.

AK returned to meeting and took back the Chair.

Wayland Partnership – AS unable to attend meeting.

Food Bus – Time changed again. Concerns to be expressed to Breckland.

Old Allotment Close – Clerk to again write to Maintenance Contractor to arrange site visit.

Gas Installation – JL had contacted CADENT as a concerned resident and Clerk has written to Mr George Freeman MP on both matters. No reply as yet.

Training for all Councillors – This had proved very beneficial.

Mindful Village Programme – Further info from Breckland but felt that a face to face visit would be more helpful and to get AVA involved.

CORRESPONDENCE

NorfolkALC and Healthwatch Norfolk - Newsletters circulated

NorfolkALC – New Website. Details of logins.

Info from Bruno Peek regarding the lighting of Beacon on 6th June 2024. Discuss at next meeting.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

3PL/2023/0860/F

Application for erection of 3 dwellings & garages on Land in Sw. Rd .

Copy Letter from Residents sent to Breckland. Object on same grounds as before and note that there had been no conditions submitted from Highways.

3PL/2023/0885/HOU – Application to demolish lean-to rear extension & construct new flat roof single storey extension at 6 Swaffham Rd. Returned with no objections.

Local Plan & Report on Meeting from AK - This will be adopted in 2026 but there was assurance that nothing has been decided on the sites that were put forward previously and that these would not automatically be submitted for development. It was felt that before developments take place the infrastructure should be in place. There is to be a public consultation on this plan.

FINANCE

PAID Direct Debit - SWALEC payment for Power supply August £297-60.

The following accounts due for payment for SEPTEMBER 2023 were passed for

payment proposed by JL seconded by AH:-

26th SEPTEMBER 2023 Cont.

1150.

K & M Lighting Services Maint St Lights Sept.	£150-03
Mrs J Pickard Play field Warden Sept.)	Undisclosed
Jean Sangster Clerks Salary Sept. + 19.hrs)	
Expenses Sept.	£101-00
HMRC PAYE Jul.Aug.Sept.	£679-32
Ashill Comm. Centre Hire of Hall Jul.x2 Aug.	£99-00
PKF Littlejohn LLP Audit Fee	£504-00
M P Dennis & Sons Hedge Cutting	to be advised

B) Current A/C details and copy of bank statement circulated for verification.

C) Reserves & Investments – AT advised that Cambridge & Counties have a new Investment A/C with good rate so it was agreed to set up new account with them and place £16000 from Barclays Business Saver A/C in it.

D) AUDIT – AGAR for 2022/2023 now completed following several queries being raised by them and statement once again about the amount of money held in Reserve which the RFO had replied about. Also they were concerned that one box was ticked incorrectly regarding Public Inspection during the year. All accounts are open to the Public to view with prior arrangement with RFO.

THE MEETING WAS AGAIN OPEN TO PUBLIC

A member of Public asked if parents should be asked if they really want the roundabout but this was immediately agreed that it was required.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Defibrillator box at Call-in has been checked and thermostat had been turned down. New battery fitted to Defibrillator.

RL advised that Church is holding Harvest Supper in Church on 29th and Festival service on 1st October.

Also Quiz Night in Comm. Centre on 11th Nov. Teams required.

Speeding Tractors are again causing concern.

Report of sunken road where Cadent have been working in Watton Rd.

Seat/Benches around Village – Ownership checked and are as follows :-

AVA own 3 – 1 in Cress, Rd.

1 in Sw. Rd.

1 in Ch. St. opposite Church.

PC own all at Comm. Centre and 1 in Acacia Avenue.

Trustees own all on Common and Green.

Working Party to stain these .

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 Allotment Site.

Date of next monthly Meeting is TUESDAY 24th October 2023 AT 7.00PM IN COMMUNITY CENTRE.

This Meeting closed at 9.28 pm

Signed

Date
