

23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2024

The monthly meeting was held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2024 in the Community Centre at 7.00pm

In attendance: Mr A Ketteringham (AK) Chair, Mr R Leighton (RL) Vice-Chair, 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), 5 members of the Public, the Clerk Jean Sangster. Mr F Eagle arrived later.

The minutes of meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 had been circulated and an amendment requested by JL was to be included regarding the Christmas Lights on The Green which was dealt with by Trustees. The minutes were then passed and signed as a correct record. There were no additional Declarations of Interest.

## REPORT FROM DISTRICT /COUNTY COUNCILLOR

This was given when FE arrived.

### OPEN TO PUBLIC

Numerous potholes in Hale Road to be reported to Highways and flooding problem in Womack Lane.

### MEETING CONTINUED

Matters arising from last meeting

**Highways** – Work on TROD has been rectified.

Overgrown Hedge on Oaks- owner is to be written to.

JP requested that Clerk contact Highways with regard to Police Speedwatch sign as he felt this could easily be included with the wording already requested at no extra cost as Highways have stated.

Ch. St./Watton Rd boundaries. The NCC mapping department have investigated this matter thoroughly and it is clear that the original boundary of The Woodlands is stated as the hedge and the trees are all owned by residents and the ditch also belongs with the property.

It was agreed that this is really the responsibility of Breckland and NCC to advise the residents of the safety aspect involved in their ownership.

Problems to report :- Pothole o/s 3 Dunnetts Close, Manhole cover at entrance to Dunnetts Close, surface of DC road, Raised open drain o/s School, 3 drains that should have been dug out in Sw. Rd. Ditch in Sw.Rd. to be checked as only part dug out, Pothole in Station Rd.Holme Hale to left of bridge, Middle of Cress.Rd junction large hole.

**Play Equipment** – Monthly Inspection was carried out. Matting will be placed under swings in next 2 weeks. The netting on hoops in MUGA has been repaired but quote to be obtained for one replacement. The seat has been removed as in need of repair and will be resited when work completed. Reported that bolts on top of new swings are loose and Clerk will report.

Request for consideration to be given to installing a Zipwire. Agreed to get quotes and look for grant funding.

Clerk has been notified that a new Inspector will be required for July inspection as Mr Bracey has now retired.

**At this point FE gave his Report** – He advised that Breckland have launched D-Day grants of £500-00 to assist with proposed Community celebrations & Beacon Matched Funding Grant for the purchase by Parish Councils of Beacons. Both grants open until 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

He informed that NCC Recycling Centre are changing rules with closure on Weds. All details on NCC website.

Budget has been fixed at 4.99% On Feb.6<sup>th</sup> NCC Farming & Rural Business Awards are taking place.

The funding of cutting back of hedge in Ch.St. was raised and FE confirmed this will come out of his budget but be invoiced to PC and we will have to reclaim.

Member of public asked what is being done about the closure of Chemist in Watton and how are residents supposed to get prescriptions but FE stated that in this age of computers it is quite easy to get everything on-line.

He was also questioned about the lack of the conditions not being followed on the site adjacent Seaview Hale Road. He advised Clerk contact Simon Wood to arrange date for meeting.

**Playing Field** – Maintenance for 2024 Season. The following quotes were received :-

Groundscape - £1605-00 to include Harrowing/rolling/scarify/aerate and spraying as requested  
TTSR - £1515-00 plus VAT However on checking TTSR cannot carry out harrowing etc due to broken equipment

CGM - £2247.30 plus VAT Following discussion it was proposed by JP seconded by AH that the quote from Groundscape be accepted for one year.

Maintenance of Acacia Avenue and Limes for 2024. Following quotes received :-

Groundscape - £810-00

TTSR - £900.00 plus VAT

CGM - £742.50 plus VAT

It was proposed by JP seconded by AH that the quotes from Groundscape be accepted.

This was agreed by all Members.

**Football Club** – There was nothing to report.

**Police** – SNAP meeting was being held same time as this meeting.

**Speedwatch** – Nothing to report.

**Footpaths** – AT reported that sign post missing at Quidney Farm.

**Community Centre** – Request from Chairperson that when there are such events as Fete and Craffair that there is no match booked for football due to parking difficulties. It was proposed by RL seconded by JLG that this be agreed for these two events. Notified that Comm. Centre AGM will be on 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024.

**Ashill Estate** – Discussed later.

**Wayland Partnership** – AS had attended meeting and reported that there is a book sale at Thompson on 9<sup>th</sup> March. Banking Hub opens 5 days a week and is proving very popular.

**Food Bus** – This is being discontinued from end of March but other arrangements may be put in place.

**Old Allotment Close** – Clerk to contact Maintenance Company again.

**Gas Installation** – No response from Cadent re Main so Clerk to write to MP again for support and to contact Press. Barrier to be placed around gas box in Cress.Rd so seat may have to be resited but this belongs to AVA.

**Allotments** – Posts and numbers to be obtained. Working Party to be arranged.

**Mindful Village Programme** – Still awaiting list of organisation contacts so reps can be invited to attend a meeting.

**Tree Warden** – Mr Roy Simpson of 1 Fir Park has offered to take on this role. Details to be circulated. Request received from resident of Limes for oak tree to be inspected.

**Ashlink** – It was agreed by all that following the recent difficulties experienced by the Editors and their expression to give this up, that this be discontinued and it was requested that AH put out notice on Facebook to this effect. Also agreed that all accounts be handed over to the Clerk by end of Feb. Notice to be displayed on Website.

**Phone box Church Street** – JLG had checked this out and this require several repairs and painting. Suggested to contact Necton Parish Council for name of person who worked on theirs.

**Edward Close** – Update from Victory/Flagship. Plans to be submitted shortly.

**Marl Pit** – Rent and forms now received.

**Fire Report** – The Clerk has now made contact with Fire & Rescue Service and arranged a meeting with them on 25<sup>th</sup> March before the commencement of monthly meeting.

**Street Lights** – Quote receive for replacement light at entrance to Woodlands. This will cost £390.00. After checking by Members it was agreed that this really is not required at this position so not to replace.

**Other Matters** – Request for Grit Bin in Ch.St. will be sent on to Highways as they have to agree the siting of these.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

NorfolkALC and Healthwatch Norfolk - Newsletters circulated

Breckland – Grant funding of between £100 and £5000 available for planting trees.

Breckland – Reply re Refuse Collection lorry running over edge of Green is to be dealt with Breckland Community\_Workshop to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb,

Returned between meetings :-

3PL/2023/1022/HOU – Amendment to 6 Pond Loke retrospective application – returned with no objections – Now approved.

3BT/2024/0001/BT – Consultation on installation of meter equipment at Pumping Station Watton Road. Prior approval only.

Hale Road development – This was discussed with FE earlier as it would appear that the first bungalow could be occupied shortly.

Local Plan consultation meetings. AK had attended at Attleborough and JL on ZOOM. AK pointed out that Ashill does not appear to them to have a Settlement boundary and this will be queried. Following from these meetings they are requesting answers to 5 questions that have been sent out. Replies by 19<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**FINANCE**

**PAID Direct Debit** - SWALEC payment for Power supply Nov. £224 -28

The following accounts due for payment for were passed for payment proposed by JLg seconded by AH:-

K & M Lighting Services Maint St Lights Jan.	£150-03
Mrs J Pickard Play field Warden. Jan. )	Undisclosed
Jean Sangster Clerks Salary Jan.+ 14hrs)	
Expenses Jan.	£104-88

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

C) Investments & Reserves update.

D) BUDGET – Following much discussion with RFO and the recommendations made by her it was proposed by JLg seconded by AH that the Precept be increased by 7% to £29883 and this was agreed by all Members.

**THE MEETING WAS AGAIN OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Concerns re barrier to be installed at Gas box Cress. Rd. expressed.

Blocked drain at entrance to The Glebe in Sw, Rd. to be reported.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Maintenance person – Consider asking self-employed people to do work.

AB reported problems with Defibrillator at Call-In but it was felt this could have been used and returned. Keep check on this as Clerk should be notified by Circuit every time this is removed.

Request for Ch.St. to have a weight restriction imposed. Chair and Vice-chair both stated that this had been requested several times over the years but always been refused as could not be enforced but it was requested that this be asked again.

**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 & Clerk’s Contract.

Date of next monthly Meeting is TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.00PM IN COMMUNITY CENTRE.

This Meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT