

23rd September 2014

A meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday 23rd September 2014 in the Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Councillors present:- Mr R Leighton - Chairman, Mrs M Forsyth - Vice-Chairman, Mrs J Lusher, Mr K Collins, Mr A Ketteringham, Mr L Ready & Mr R Wright. Also in attendance Mr I Monson County Councillor.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr B Corps due to unforeseen circumstance and Mrs J Gray due to dentist appointment.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Mr Ketteringham declared an interest in Item 10 on the Agenda - Former Surveyor's Land.

This meeting was attended by Mr Oliver Tappin from Cookes of Fakenham to explain about the solar panels for the Community Centre. The system is for 16 panels and should generate 4000kwhrs per year. Cost approx £6000 with income from feed-in tariff £1044 per annum. Questions raised - Warranty for panels, any problems with footfalls being kicked onto roof. Warranty is 25years and Cookes had not encountered any problems with footfalls. If electric radiators were fitted in Upton Room would this system be adequate - yes. Discuss how payments would be made for feed-in if Parish Council agreed to fund this. The Chairman thanked Mr Tappin for his most useful information and attendance.

The Minutes of last Meeting were taken as read and amendment made to **page 756** Repair to Lych Gate to read ' It was proposed by Mr Leighton seconded by Mr Ketteringham that the Lych Gate should be replaced as it was with red brick and **NOT** rendered. Tiled with plaque reset in wall'. These were then passed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

HIGHWAYS – Notification that Ranger Service will visit village week commencing 13th October, Members very unhappy with the work that has been carried out recently - in particular the verge in Dunnetts Close and potholes in Church Street. Concerns expressed that proposed work to drainage system in Swaffham Road is un-necessary and wasting money. Mr Monson felt that this sub-standard work should be reported but it is due to County not having enough inspectors to check the work. It was therefore agreed to arrange a meeting with Mr Groom to express these concerns. Clerk to arrange.

PLAY EQUIPMENT – The Clerk had received an email from Mrs Watts to inform that she felt unable to commit to anything for at least a year but wished us every success with the new project. No information received from Park Leisure to date but rep is confident that the MUGA would fit well at far end of tennis court. Mr Wright reported that cradle seats on old swings need new brackets and has asked Wickstead to quote for replacements.

PLAYING FIELD - Mr Heffron will come back and fix the remaining wires.

WAYLAND PARTNERSHIP – Next meeting is 29th September. Arising from July meeting is Watton Medical Practice for further action, Youth Provision - developing an action plan, Dementia Awareness- funding for training for businesses and organisation to be aware of needs of people with dementia.

Dragonfly Gallery events - 'Magical Stitching' 6th - 27th Sept., Autumn Show - 'Apples' 11th - 25th October features a selection of crafts.

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POLICE - New Inspector for our area - Inspector Jonathan Papworth. Crime report for August - 1 Criminal damage and 1 Other. Next SNAP meeting Tues. 16th Sept. at 10.00am. From minutes of last SNAP meeting - parking problems in Ashill should be taken up with NCC Traffic Warden so in light of recent accident outside former Chapel due to larger car parked outside and parking on pavement in Church Street, the Clerk will contact the Kings Lynn Warden.

FOOTPATHS - The cutting of these will be taken up with Paul Groom when he visits. The footpath warden reported that an Adder had been seen near tennis court and dog owners should keep dogs on leads when out walking. The set-a-side land owned by Mr Tufts has now been ploughed up so people are unable to walk this path due to the soil from when ditch was dug out being left on footpath. Clerk to contact Mr King who farms the land to ask if soil can be dragged across field.

ALLOTMENTS - The Clerk asked Members to look at letter she had composed for Holders to be given out when rents collected. This informed that now water not on meter bills will be monitored and that pipe and tap will have to be lagged during winter by holders or water will be turned off. Also to refrain from dumping rubbish on un-used plots. Clerk to arrange meeting with Solicitor re Deeds.

SPEEDWATCH SCHEME - Mrs Lusher reported that there had been 3 sessions so far this month with 33 drivers travelling at 35mph or more. As most of the drivers were recorded in vicinity of Millfield, this is where efforts will be concentrated so that Police can see there is a problem and then the local enforcement officer can visit. He is able to issue speeding tickets, fines and points at the scene. Members thanked Mrs Lusher and her team for their hard work.

LIGHTING AT COMMUNITY CENTRE - The new lights on outside of Hall had now been installed. Following from information provided by Cookes this matter was discussed further. Two quotes received Cookes - £6040-55 and Abels - £6362.88. After much discussion it was proposed by Mr Ready seconded by Mr Ketteringham that Parish Council accept the quotation from Cookes and Parish Council should donate the cost of the panels and installation to Community Centre, this being an investment to the Community. This was agreed with Mr Collins abstaining from vote. Mr Collins then informed that the St John Ambulance had approached him with regard to using the Community Centre for their meetings as it is possible that their building at the School will be sold in the future. The Committee have looked into this and it would be possible to accommodate them with a few modifications to bookings but in the meantime St John's are appealing against the disposal of their building.

BUS SHELTER - Plaque still to be ordered and Clerk has obtained timetables but not sure how to fix these. Path in front of shelter now completed.

VAS - Clerk had contacted Westcotec. Awaiting connection by UK Power Networks.

WEBSITE - Mr Sayers has asked that each Member send him a photo and small write-up. Clerk to also email Minutes.

LYCH GATE - Quotes had been received from Fisher Bullen for repairs to Gate and Wall for £20,601-04 + VAT and from Andrew Hyde for both for £15,702-00. The Clerk had sent in the Insurance claim to MIB but this had been returned telling her that we should first claim of the driver's Insurance and how to find out these details. Clerk will now apply to them. Although Chairman felt that debris should be moved as soon as possible, Members felt that if this was done it could have an effect on any grants that may have to be applied for in the future so will be left until Insurance claim has been investigated.

GOOSE GREEN - Between meetings the trees on northern edge of site had been removed in spite of efforts made by Chairman, Mr Ketteringham and Clerk to prevent this happening. Breckland Council and Bennetts are adamant that no planning regulations have been broken although the outline planning consent states that no work should be carried out on site until Reserved Matters have been passed and this includes landscaping, trees and hedges. The Chairman felt that the 106 Agreement that cost the Council thousands of pounds was worthless and asked permission to write to Chief Executive of Breckland Council, Head of Planning, Leader of Council, Chairman of Council and MP. All agreed. He will be seeking compensation and a refund of the money that Parish Council have paid out. Clerk has now received notification that TPO's are being applied for on 5 trees on edge of southern side of site on boundary with Green..

ANY OTHER MATTERS

DOG POSTERS - Still not received so Clerk will chase up.

TREES ON ACACIA - Mr Fletcher will deal with these.

GLEBE WALL - Thanks expressed to Mrs Bunn who has dealt with this matter.

CORRESPONDENCE

NALC - Chairmanship Training. Think about this for the future.

Workshop for contacting the media - 'Polish up that Press release'.

Course Programme for Norfolk Parish Training Partnership for next few months.

Mr Ketteringham to attend Health & Safety: Risk Assessment course on 11th November at Bircham Newton 6.45 - 9.30pm.

There is to be election training to be announced so need to keep this in mind.

Breckland Council - Notification of changes to Recycling. This means that glass can now be put in black recycling bin by households but concerns expressed that this will impact on the Bottle Banks and income from these. Mr Monson informed that most villages wished to keep their bottle banks and were encouraging residents to continue to use these. The Clerk asked if she could place notice in Ashlink to this effect and this was agreed.

NCC - Budget and priorities for 2015/2018.

NCC - Waste Matters conference 9th October at John Innes Centre 9.00 - 14.50.

Bulletin from George Freeman MP.

Norfolk Accident Rescue Service - Request for donation. Unable to give.

NRCC - Signpost.

NCC County Farms Advisory Board - Information that this has now been set up to establish a better relationship between tenants and County Council. Recommendations for changes to be made to Policy. It would appear from this that land would only be sold at full market value but Mr Monson felt that as long term tenants of Ashill Estate we stood a good chance of buying this at a reduced rate which he would support. Consider this in future.

Audit Report - This stated that Risk Assessments should be carried out as soon as possible but that there was nothing else for concern.

MEETING ADJOURNED FOR PUBLIC TO ASK QUESTIONS

Mrs Fulcher asked if the interest rates for the Investment Accounts could be included in minutes. The Clerk will include next month.

Complaints from allotment holders re possible increase in rents due to water charge. The Chairman assured that rents were not being increased at present time but water use will be monitored. Information will be given to holders. It was felt that rents had been increased considerably in last few years but Council had not carried out the work that was agreed. The Clerk will give holders a breakdown of income and expenditure.

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Request from Mr & Mrs Andrews Plot 1 for verge along edge of allotments in Church Street to be maintained by Highways.

Mrs Thomas from The Firs raised a query about the report in Ashlink differing from the July minutes and wanted to know who was responsible. Mrs Peckham informed that the report was done by her and the minutes by the Clerk and apologised if there was a discrepancy. Complaints from residents of Dunnetts Close re verge filling and Chairman assured them that this will be raised with Mr Groom.

Residents also very angry about trees being removed and felt that Council should have done more to prevent this. Once again they had been let down over this site and accusations were thrown at Council for not being on site and not getting TPO's on these trees in first place. Details of crimes were requested but explained that details were not given to Council.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no Planning Applications this month. But permission granted to Mr & Mrs Thomas The Firs for alteration, extension, new access and replacement boundary fence.

ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment proposed by Mr Collins seconded by Mrs Lusher:-

Nationwide BS Investment	£80,000-00	
K & M Lighting Services Ltd Maint Street Lights Sept..		£115-27
Mrs J Pickard Playing Field Warden Sept.		£74-00
Jean Sangster Clerks Salary Sept.		£312-00)
Expenses Sept.		£82-74) £394-74
HMRC PAYE Jul. Aug. Sept.		£294-40
E.ON Power Supply to Street Lights Aug.	£ 164-93	
NORSE Eastern Ltd Maint. Acacia + Limes		£89-00
James Marshall Strimming at C.C. Aug.	£40-00	
Ashill PCC Maintenance of Churchyard Jul. & Aug.		£281-33
Mazars Annual Audit	£1200-00	
John Watts Services New Outside lights for Comm. C.		£293-40
Lovewell Blake Financial Advice Fee	£750-00	
Ashill Community Centre Hire hall Jul. Aug.Sept.	£33-00	
Car Scheme payments for Aug. + Sept. to be advised.		

ACCOUNTS

Current a/c and Deposit a/c details given to each Member.

Investments - All now completed as per agreement last month.

AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

Following changes in Government regulations Clause 3L now reads that 'The recording, filming and reporting of all public meetings is now permitted and members of the public are able to film or record meetings to which they are permitted to access in a non-disruptive manner'.

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TENDERS FOR MARL PIT AND FORMER SURVEYOR'S LAND

The following were received :-

Marl Pit - Mr J Sears £70-00 per annum. This was accepted proposed by Mr Leighton seconded by Mrs Forsyth.

Former Surveyor's Land - Mr A Kettering ham £110-00. This was accepted proposed by Mr Collins seconded by Mrs Lusher. Clerk to draw up agreements.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The problem with parking at School was again raised and suggested that this be included when contacting Traffic Warden.

Mr Wright would like some help to put up the pigeon guards on the swings. Time to be arranged.

Mr Ketteringham expressed great concern regarding the future of the Council and following all the criticism of the last month had been on point of resigning along with many other Members. However the Clerk had been informed that if there was no Parish Council then all money would be handed over to Breckland and this was something that could not be justified and was giving into a minority. However Mr Ketteringham requested permission to write a letter in Ashlink explaining that new Councillors will be required next May and he feels that there should be an Election. All Members agreed.

Concern was expressed regarding the future of St Johns in the village and it was agreed to support the appeal against closure and write to Headquarters.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - This is to be held on Tuesday 28th October 2014 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed.