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26th AUGUST 2014

A meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday 26th August 2014 in the Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Councillors present:- Mr R Leighton - Chairman, Mrs M Forsyth - Vice-Chairman, Mrs J Gray, Mrs J Lusher, Mr A Kettering ham, Mr L Ready & Mr R Wright
Apologies for absence were received from Mr B Corps due to unforeseen circumstance and Mr K Collins due to illness.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no additional declarations made.

The Minutes of last Meeting were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

HIGHWAYS – Notification of change in procedure for Ranger Service. No longer able to meet in Parish but we should send any jobs through to them before the visit.

Mr Leighton to contact Mr Kelly re land for mirror. Ownership of ditch to southern side of Worship Centre - it is thought that field belongs to Cock Bros so ditch could be their responsibility. Inform Paul Groom.

Thanks to be recorded to Bretherin for cutting Horns Corner again.

Complaints re overgrown bank at Woodlands. Agreed that Highways should contact owners.

PLAY EQUIPMENT – Mr Wright reported that he will purchase the new chains and links for swings. The small slide is collecting water so he will drill some drainage holes.

The wooden post of old seat near tennis court needs removing.

Mrs Watts has now moved house so Clerk will contact her with regard to working party.

Clerk informed that she is meeting Rep from Park Leisure on 8th Sept. to discuss possibility of creating a basketball area.

PLAYING FIELD - It was reported that there have been a number of dogs on field. Note to be placed in Ashlink. Concern expressed re repairs to tennis court netting. Mr Wright thought that there are still some wires that have not been replaced. Check and if this is case then write to Mr Heffron.

WAYLAND PARTNERSHIP – Wayland News for Summer 2014. Mrs Forsyth reported that there will be exhibition of textile art from 6th to 27th September. Since March the Gallery has received 1400 visitors.

Notification of Dementia Awareness training and questionnaire.

POLICE - Crime report for July - 1 sexual offence. Next SNAP meeting Tues.16th Sept. at 10.00am. Letter re sharing information re hiring of village halls to prevent illegal raves. Sign up to Police Direct.

FOOTPATHS - Compliant from Mr Evans re condition after cutting. Inform Highways.

ALLOTMENTS - Mr Barrett has replaced meter tap with ordinary tap. Holders will be informed when paying rents that these may have to be increased in future to cover cost of water. Also to ask them to refrain from dumping rubbish on un-occupied plots and spraying of weeds. Consideration to be given to getting outline permission in Spring.

SPEEDWATCH SCHEME - Mrs Lusher reported that due to family commitments there had only been 1 session with 3 drivers reported.

The 6 monthly report shows that between January and June a total of 101 letters were sent out to drivers who had exceeded the limit and 73 drivers were recorded over the limit but did not qualify for letters.

She also informed that she had received several complaints re siting of VAS at northern end of village as people felt this should have been placed nearer the 30mph signs.

It was explained that these have to be placed a certain distance away from 30mph signs and where there is a power supply.

LIGHTING AT COMMUNITY CENTRE - Mr Collins had asked Mr Watts to get the new lighting installed. With regard to Solar panels, the Council felt that further information should be obtained re tariffs and to seek advice from NorfolkALC re Council's position in paying for these.

BUS SHELTER - Plaque to be ordered and Clerk to obtain timetables. She also queried who is to be responsible for cleaning glass. No decision was made.

VAS - Awaiting power connection.

WEBSITE - Mr Sayers has been ill but does intend to get this sorted for Parish Council. The Clerk asked if she could now contact Mr Jackson and ask him to close old site. All agreed.

WATTON SURGERY - Report received of special meeting held by Breckland. Outcome of this is that this to be investigated further as to reason why there are not enough Doctors.

TREE WARDEN - Mr Fletcher has taken over this position.

Concern expressed re the removal of Ash tree at The Firs but this did not have a TPO.

ANY OTHER MATTERS - The Clerk had requested the Dog Fouling Posters but this is now dealt with by Dog Warden Service so Clerk will try to get these.

CORRESPONDENCE

Norfolk ALC Weekly updates forwarded to Councillors except for 1st Aug.

NALC - Amendment to Model Standing Orders. This will be amended next month when details are available.

Breckland Electoral Review. We are now Ashill Ward with Nth Pickenham, Sth Pickenham, Gt & Lt Cressingham & Hilborough. The Chairman had checked figures and felt that this split had been done fairly.

CAB AGM 17th Sept. 7.30pm at Swaffham Community Centre.

Email from Mr G Freeman. National Honour Award. Nominations wanted.

WW1 Commemorative items.

Interprint - Services available.

Breckland - Notification of Big Switch & Save. Registration ends 13th October. Poster in Notice Board.

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MEETING ADJOURNED FOR PUBLIC TO ASK QUESTIONS

Mrs Hardy reported that the branches on trees in Acacia are now very low. Mr Fletcher to be asked if he can cut these back and if not Clerk to contact Mr Blackburn.

Also to check Sweet Chestnut on playing field.

Reported that hedge over hanging path o/s last two bungalows on Dunnetts Close. This will be dealt with.

Mrs Hardy also said that people are unable to walk on the footpaths and that is why they are walking on set-a-side. When ditches were dug out the paths were not levelled.

Mrs Hardy asked that Parish Council write a letter of complaint to BT regarding the problem that had been experienced on Acacia with no phone line connection for months.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no Planning Applications this month.

ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment proposed by Mr Ready seconded by Mrs Forsyth:-

Paid - Car Scheme Payments for Jun. & Jul.	£487-34
K & M Lighting Services Ltd Maint Street Lights Aug..	£115-27
Mrs J Pickard Playing Field Warden Aug..	£74-00
Jean Sangster Clerks Salary Aug..	£312-00)
Additional 3.5hrs in last ¼	£25-10) £408-45
Expenses Aug.	£71-35)
E.ON Power Supply to Street Lights for Jul.	£164-93
NORSE Maintenance Acacia + Limes	£89-00
James Marshall strimming at Comm.Centre Jul	£40-00
IRS Ltd Supply of Bus Shelter	£9645-60
Westcotec Ltd Supply of one VAS	£3700-20
AW Water supply to Allotments	£14-30

INVESTMENTS

On the recommendations from Lovewell Blake the following Investments were agreed proposed by Mr Ready seconded by Mr Wright :-

Julian Hodge Bank	£100,000-00
National Counties BS	£65,000-00
Close Bros Ltd	£120,000-00
Nationwide BS	£80,000-00

TOTAL £365,000-00 the remaining £10,000-00 to be kept in reserve for capital project.

RESERVE A/C

Now that the bills have been agreed for payment for bus shelter and VAS the clerk requested permission to transfer the donation money of £20,000-00 to current account to cover these. It was proposed by Mrs Gray seconded by Mr Ketteringham that this could be done. All agreed. The Chairman had informed Mr Perry of the amount that had been spent and he is happy for Council to spend remainder on another project.

AUDIT - The Clerk informed Members that this has proved quite difficult due to the amount of money held in our accounts and there has been a lot of extra work involved.

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REPAIR OF LYCH GATE AND HOW TO FINANCE THIS

A long discussion followed regarding the above due to damage caused by accident by uninsured driver. The Parish Council had never felt the need to insure this against damage only Public Liability so question of funding was discussed.

It was proposed by Mr Leighton seconded by Mr Ketteringham that the first approach should be made to the Motor Insurers fund for claims against uninsured drivers. All agreed.

The 2nd way is to apply for grant from National War Memorial Trust and 3rd to apply for grant from Pride in Breckland matched funding.

As so many people had offered to help it had been proposed by Church and Mr Leighton that there should be a Gift Day when people could donate money. It was proposed that envelopes be sent out in next edition of Ashlink and names placed on these if people wished to claim Gift Tax Aid. Date to be arranged for collection of these at Church.

The Chairman opened meeting to public at this point as Mrs Fulcher wished to raise the question of what happens to any money left over from donations. The Chairman assured her that this would be placed in a separate fund for future repairs.

The Council meeting then continued and 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. All agreed that this should be rebuilt to best specification.

The Chairman reported that the driver had been fined £290-00 and banned from driving for 2 years. It was generally felt that they should both have been made to do community service.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk was asked to write to BT.

The Clerk asked if a 'No Ball Games' sign could be placed on front of Community Centre following confrontation she had had with two young boys kicking their ball against wall and then proceeding to climb up the door to retrieve it from roof. Mr Ready to order.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - This is to be held on Tuesday 23rd September 2014 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

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