

26th NOVEMBER 2024

The monthly meeting was held on Tuesday 26th November 2024 in the Community Centre at 6.15pm

In attendance: Mr A Ketteringham (AK) Chair, Mrs A Binns (AB), Mr J Leggett(JLg), Mrs J Lusher (JL), Mrs A Shepherd (AS), Mr A Thomas (AT) and the Clerk Jean Sangster & County/District Councillor . Mr F Eagle

Apologies were received from Mr R Leighton (RL) Vice-Chair, f Mr A Howell (AH) & Mr K Kissiedu (KK) – all due to other commitments.

Prior to the commencement of main meeting these Members met with the Leader of Breckland Council, Mr Sam Chapman-Allen and Head of Planning Mr Simon Wood to discuss future Planning in the Parish.

AK explained the difficulties that the Council had encountered in obtaining replacement land for allotments over the years. On several occasions the Council had thought they were near to finding a suitable site only to be let down by the landowners or being put in a compromising situation. He then asked Mr Wood how the Parish would stand if the present allotment site could not be developed in the next five years and Mr Wood explained that changes will be introduced at beginning of 2025 which will mean that Breckland has to provide a larger land supply to meet the Government requirements so this should not be affected and the type of housing that is required to meet the needs of local people should be considered. Mr Wood emphasised the importance of talking through any plans that the PC wish to put through so that the Parish gains vital funding from developers so Members should bear this in mind when deciding the way forward with allotments as there are many options open to them.

There followed a discussion regarding the proposed Solar Farm that will affect the Parish.

.Although District and County do not get to make a decision on this- it is decided by Government, Sam Chapman-Allen assured Members that there would be a consultation period for Parishes to be included to express their views and in 2025 all Parishes affected would be called together. Breckland Council feel that this project is far too large and should be split into 5 separate applications.

At this point the Council and visitors joined the public for remainder of Meeting and they were able to put their questions to Sam Chapman-Allen and Simon Wood.

The main topic was regarding the proposed car parking charges that Breckland wish to introduce to the car parks in the market towns. Several suggestions were put forward from the Public such as free parking on market days, the need for spaces that are accessible to everyone including Blue Badge holders. The Leader stressed that people should submit all these things in the consultation paper and assured that every effort was being made to lessen the impact of this measure but Breckland had managed without charging for so many years and now with Government restrictions it was becoming necessary to do so. Public queried how this would be cost effective when Breckland would have to pay for new meters and collection of funds from these together with attendants to patrol. Any extra money raised from these car parks has to go back into the Market Towns. The question of raising Council Tax to keep the parking free was questioned and Sam Chapman-Allen stated that CT is capped and could not be raised to cover this without holding a referendum.

Other issues raised concerned the wastage of money over the years and it was explained that Breckland had received a good return on Barnham Broom. The Public were assured that FE had raised the Parish concerns and that we were well represented by him and our views heard.

AK thanked both Sam Chapman-Allen and Simon Wood for giving up their time to attend our meeting and for the information they had provided.

The Meeting then continued.

There were no additional Declaration of Interests..

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22.10.24 having been circulated were passed and signed.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT/ COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mr Eagle advised that there is a meeting for parishes on 21st January 2025 at Swaffham Town Hall to discuss Solar Farms. Space is limited.

He also gave information regarding the Rural Community and Business Grants available from Breckland for 80% matched funding.

Details of the BOOST Scheme to be posted on Board.

He is meeting with Luke Denney from Highways next week and will raise the question of moving the 30mph limit to the now installed gate in Watton Road as there is only a matter of yards before 40 changes to 30. He will also ask why there are now 4 signs indicating ASHILL as you enter from Watton.

The question of Recycling changes at Centre was raised by Public and the effect that booking is having. This has not prevented queues forming on the hill although unloading is limited to 15mins. He explained that the system had been tried successfully in other Counties and will save money on staffing in the future.

OPEN TO PUBLIC – Nothing further raised at this point.

MEETING CONTINUED

Matters arising from last meeting

Highways – Drains in Sw. Rd cleared, pothole in Acacia repaired, hole at end of pavement Hale Rd to be repaired, entrance to Woodlands identified for repair, hole o/s 5 Dunnetts identified for repair. To report manhole cover in pavement at junction Hale Rd/Dunnetts Cl.

Dog Waste Bin – Now received and will be installed shortly.

Play Equipment – Monthly Inspection not carried out but 2 repairs done and 1 more to do but problem with pole on Multiplay and Members to inspect. It was proposed by AK seconded by JL that Clerk should apply for Grant from Rural Community Fund for Zipwire. This was agreed.

Playing Field – Our volunteer is doing a marvellous job of trapping the moles and has now caught 14. However he has lost several traps and it was proposed by AK seconded by JLg that he be reimbursed and paid for his work in the sum of £100-00. This was agreed.

Football Teams – Having met with Shipdham Team a second team had come forward and requested use of the field from next year. However having met with both teams it was felt that the Barnham Broom teams would be playing too often and pitch would not stand all teams playing so it was agreed to allow the youngsters from Shipdham to use the field for this season. The Comm. Centre had discussed the charge for the hire of changing rooms and had agreed that a charge of £5-00 per week up until 30.06.25 be made with payment in advance of £160, The charge for field was then discussed with a proposal by JL seconded by AK that a charge of £130-00 per quarter be made. An amendment was proposed by AT that NO charge be made but when opened to public they felt that there should be a charge to cover costs. There was no seconder to amendment and vote taken on original proposal was 5 to 1.

Community Centre CCTV – Installation to be carried out on 2nd and 3rd Dec. Comm Centre arranging for wifi connection in 7 -10 days.

Footpaths – Warden reported that sign still not replaced and handrail not installed.

Police – SNAP Meeting on 4th Nov. 2024 was attended by AK but mainly about Swaffham. Changes to be made way priorities are set but he felt that this is not very satisfactory.

Speedwatch - Report from Mr Street. The Team now has 3 new members – all trained and ready to go making 9 in all. There had been 3 sessions in Oct. and none in Nov. due to illness but should be up and running again, weather permitting. Mid Aug. to mid Sept. recorded 2035 cars all over 45mph and some in excess of 50-60mph.

Car Parking Charges – Discussed earlier. Workshop arranged at Thompson Comm. Hall on 11th Dec. 5.00-6.30pm by Breckland. Booking required.

Allotment Rents - Rents now collected. The unworked plots have now been cleared by local Groundsman as Groundscape unable to give definite quote. This had cost £250-00. Only 3 are suitable to re-let though until further rubbish removed. There followed a discussion about rules and should deposits be taken in the future. It was proposed by AB seconded by AS that the 3 plots should be charged from now and next Oct. any NEW holders should pay a deposit of £50-00 (refundable on relinquishing tenancy if plot left in workable condition) plus rent of £35-00. This was agreed and new rules will be drawn up.

Ashill Estate – Tenants open evening 10th December.

The Chair then presented a report in the form of a time-line of events that have been dealt with over the last few years regarding the purchase of land suitable for small allotments so that the land known as School Piece which is allocated in Local Plan could be developed. Copy of report is attached to these minutes.

Website/facebook – Meeting to discuss further was held with GL, KK, JL and AH and agreed that Grant Long will continue the website and face-book dealt with by others but pointed out this is a village face-book not a Parish Council one.

Gas Leak Dunnetts Close – Clerk to report again as a strong smell of gas is now coming from hole.

High Grove Solar Farm – CPRE are taking up the case and it costs £60-00 per year to become a Member so it was proposed by AK seconded by AB that PC join this. All agreed. Action group holding meeting this evening and correspondence has been received from George Freeman MP and noted that Terry Jermy MP is asking for this to be debated in Parliament. Breckland are also in talks with the company.

Parcel Collection Box – Lighting has now been reduced and collection times adjusted but still concerns about the colour and Clerk to contact again.

25 Fir Park – Copy letters from resident to be kept on file as Breckland has advised no action is required. Agreed that PC should take no further action at this time..

Wayland Partnership Meeting – Very little to report but their website is now available for local advertising.

CORRESPONDENCE

NorfolkALC and Healthwatch Norfolk - Newsletters circulated.

BOOST Project in Breckland – Support for young people to increase skills and gain employment.

NCC – Norwich Western Link Project – Update.

Notification of NorfolkALC AGM on-line. Interim County Officer now appointed to replace Sarah Bristow. Minutes of previous AGM received which Clerk and AK felt had been an utter shambles.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

FINANCE

(a) Accounts

PAID Direct Debit - SSE payment for Power supply Oct. £

The following accounts due for payment for NOVEMBER 2024 were passed proposed by JL seconded by AB :-

K & M Lighting Services Maint St Lights NOV..	£120.50
Mrs J Pickard Play field Warden NOV.)	Undisclosed
Jean Sangster Clerks Salary NOV +19hrs)	
Expenses. NOV.	£99-53
BROXAP Supply Dog Waste Bin	£284.00
HG Services Clearing of Allot Plots	£250.00
Ashill PCC Donation 137 2/3 rd Maint Ch. Yard	£326.59
Surelock Security Installation of CCTV at CC	£3094-00
WAVE (AW) Supply to Allots.	£37-88

Direct Debit - SSE payment for Power supply NOV. £ ?

The following accounts due for payment for DECEMBER 2024 were also passed for payment as NO meeting in December :-

K & M Lighting Services Maint St Lights DEC..	£120.50
Mrs J Pickard Play field Warden DEC.)	Undisclosed
Jean Sangster Clerks salary Dec. + 18.5hrs + backdated Pay.)	
Expenses DEC.	£58-00
HMRC PAYE Oct. Nov. Dec.	to be advised
Ashill Comm, Centre Hire of Hall Oct, x 2 Nov, (additional Time)	£89-00

- B) Current A/C & Business A/C details circulated & Agreed, Investments – The Clerk advised that money had now been re-invested with Redwood Bank for another year at fixed rate from December.
Draft Budget had been drawn up and circulated and Clerk requested that Members check this and notify her of any amendments necessary before the end of December. Precept must be decided on 7th January 2025.

THE MEETING WAS AGAIN OPEN TO PUBLIC

Allotment Holder concerned about the overgrown hedge on western boundary and this will be investigated.

The question of deposits for rent of plots was raised and how these would be handled. Clerk to look into this.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was advised that the padlocks on both containers had gone missing and left unlocked. Agreed that JLG purchase two new padlocks and notify Clerk of codes. This is a matter of urgency as St John's store documents in their container.

J Valentine is collecting funds to purchase lights for trees on Green and donations requested.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

The following resolution was agreed and 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 - Employees Pay.

Date of next monthly Meeting is **TUESDAY 7th JANUARY 2025 AT 7.00PM in the Community Centre.**

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Signed

Date
