

## *Ashwellthorpe and Fundenhall Parish Council*

### **Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Ashwellthorpe Fundenhall Parish Council held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 6pm in Ashwellthorpe Village Hall**

*Present: Jacqueline Ives (chair)*

*Jerry Franey*

*Nick De Spon*

*Ian Bishop*

*Roy Burridge*

*Chris Eastwood*

*Mrs T Higlett (clerk)*

*Members of the public*

Chair opened up the meeting before handing over to Vice Chair.

#### 1) To consider apologies for absence

None

#### 2) To receive disclosures of interests and dispensations.

None

#### 3) To discuss the new Village Hall/Community Centre

Cllr De Spon briefly covered the progress on the new build. Went on to describe the proposed layout. Large sports hall which will be used for badminton and other soft ball sports. Kitchen with outside access, changing rooms, toilets for both adults, children and disabled persons. Storage area for equipment, two meeting rooms which have bi-fold doors and an office. On the face of it, it appears to be a sports hall but the Parish Council do not want to run a sports hall hence the change of layout and for the building to become a village community centre. We would like to be able to facilitate local clubs, for example art, yoga, bridge, youth groups and companies to use for staff meetings etc. Would see Bramble Bears using it but the area would have to be secure and entry is forbidden only to Bramble Bear users due to safeguarding issues, would like to set up a safe citadel area for their use. Showers are showing on the plan but council would like these to be removed, which would then give a small office and storage area. The small office could have facilities for making tea/coffee. Look to see if Plant room could be made smaller which could then facilitate a second disabled toilet. The two meeting rooms can be made into one large room, by using bi-fold doors. There was a window in one of the meeting rooms but this will now be patio doors which will lead out on a child's play area, again this can be locked down.

The Centre has potential for the future. We do not know what the demographic will be

*(i) Cllr De Spon then opened the meeting up to questions from the public.*

Question: Would we be able to have a bar?

Response: we would need to apply for a licence. Bar/Social area with a lockable storage area in the kitchen. Consensus was people understood there would be a bar, which people could walk too. A similar set up to Wrenningham.

Question: Football parking for visitors.

Response: There is allocated parking alongside the village hall also disabled parking (34 spaces). Concerns insufficient parking - overflow

Question: Why the change from bowling green to tennis court?

Response: Tennis courts are easier to maintain

Question: Is the parish Council legally permitted to underwrite the village hall? The village hall will be come an asset to the parish council.

Question: Will people from Fundenhall be able to use the hall?

Will there be a playing field?

Response: Yes, it is for both villages. St Nicholas Church has its own community area within St Nicholas's Church. There is no plans for a playing field there is one currently in the village.

Question: Is there the demand for this size of community centre, is it financially viable?

Response: We need what we have in the current village hall and more to make it a viable opportunity. The parish was asked what it wanted in the parish plan, hence the new community centre. South Norfolk will tell you that all new halls are very popular and supportive.

Question: Operation of village hall how do we see it working had we considered bringing in a outside organisation to manage it. Putting together a tender package.

Response: Not something the PC had thought of but a possibility.

Question: Has the internal layout been decided? Talk of Bramble Bears but there are other users.

Response: We have to make it safe for children, but it does not stop anyone else using it.

Question: Is there to be a stage.

Response: It has been asked and we can purchase a foldable stage but these cost around £6,000.

Question: Will people be able to access from Greenwood Close?

Response: There will be no access from Greenwood Close due to the boundary which will be hedge, ditch and 6ft fence.

Question: Future Meetings for residents.

Response: Peter Muskett always brings items to the parish council first and the public have the opportunity to attend meetings and speak at the public forum which is at the beginning and end of the meetings. Parish council will take on the Community Centre when the 20<sup>th</sup> house has been occupied.

End of question and answer session.

Cllr De Spon spoke of fund raising in the past for the village hall. This should continue for new Community Centre. People need to use it as we are fortunate to get it. It will be a financial burden

on Ashwellthorpe. Current Village hall is charitable status. Opportunity to bring the community together – great thing for the village

At present we do not see it necessary to subsidise the village hall. This is down to the Trustees. Various options to be looked at. Running costs for new centre will be more energy efficient.

Sportsfield - strict covenant that it will remain as a sportsfield

*(ii) Items Parish Council need to consider:*

Access to tennis courts could gates be double to enable cars to use this for parking too.

Can tennis courts be adapted to use as a kickabout area for children – multiple use court – 5 'A' side football

Future hire prices for existing and new hirers

Opening Times- licensing laws.

Low level lighting

No lighting on tennis courts.

Survey going out with the Mardle about future of current village hall from village hall committee

*(iii) Items for information*

Continue with current village hall committee. Assist with any future grants/funding if we have a committee. Friends of the village hall?

Set up new Community Centre as a CIO Charity(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

CAN (Community Action Norfolk) can assist Parish Councils with the running of village halls. Would be able to assist with transfer to a CIO.

We could apply for funding for staff in the first year i.e office, maintenance check out Leeders. We could also get someone from Sports England for a year.

#### 4) Street naming

Names to be considered from the war memorial in the village. Warman Way, Browne Close, Goodrum Close and Muskett Road.

*Vote: All in favour.*

#### 5)Village Green Specification.

Council agreed on the current specification. Planting to be discussed at a later date. . Specification No: ASWLTH IW XX XX DR C 6001

*Vote: Proposed by Cllr De Spon – seconded by Cllr Bishop - All in favour.*

#### 6)Community Areas

Parish Council after discussion carried out a vote to approve the management proposals for the Village Green, Sports Pitch, Hedges etc.

*Vote: Proposed Cllr De Spon – seconded by Cllr Franey - All in favour*

It was also recorded in the minutes the promise of £10,000 towards a sinking fund which would assist the PC with additional maintenance liability when the Community Centre and community areas are handed over to them.

**7) [Anglian Water Drain](#)**

The Parish Council referred to drawing number: ASWLTH IW XX XX DR C 6001 revision 3  
Members discussed the pond located on the village green within the new development. Council unanimously agreed to take ownership and maintain the pond and pipe(outflow).

Vote: All in favour.

Meeting closed at 8:15 pm