

Minutes of the meeting of Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th January 2020 at St Nicholas Church, Fundenhall

Present: Jacqueline Ives (Chair)

Nick De Spon

Ian Bishop

Chris Eastwood

Jerry Franey

Roy Burridge

Mrs T Higlett (clerk)

Members of the public

1) To consider apologies for absence

District Councillors Vivienne Clifford-Jackson, Nigel Legg and County Councillor Bev Spratt

2) Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda and Dispensations for Councillors with a Pecuniary Interest

None

3) To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17th December 2019

Minutes were agreed as a true record of proceedings with no amendments.

4) Public Participation

- (i) Eight members of the Public in attendance, just to observe.
- (ii) District councillor not in attendance

5) Matters arising from previous minutes

Nothing to report.

6) Reports from Councillors

(i) Footpaths - Cllr Franey. Nothing to report with regards to footpaths. The footpath sign has still not been installed on the footpath opposite the village hall.

(ii) Village Hall – Cllr De Spon. There is bingo and a quiz and chips evening planned.

(iii) Village maintenance – Cllr Eastwood. The issue with the doors on the noticeboard has now been rectified. Currently reviewing the parish council assets to see what may require maintenance. The defibrillator located by the Kings Head PH has a light out. Batteries may need replacing later in the year. Street lights are on a maintenance contract but there is still an issue with a light out on Kynvett Green.

Clerk to contact TT Jones for an update on repairs.

7:40 pm District Councillor Gerry Francis attended the meeting.

Chair welcomed Cllr Francis and invited him to present his report.

Cllr Francis spoke of the Greater Norwich Local Plan which has now gone out to section 18 consultation. Talk of smaller developments within village clusters. Meeting to be held at South Norfolk House on the 23rd January to discuss the GNLP

Chair.....
Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall PC

6) Reports from Councillors (cont.)

(iv) Community speed watch – Cllr Bishop. Two new members to the team which brings the team to six. No speed monitoring was carried out in December. One of the SID signs is currently not working and Cllr Bishop is in conversation with the supplier.

7) Issues with flooding and waterlogging in the village

Parish Council have received correspondence from a resident on The Street, regarding ongoing drainage problems they have to the front of their property. Cllr De Spon has spoken to Highways about the problem and the ditches and pipes have been inspected by an engineer. To eradicate the problem the ditch needs to have material taken out to allow free movement of water. Cllr De Spon has spoken to residents to advise them accordingly.

8) Parish Amenities Adoption Project

Cllr De Spon reported that a grant application has been submitted to South Norfolk for funding equipment for the community centre. A focus group has been formed and they are due to hold their second meeting. Discussions had around the groups who would like to use the hall. Centre will be known as the Ashwellthorpe and Fundenhall Community Centre. However, for documentation a shorter name will be decided upon. The roof should be completed in the next two weeks and the village green will be seeded in the next few days. It is getting near to migration time for Toads and the developer will ensure it does not affect this migration. There will be no access to the pond area until it is fenced off and risk assessments have been carried out. Cllr Franey will look into what type of fencing should be required and a written quote presented to Parish Council. Council have to take adequate cautions to ensure safety around pond.

9) Finance

(i) To note councils current financial standing

Business Community Account balance 31/12/2019 = £20,417.71

Savings Account balance 31/12/2019 = £3444.51

Chair viewed the bank statements and acknowledged figures in agreement.

(ii) Cheques/Invoices for approval

Date	Payee	Method	Description	Amount
11/01/2020	EON	Direct Debit	Electricity	29.59
14/01/2020	T T Jones Electrical	Chq: 100906	Street Light Maintenance	40.98
14/01/2020	J Ives	Chq: 100907	Keys	12.00
14/01/2020	T Higlett	Chq: 100908	Expenses- Ink, paper and stamps	30.39
18/01/2020	T Higlett	Chq: 100909	Clerks salary	226.40

10) Precept 2020-21

After some discussion it was agreed to increase the precept by 7.5% to a total of £9719. This would take the annual cost of a Band D property from £28.97 to £29.54 an increase of 0.57p

Vote to increase by 7.5%

Proposed by Cllr De Spon – seconded by Cllr Bishop – Cllr Franey abstained.

Chair.....
Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall PC

11) Budget for 2020-21

Clerk had previously presented members a proposed budget for 2020-21 for consideration prior to this meeting. Cllr De Spon felt that the figure for Legal fees was too high and that the overall budget for professional services should be around the similar figure to last year which was £1200. Clerk reminded members they would need to insure the new community centre later in the year and therefore the insurance figure needed to be increased to reflect this, hence why the professional services showed a substantial increase on 2019-20 budget.

Vote to accept budget 2020-21

Proposed – Cllr Franey – seconded by Cllr De Spon – all in favour

12) Discuss supporting the Local Electricity Bill

The Bill if made law would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory Right to Local Supply. This is currently impossible because of the huge set up and running costs. Members will look at the campaign on line and discuss how they should respond at the February meeting.

13) Meeting dates and venue for 2020-21

Members propose that the meetings should continue to alternate between Ashwellthorpe Village Hall and St Nicholas Church, Fundenhall. However, once the community centre is open the meeting will take place at the new centre rather than Ashwellthorpe Village Hall. Clerk to advise members of dates and to display on noticeboards and website.

14) Correspondence

- (i) Police Crime and Commissioner
- (ii) CPRE – Greater Norwich Local Plan

15) Public Forum

Public in attendance spoke of toad watch which will start in February. Concerns voiced over the new pond and accessibility for the toads, in particular kerbs. Developer explained the pond would be planted with oxygenating plants and the grass verges would remain. The pond will be wildlife friendly. There was also concerns over the deep excavation in close proximity to mature trees near Audrey Muskett cottages, which was for the drainage trench. Developer assured all that this would not affect the trees.

16) Urgent items for information but carrying forward to next meeting

Clerk asked for authorisation to appoint the auditor for 2019-20.

Vote to appoint last year's auditor

Proposed by – Cllr Bishop – seconded by Cllr Franey - All in favour.

Date of next meeting will be 18th February 2020 7:30 Ashwellthorpe Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8:45pm