

ASHWELLTHORPE AND FUNDENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on Tuesday 19 May 2020 at 7:30p.m

Present: Jacqueline Ives (Chair)

Nick De Spon

Ian Bishop

Chris Eastwood

Roberta Morris

Jerry Franey

Mrs T Higlett (clerk)

1) Election of Chair

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force on the 4th April 2020. Regulation 6(c) removed the requirement for a parish council to hold an annual meeting in May 2020. These regulations gave authority for current appointments to continue if the person concerned was prepared to do so. Councillor Ives, having indicated her willingness to continue, will therefore remain in office until the next Annual Parish Council meeting. Cllr Ives reported she had produced an annual Chairs report. (Appendix 1)

Agreed and Noted

2) Election of Vice Chair

As stated above there was no legal requirement for Parish Councils to hold an annual meeting. Councillor De Spon, having indicated his willingness to continue as Vice-Chair, will remain in office until the next Annual Parish Meeting.

Agreed and Noted

3) To consider apologies for absence

Cllr. Roy BurrIDGE, passed apologies unable to join meeting by Zoom.

4) Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5) To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17th March 2020

Copies of which had been circulated to all Councillors, were agreed as a true record of proceedings with no amendments. Cllr Eastwood advised Clerk that not all appendices were attached. These will be signed at the next face to face meeting of the Parish Council.

6) Reports from District Councillor and County Councillor

(i) District Councillor Legg had forwarded report prior to meeting;

The "call for sites" for the Village Clusters has been completed with some 350 applications put forward. These have been assessed but no decisions have been made regarding their suitability to be included in the Emerging Local Plan.

South Norfolk Council is currently being run by an Emergency Committee. This is made up of senior officials and some members of the council.

The Council's finances have taken a hit. Income is lost because of closure of the Leisure Centres and loss of Rate income amongst others. Some of the shortfall will be made up by Central Government. It is anticipated that economic Growth in the District will fall by some 25%. This is better than most Local Authorities but will have to be addressed, when the position becomes clearer.

Most applications for Business Grants have been paid. However, if there are any businesses having difficulty sourcing these, Cllr Legg is happy to assist.

(ii) County councillor not in attendance but had forwarded to the clerk his annual report for 2019/20. (Appendix 2).

[7\) To approve the required decisions taken in lieu of an April 2020 Meeting](#)

(i) Members approved the renewal of Parish Council Legal Advice Subscription Service
Agreed and Noted.

[8\) Questions from the public emailed to the clerk prior to meeting for Councillors comments.](#)

Cllr Eastwood spoke off concerns raised at the recent increase of roadside hazard marker posts along Church Lane Fundenhall around Swifts Barn area. Verges are the responsibility of Highways and these are probably sited to deter drivers stopping on them when meeting oncoming traffic. Question raised as to whether you need authority to erect them and if so, who approved them.

Clerk to make contact with Highways.

Cllr Eastwood also spoke about the rocks and planters that have been placed on the grass verge outside the Old Telephone Exchange on the corner of the B1113 which could be seen as a hazard. Cllr De Spon will speak to the owner.

Cllr De Spon has recently been copied into correspondence to South Norfolk Planning from the owner of the Old Telephone Exchange with regards to the hedge between his property and The Maples. Council were reminded that the owners of The Maples had submitted a planning application for a bungalow but this was rejected and are appealing against South Norfolk's decision.

Cllr Bishop also spoke of the increase in signage on the B1113 leading to the Ashwellthorpe Industrial Estate and whether this is permissible.

Clerk to make contact with Highways.

[9\) To receive reports and to consider any necessary action to be taken.](#)

i) Footpath – Cllr Franey. Footpaths are being well walked during these unprecedented times. Jaydee Gardens have also carried out routine maintenance.

ii) Village Maintenance – Cllr Eastwood. Fundenhall sign has gone away to be repaired. Not sure when the seat will be taken away by the contractor. It has also been noted that the noticeboard outside the shop on The Street, Ashwellthorpe, needs repairing.

[10\) To discuss planting a tree to commemorate VE Day within Wood Farm Development.](#)

Cllr Ives proposed the planting of a tree to commemorate VE Day. Discussion had around whether this should be an oak or chestnut. Cllr De Spon reminded council that there will be a lot of planting of trees on the site along with benches and proposed discussion to be had with the developer.

All agreed to commemorative tree.

[11\) Parish Amenities Adoption Project](#)

Cllr De Spon advised that a bank account needs to be set up for the charity. This can only be done once the charity has been set up. Barclays being the preferred choice as the Trustees are already recognised as signatories on the Parish Councils accounts which are also held with Barclays.

Update on the development;

During Covid-19 lockdown several houses were completed by the end of April. Three properties are already occupied. The village hall roof has come on well and we should soon see the scaffolding removed. Developer is hopeful the village hall will be handed over to the Parish Council by the end of July 2020. Tennis courts to be installed soon and most roads are completed. The ditch has now been dug and trees removed. Hopefully site will be complete by August 2020.

It has been noted that some contractors on the site are parking their vehicles in neighbouring Greenwood Close. It has proved problematic for residents as people coming into the village to walk the footpaths are also parking there as well. Cllr De Spon to speak to Developer.

Cowslips which have been planted around the pond area are being picked by residents. Pond will need to have safety measures put in place. Clerk has made contact with Royal Life Saving Society and they would advise on what precautions need to be put in place. Cllr Franey reminded members that a professional Risk Assessment will need to be carried out. Any Insurance claim the Insurer will ask to see your risk assessment.

All in favour of a Professional survey being carried out on the safety requirements.

12) Finance

(i) Prior to the meeting the Clerk had forwarded onto members the year end accounts for 2019-20. These will now be placed on the parish council's website.

(ii) To note councils current financial standing

Business Community Account balance 30/04/2020 = £23,062.22

Savings Account balance 30/04/2020 = £3445.72

(iii) Cheques/Invoices for approval

Date	Payee	Method	Description	Amount
12/05/2020	EON	Direct Debit	Electricity	28.63
19/05/2020	Jaydee Gardens	Chq: 100921	Grounds Maintenance	62.15
18/05/2020	T Higlett	Chq: 100922	Clerks Salary	226.40
19/05/2020	Norfolk County Council	Chq: 100923	NP Law Subscription	£600.00
19/05/2020	Came & Co	Chq: 100924	Insurance	654.57
19/05/2020	T Higlett	Chq: 100925	Postage Stamps	9.12

(iv) Receipts; South Norfolk Council – 1st Half precept £4859.50

(v) Insurance renewal for 2020-21 was approved by the Parish Council.

13) Correspondence

(i) Clerks and Council Direct

(ii) Norfolk ALC Wellbeing

Cllr de Spon advised members he was in receipt of an email from the developer of Wood Farm and regarding phase IIa and IIb Affordable homes. IIa 12 affordable to satisfy the 12 identified on the Local Needs Survey IIb 3 Shared ownership affordable, 2 disabled affordable 7 market houses. Neither IIa or IIb will stand alone, they need to be approved and built together. Should this get through planning then there will be a S106 to make sure Saffron only rent to:

1. People who have lived in the village for the last 3 years
2. People who have lived in the village for 3 out of the last 10 years etc.

Developer also suggested Parish Council write to Saffron and copy in South Norfolk Planning suggesting somewhere in the cascade the surplus housing not taken up by 1 and 2 is somewhere

down the cascade offered to "Key Workers" who are recognised in planning terminology, this will include members of the NHS which he feels given the current situation would be a good idea.

Clerk to write to both Saffron Housing and South Norfolk Planning.

Cllr Dr Spon also informed members that the Old Village Hall applied for a compensation payment for loss of income from SNC and were awarded £10,000.

[14\) Councillor Training](#)

Cllr Morris will be attending training with Norfolk ALC on Charitable Trusts and Parish Councils

[15\) Date of next meeting](#)

Tuesday 16th June 2020 7:30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Appendix 1.
Chairs report

Appendix 2.

County Councillors report

Norfolk County Council highlights for 2019/20

Norfolk Statistics

- **Population – 903,680**
- **37,000 Businesses**
- **447,000 people economically active**
- **6,200 miles of highway**
- **98.7% of highway inspections completed within timescale**
- **41,570 Adult Social Care Assessments for 18,925 people**
- **13,150 young people with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND)**
- **1,121 Looked After Children (LAC) – 67.3 per 10,000 (0-17yrs population)**
- **53 Libraries (47 static, 6 mobile)**

[The 2020/21 Budget](#)

£430.4 million spending plans, which **boosts children's and adults' services** and a Council Tax rise of 3.99 per cent has been agreed by Norfolk County Council, to address key cost pressures in Adults and Children's social care, which represents 70% of overall spend.

Norfolk County Council also agreed a **£543m capital budget**, which pays for investment in infrastructure, property and equipment.

Examples of investment include: **£120m for new special educational needs schools** and units in mainstream schools, **£4.5m for home to school transport**, **£887,000 Fire Service investment** to support the proposal in the integrated risk management plan and **£350,000 to support the environmental policy** over two years.

Investment in fragile care market by above inflation rate to raise standards in the private care market has been approved to ensure people receive a high quality of care.

The Council's strategy includes:

- A proactive inspection programme
- Work to tackle recruitment and retention issues in the care market, supported by a joint bid with Suffolk for £8 million of European funding
- Establishing a care association for Norfolk and staging a quality summit with the regulator, the Care Quality Commission
- Increasing the supply of extra care housing – independent accommodation, with social care support on site – through the council's Homes for Norfolk programme
- **During Carers week (10-16 June 2019)** Norfolk County Council held a special event to celebrate and support the thousands of unpaid carers across Norfolk.
- The event highlighted the challenges unpaid carers face and recognised the contribution they make to families and communities across Norfolk.

A new Life Opportunities Framework will support those with learning disabilities to develop life skills and, if possible, find work.

This new framework will have three levels, known as pathways:

Wellbeing – providing meaningful activity, social support and care for those with the most complex needs

Promoting Independence – supporting people to develop life skills and access community provision and services

Skills and Employment – supporting people to obtain paid work

Having previously been piloted in 2019, the Skills and Employment pathway will be put out to tender, whilst the Wellbeing and Promoting Independence pathways will be piloted in 2020.

Ofsted praises 'Good' Adult Learning service for addressing social needs. Their overall comment was about the 'effective curriculum that meets the needs of the local community and employers well.'

The Norfolk Early Childhood Community £250,000 fund launched to support early years groups with projects supporting children aged 0-5 to achieve their developmental milestones and ensure children and their parents or carers aren't lonely or isolated.

Groups are able to include music, creative, arts or physical play to encourage parents/carers to play alongside their child and give opportunities to make new friends close to home.

New school places for children with Special Educational Needs to be created in Norfolk as part of Norfolk County Council's £120m investment in special educational needs education to create 500 additional school places across the County. The first one is the former Alderman Swindell Site in Great Yarmouth. Schools have also been invited to submit bids to create new specialist resource bases for children with learning difficulties across the County.

Last June the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service was judged to require improvement, although there are key areas judged to be good, including our response to fires and incidents. The service is aiming for 'Good' when it is re-inspected later this year.

Residential social landlords across Norfolk were invited to learn more about how they can support and advise their tenants to stay safe in their homes.

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service (NFRS) offered training sessions to residential social landlords across the county to educate staff around fire safety and community safety.

£13.5m plans to restore Norwich Castle to how it looked as a medieval palace moved forward, with work due to be complete by Easter 2021.

Once complete, it will be the most accessible grade one-listed medieval castle in Europe, boosting the county's economy, with 300,000 visitors per year.

The first ever Norfolk Creativity and Wellbeing Week showcased how different organisations are working together to make arts and culture accessible to all, offering the chance for residents and visitors of all ages to join activities, talks, workshops, open days and performances across the county.

New Year Honour for dedicated curriculum manager, who has helped thousands of people across Norfolk gain vital skills has received an award in the Queen's New Year Honours list.

Amanda Reeve will receive the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to Education after her successful work with disadvantaged families in Great Yarmouth was recognised during a Department for Education visit to the service just under two years ago.

Norfolk County Council moves to green energy and other measures, to reduce environmental impact. Examples of measures include replacing single use paper cups at County Hall's coffee outlets with ceramic cups, using only recycled paper in photocopiers and investigating the future use of electric pool cars.

Ambitious 2030 net zero carbon target proposed for Norfolk County Council, with steps to be taken to do detailed work to identify actions on the ground to help reduce our environmental impact.

£40m Great Yarmouth flood defence upgrade, upgrading the level of protection from tidal flooding to more than 4,500 homes and businesses in the area. The funding included a contribution of £950k from Norfolk County Council.

Preferred route for Norwich Western Link has been agreed, which would significantly improve travel between the A47 and Broadland Northway west of Norwich.

The Norwich Western Link is one of the County Council's key infrastructure priorities and is needed to reduce traffic congestion, rat-running and delays to journeys on minor roads to the west of Norwich. There is strong support from the public, the business community, emergency services, local councils and MPs for a link road to be created.

Transformation of travel in Greater Norwich has been proposed in a substantial funding bid to central government, which has the potential to transform travel in Greater Norwich.

The Transport for Norwich partnership is seeking an overall investment in the region of £100m through the Department for Transport's (DfT) Transforming Cities Fund (TCF), which aims to make it easier for people to access jobs, training and retail, and responds to issues around carbon reduction and improving local air quality, with a strong focus on increasing use of public transport, walking and cycling.

Futureproof broadband in Norwich, after the city was named amongst 29 new locations to benefit from Openreach's nationwide investment programme.

The upgrades will complement the ongoing broadband upgrades across the county by the Better Broadband for Norfolk programme, a partnership between Norfolk County Council, UK Government and Openreach, working with providers to improve mobile coverage across the County.

Full fibre or ultrafast broadband provides more reliable, resilient and future-proof connectivity; fewer faults; more predictable, consistent speeds and the ability to upgrade easily to meet the demands of future technology.

More than 600 homes are to be developed by the County Council's development company Repton Property Developments Ltd, over the next 5 years, with the first phase of sites to include locations in Acle, Hopton on Sea and two sites in Attleborough.

Norfolk Housing Estate to undergo major revamp as part of collaborative urban regeneration work between Flagship Housing, Norfolk County Council and Breckland District Council to improve the Abbey Estate in Thetford and forge a better future for this estate.

Greater Norwich Development plan out to consultation until 16th March 2020. This builds on long established joint working, seeking to deliver new homes, jobs and the protection of the environment, along with promoting sustainability and the effective functioning of the area.

Together for Norfolk was launched in May 2019, focusing on growing the economy, regeneration, developing skills and employment opportunities, as well as protecting Norfolk's unique environment and creating strong communities.

