

ASHWELLTHORPE AND FUNDENHALL PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the virtual meeting held on Tuesday 21 July 2020 at 7:30p.m**

Present: Jacqueline Ives (Chair)
Nick De Spon
Ian Bishop
Chris Eastwood
Roberta Morris
Roy Burridge
Mrs T Higlett (clerk)
District Cllrs V Clifford-Jackson G Francis and N Legg

1)Welcome by the Chair

2)To consider apologies for absence

Cllr Franey

3)Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4)To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th June 2020

Copies of which had been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr Burridge, commented on agenda point 8(i) that it looks as if he was implying walkers should avoid fields where cows were grazing. This comment had been passed onto the council by J Franey. Cllr Burridge also advised that he thought the cleaning of Ashwellthorpe War Memorial was to be included on the July agenda as stated in the June minutes. Chair advised that the memorial had been cleaned by Cllr De Spon and will come under matters arising from previous months minutes.

Minutes duly approved.

5) Matters arising from those minutes

i) War Memorial – Cllr Burridge felt that the memorial's condition would benefit from an inspection. and had spoken with the Chair of Forncett PC regarding their war memorial and was recommended to contact Perfitts Stonemasons of Diss. Grant funding is also obtainable via War Memorials Trust to support repair and conservation work. Memorial is not in pristine condition. As war memorials are now listed all works has to conform to standards. Details to be forwarded to clerk to make contact.

Vote:

To get professional opinion on current state of memorial.

Propose Cllr de Spon – seconded by Cllr Bishop – all in favour

6) Reports from County and District Councillors.

Cllrs Nigel Legg and Vivienne Clifford-Jackson submitted reports by email, the texts of which follow these minutes.

7) Public in Attendance

No Public attendance.

8) To receive reports and to consider any necessary action to be taken.

i) Footpath – Cllr Franey had advised members he wished to step down from the role as footpath warden. Cllr Morris advised she would be prepared to take on this role.

Vote:

Cllr Morris to take on role of footpath warden

Proposed by Cllr Bishop - seconded by Cllr Eastwood -all in favour.

Chair went onto speak about the correspondence received from Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) and the bridge which enables access to Lower Wood. Parish Council have been asked to remove the bridge as NWT would like to close this concessionary entrance. They have found it increasingly difficult to police their no dog's policy and would like to guide visitors through the official entrance located in the car park. The problem has been steadily worsening over the last few years and accelerated over the lockdown period. They do not wish to restrict public access to the wood and will hope people will continue to enjoy visiting. The pathway is well used.

In the last few days, a sign has been installed advising 'No Access to Woods', the bridge has been removed, which did not belong to them and earth has been used to block the footpath. Clerk has corresponded with the NWT informing them of the Parish Councils concerns. However, the NWT Conservation Manager has been on annual leave and was unaware of the installation of the sign and will look into this on his return. Members spoke of original bridge installed about 30 years ago, the established route and the information board advising of flora native to the woods. Cllr De Spon spoke of the Public Rights of Way Act Section 31 which states if a path is used by the public for 20 years or more, it can become a public right of way. Cllr Eastwood proposed an article to be included in the future edition of the Mardle and perhaps research into legal implications.

ii) Village Maintenance – Cllr Eastwood advised dog waste bin has now been located by the seat at the junction of Hudmans Lane. Parish Council has been asked if they could locate a bin near the campsite on Brick Kiln Lane. This will be considered for inclusion in the next budget.

Proposed by Cllr Eastwood – seconded by Cllr Bishop – all in favour

9) Planning

(i) 2020/0982 Location: Exchange House, Wymondham Road, Ashwellthorpe

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 & 6 of planning permission 2017/2778, addition of timber framed car port, variation to location plan and front elevation plan. South Norfolk Planning advised council had no comment to make.

10) Parish Amenities Adoption Project

(i) Risk Assessment on pond/Insurance report. Members are now in possession of the report produced by SJB Safety Solutions. Cllr Franey had advised members that it seems logical to fence the pond. Conventional 3 bar fence, signage and lifebuoys. This would also show the council has taken due diligence to secure the pond.

(ii) Barclays are in the process of setting up a bank account for the new village hall.

(iii) A stand-alone website will be set up for the hall which will include a booking system. A parishioner has volunteered to set up the website. No financial matters to be included and payment via PayPal

(iv) Hall could be available from the end of August.

(v) Tree Planting to be discussed. Possible oak tree for commemorating VJ Day.

(vi) New floor has been laid in current village hall.

11) Finance

(i) To note councils current financial standing

Business Community Account balance 30/06/2020 = £19,757.46

Savings Account balance 30/06/2020 = £3446.65

(ii) Cheques for approval

Date	Payee	Method	Description	Amount
11/07/2020	EON	Direct debit	Electricity	28.63
21/07/2020	SJB Safety Solutions	Chq: 100932	Risk Assessment Pond	100.00
21/07/2020	T T Jones Electrical	Chq: 100933	Street Light Maintenance	40.74
21/07/2020	Norse	Chq: 100934	Mardle Print	384.00
21/07/2020	Autela Payroll Services	Chq: 100935	Payroll Services	60.24
18/07/2020	T Higlett	Chq: 100936	Clerks Salary	256.20

[12\) Correspondence as circulated and noted above](#)

- (i) Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- (ii) Complaint ref scrap yard vehicles parked on road
- (iii) Connecting the Claylands - a new project opportunity
- (iv) Norfolk ALC Newsletters, Norfolk ALC Wellbeing

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

Tuesday 18th August 2020 7:30pm.

Meeting closed at 21:20.

District Councillors Report for Parish Councils July 2020

South Norfolk Council continues to operate using video conferencing due to the Sars2 CV situation.

The possibility of holding a full Council meeting complying with the recommended safety measures is being considered at a suitable venue. At present it is difficult for members of the public to have access to the various meetings.

The Development Management Committee will continue to meet remotely at fortnightly intervals with a reduced number of members. The agenda is published on the Councils Website about a week beforehand. Those wishing to speak at the meetings should contact Democratic Services by the end of the preceding week, when suitable arrangements can be made.

Arrangements have been made in the Towns in the District to promote the local shops and businesses. The approach has been to encourage pedestrianisation with social distancing. This has meant that vehicular traffic has been restricted in the central areas.

The Councils finances have been severely affected due to loss of income from leisure centres, etc. The leisure centres will be reopened as soon as regulations permit. Any shortfall in revenue will be made good by transferring money from reserves for the current financial year. It is too early to know what the situation will be for the following years. There is no suggestion that any "cuts" will need to be made. The financial situation at The County Council is unclear. However it is unlikely to affect the functioning of South Norfolk Council.

Nigel Legg

District Councillor Report, Vivienne Clifford-Jackson July 2020 Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall PC

SNC has stood down the Emergency Committee and reverted to the Cabinet and Council committee meeting structure. Albeit all now on Zoom and open to the public live streamed via YouTube.

DMC (the planning committee) with the reduced five member structure is meeting fortnightly via Zoom and live streamed with public speaking facility. This looks to be the pattern for the foreseeable future. Two decisions have not followed officer recommendation so far. There are some restrictions regarding site visits which the officers are trying to negotiate and stay safe. Our current housing supply is sufficient at present according to the Planning inspector. (See attached appeal response).

The new Commercial Trading and Customer Focus Committee had its first meeting on 15 July 2020.

Market Towns initiative 'Shop with Confidence' campaign was not universally welcomed, so some changes have been made for social distancing, but not all the one way systems and pedestrianisation which would have been ideal. The Leisure Centres are planning phased reopening with gym facilities first. It is hoped that swimming may be available from August but nothing is definite.

A new budget has been set with flexibility depending on how long lockdown will affect income generating facilities, such as car parks and leisure centres. The full financial impact on SNC could be between £4 million and £10 million depending on the length of lockdown. The European Regional Development fund has given £50million to be used to ease Covid

issues in the High Street. £125,275 is coming to SNC. Council tax and Business rate payments are holding up and government is extending the period when these have to be paid, so current cash flow is good.

The Help Hub response during the period March to July was outstanding. Staff answered more than 20,000 calls from people needing help and support; staff called nearly 5,000 residents who were either on the government's shielded list or known to be vulnerable; 4,000 food parcels and prescriptions were delivered to those in the greatest need; staff helped over 40 volunteer groups to support their local community. Over 4000 volunteers informally signed up to offer help and 78 residents were provided with safe, temporary accommodation. The Housing and Benefits team dealt with more than 9,000 calls. 173 people called with complex needs. These included debt, immediate risk of homelessness, domestic abuse and common mental health problems. Some of the additional work will be an investment in the future such as IT enabling home-working, work with the homeless and improved communications with businesses.

The Member Grants are open to applications and there is funding from the Community Foundation and NALC to help with Covid-19 related issues and village halls respectively. SNC's CAF process should be meeting again in the autumn of 2020.

I attended the Equinor webinar about the future substations at Swardeston. These and the Thickthorn extensions will bring major disruption to our road network in the years to come, in addition to the damage to the environment (ironically). There is also a consultation about the Western Link of the NDR which the public are encouraged to participate in. So your views are wanted in several directions! Please do let your residents know that help is always available.