

ASHWELLTHORPE AND FUNDENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on Tuesday 20th October 2020 at 7:30p.m

Present:

J Ives
Nick De Spon
Roberta Morris
Roy Burrige
Jerry Franey
Chris Eastwood
I Bishop
Mrs T Higlett (clerk)
District Cllrs V Clifford-Jackson and N Legg
County Cllr B Spratt
Members of the public in attendance.

1)Welcome by the Chair

2)To consider apologies for absence

Nil

3)Declarations of interest

C Eastwood Planning application 2020/1793

4) To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15th September and Friday 18th September 2020.

These were approved.

5) Matters arising from those Minutes

(i)War memorial maintenance – Council reported that the memorial was not in poor condition. Gaps had been noted around the paving slabs at the base. Council are uncertain of what expenditure may come their way over the next few months in particular the new hall. Therefore, decision was made to leave for the time being and regularly monitor the memorial for any deterioration. Council will also look into what grants are available as memorials are now listed. Item to remain on agenda covered under village maintenance.

6)To receive reports from County and District Councillors if in attendance.

Cllr Legg reported he had visited residents of the Street Ashwellthorpe who were experiencing flooding due to the inclement weather. He had also asked South Norfolk if they could carry out a site visit but declined on the basis, they did not feel they could do anymore and that the problem has arisen from what previous occupiers of properties along the Street have done by filling in the ditches. The only way to alleviate is to reinstate the ditches. However, people maybe adverse to this. Consensus is this is down to South Norfolk Council to deal with and to decide what needs to be done. Were ditches have been left clear there are no issues.

Cllr Clifford Jackson reminded council that they should take time to read and comment on the proposed Governments Planning White Paper which is under review. There are still talks around the village clusters and should note which cluster Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall will be part of. Bramble

Bears nursery has received a £1,000 from Cllr Clifford Jacksons members grant to purchase equipment. Remembrance Day Services can still take place as long as people socially distance.

Cllr Spratt spoke of more rain than usual and the requirement to make ditches work again. This could be something we see in the future, the removal of debris etc to enable them to work as was intended. Schools have now closed and there have been no Covid-19 cases reported in Tacolnaston and Wreningham schools.

Cllr Spratt praised Mr Muskett for the outstanding work he has done for Ashwellthorpe and how fortunate we are to have such a passionate resident. The new village hall was a credit to him and he considered it a state of art. Council agreed with Cllr Spratts comments.

7) Public if in attendance

Interested in Planning application 2020/1793

Chair proposed we bring forward the Item no.10 Planning as we had public in attendance who were interested in the council's comments.

Planning

(i)2020/1793 Location: Barn at The Grange Whipps Lane Fundenhall. Proposed conversion of existing Atcost barn to residential use. The Parish Council was concerned that the application does not correctly show the current elevations and layout situation with regard to the hedge and the trees on the west boundary of the development. The back of the property would have a low hedge which currently is a high hedge with mature trees. No proper environmental survey has been carried out on the nearby pond which could be inhabited with great crested newts. This would need to be carried out before any work is carried out on the site. The building is located amongst Grade 2 listed farm buildings of architectural merit. The barn is largely hidden by hedging the conversion of such using modern materials would make it a very prominent ultra-modern building. This would be out of character with most of the other buildings in the area. Council noted the change of materials for its construction, which might suggest rebuilding and not conversion. Concerns voiced over the increase of traffic on narrow roads with construction vehicles. If any future development on the listed buildings was to be considered, this barn conversion would almost certainly be an eyesore. Council also felt that the conversion of an agricultural building would be in direct contravention of the South Norfolk Local Government Plan DM 210 (2015). Council felt it was not sympathetic to the setting and if the other farm buildings were to be considered for development, they would have no garden should this be approved. After considerable discussion members proposed to object to the development.

Vote

Proposed by I Bishop – seconded by R Morris – in favour, abstention C Eastwood.

Clerk to notify South Norfolk Planning of Parish Councils decision to object.

Cllr Legg spoke of Permitted Development whereby certain types of development are granted planning permission by national legislation without the need to submit a planning application. In order to be eligible for permitted development rights, each 'Class' specified in the legislation has limitations and conditions that proposals must comply with. This type of barn conversion can be seen around North Norfolk.

(ii)2020/1782 Location: Loke Farm New Road Ashwellthorpe

Proposal: Erection of side extension to outbuilding to include internal alterations and new roof. Members reviewed the application and felt there was no reason to object. Decision no comment should be made.

*Vote**Proposed by C Eastwood – seconded by I Bishop - all in favour**Clerk to notify South Norfolk Planning of Parish Councils decision of no comment.*

(iii) 2020/1820 Location: Field View Wymondham Road Ashwellthorpe. Proposal: Erection of 2 bay cart lodge and wooden garage.

Members reviewed the application and this style of building has become popular with properties, noticeably the last application was for the recently developed Telephone exchange. No objection, however in this case no comment to make on the application.

*Vote**Proposed by C Eastwood – seconded by I Bishop - all in favour**Clerk to notify South Norfolk Planning of Parish Councils decision of no comment.*

Council resumed to Item 8 of the agenda.

8) To receive reports and to consider any necessary action regarding

(i) Footpath – R Morris had sent through a report to members advising that Lower Wood was accessible but very muddy. Farmer has managed to drive over some of the path to access the adjacent field. The inclement weather has not helped either. Footpath opposite village hall, the sign has gone from this entrance. Apparently knocked down by a tractor. The fields have been ploughed and in some places the footpath is not a metre wide. Cllr De Spon has a footpath sign in storage which could be installed at the opening. Chair asked Cllr Spratt if he could speak to the farmer about reinstating the footpaths. Clerk has in the past written to landowner regarding the requirement to re-instate footpaths. Clerk to forward previous correspondence to Cllr Spratt for information. C Eastwood to ask Jaydee gardens to erect new footpath sign.

(ii) Village Maintenance – C Eastwood will go through the Parish Councils asset register to see if there is any winter maintenance required on street furniture etc. Garden around the village hall could do with tidying removal of dead vegetation etc.

(iii) Street Light repairs – N De Spon still waiting for first light in Greenwood Close to be repaired. TT Jones Electrical are waiting on UK Power to attend, which can take anything up to 28 days.

9) Update on the new community centre

C Eastwood advised that he requires the capacity of each room to enable him to include in hire documentation. Looking to recruit further Trustees and so far, positive feedback from those approached. Transfer of the current village hall to the new CIO is in process. Looking to complete soon. Insurance expires on Hall 5th December 2020. Land registry has been completed. A defibrillator will need to be purchased which N De Spon will oversee and look into grants towards purchase. New batteries are required for the two machines currently installed in the village.

10) Planning already discussed

11) Future publication of The Mardle due to Covid-19

Council was in receipt of an email from the Editor of the Mardle I Spratt. Mr Spratt has voiced his concerns regarding the lack of content due to Covid-19 and the difficulty he foresees in producing another edition. The restrictions which have been put in place has had a knock-on effect on events taking place throughout the parish. He feels that this is an appropriate time to review how the Parish

Council keeps residents informed. Discussion was had around how many people will this effect if we moved away from a paper version to an online version as suggested by Mr Spratt. If we have insufficient editorial for a paper version the same surely would apply to an online version. Perhaps this is the time to review editorial content. Members propose one more edition which should include the new hall and to gauge the opinion of residents. J lves to speak with I Spratt on behalf of the Parish Council.

12) Surface water from attenuation pond re Wood Farm Dev.

This had been discussed within Cllr Leggs report and members felt should be left to South Norfolk to investigate. Consensus is this is nothing to do with Wood Farm development pond which is piped.

13)Silfield Land Tenancy.

W Gaze and Sons have on the instruction of the Parish Council to draw up the lease between the Parish Council and the current Tenant. This was decided upon as a matter of urgency as Lease expired on the 15th October. Members were in favour of current tenant continuing for three years.

Retrospective vote taken

Proposed by R Burridge – seconded by J Franey with one abstention I Bishop.

14) Finance

(i)Councils current financial standing at 30/09/2020

Business Community Account balance £18,317.63

Savings Account balance £3447.13

(ii) Cheques approved for payment

Date	Payee	Method	Description	Amount
11/10/2020	EON	Direct debit	Streetlight electricity	28.63
20/10/2020	NALC	Chq:100947	Councillor and Clerk training	108.00
20/10/2020	Royal British Legion	Chq:100948	Donation	75.00
20/10/2020	Jaydee Gardens	Chq:100949	Materials for post	17.00
20/10/2020	T Higlett	Chq:100950	Zoom meeting monthly charge	14.39
20/10/2020	T Higlett	Chq:100951	Clerks salary	488.44
20/10/2020	T T Jones Electrical	Chq:100952	Streetlight repairs	400.21

15) Consultations:

(i)Division Boundaries for Norfolk County Council – closing date 23 November 2020

Council had no comment to make.

16)Correspondence:

Mobile Library Service, Norfolk Police, Remembrance Service Guidance, SN Rough Sleeper Count, NALC Newsletters, NALC Wellbeing.

17) Urgent items for information but carrying forward to next meeting.

Contribution towards graveyard maintenance for both parishes.

J Franey spoke of the insurance on the new hall and should we suspend this as to date the hall is not owned by the Parish. Council to discuss at next months meeting as the hall may not come under ownership until 2021, in which case it would be viable and cost effective to suspend. Members also discussed insuring the village hall when it moves over to the ICO and would see it being part of the one policy, insurance expires on 5th December 2020. There is joint interest between Parish Council and CIO. Premium will be subject to cross-charging.

R Burrige advised that more public transport and school buses are using New Road which in the past has not been gritted and council have had to pay for this to be done. Historically it was always gritted and should we now approach Norfolk County Council Highways to see if this can be included in their winter gritting programme.

18) [Date of next meeting: 17th November 2020](#)

Meeting closed at 21:22pm