

## ASHWELLTHORPE AND FUNDENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 7:30p.m

Present:

J Ives (Chair)

Nick De Spon

Roy Burrige

Jerry Franey

Chris Eastwood

I Bishop

Mrs T Higlett (Clerk)

District Cllrs V Clifford-Jackson and N Legg

County Cllr B Spratt

1) Welcome by the Chair

2) To consider apologies for absence.

Roberta Morris

3) Declarations of interest

Cllr Eastwood – Planning 2020/2236

4) To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Cllr Eastwood updated council on agenda point 9, that there are now four new trustees giving total of eight.

5) Matters arising from those Minutes

I. Update on street light repairs.

UK Power has attended the streetlight in Greenwood Close and the light is now working.

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

I. County Councillor

Cllr Spratt reported that Tacolneston and Wreningham schools are Covid-19 free. Hapton school has one case. In Ashwellthorpe there is one resident positive although with no symptoms. New housing measures came into force on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December for those keeping chickens etc. following a number of cases of Avian Fluenza. Norfolk County Council Highways are very busy prioritising work.

II. District Councillor reports had been forwarded to members. Cllr Clifford-Jackson reported that South Norfolk Council have saved £21,000 by having virtual meetings. There is currently a shortage of environmental officers.

7) Public if in attendance

Public in attendance for planning application

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

(i) Footpaths – New footpath sign on Bridleway is in hand. Footpaths were reported as walkable.

(ii) Village Maintenance – C Eastwood. Awaiting on a quote from Jaydee gardens for the refurbishment of noticeboard.

## 9) Update on the new community centre

Interior is coming along well with plumbing and electricity being completed. Flooring in the main hall is down with some floors already painted. Landscaping around the hall has to be carried out. Website is not live and still in the development stage. Some former users of the Ashwellthorpe Village Hall have asked for an update on when we envisage hall will be ready for use. C. Eastwood is the point of contact and people should be directed to him.

## 10) Discussion on Precept for 2021/22 along with forecasted Budget for 2021/22 report.

Council had discussed raising the precept in line with inflation but J Franey felt a 5% increase would be acceptable based on future expenditure with the new community centre and village maintenance.

*Vote on 5% increase.*

*Proposed by J Franey – seconded by N De Spon with one abstention from J Ives.*

## 11) Planning

(i) Correspondence from South Norfolk regarding 2020/2236 Notification for Prior Approval for a proposed change of use and associated building works of an agricultural building to a dwelling house (QA and QB) Location: Barn at The Grange Whipps Lane Fundenhall.

The Parish Council was concerned that the application does not correctly show the current elevations and layout situation which envisage a low hedge at the back of the property on the western side. Currently this is a high hedge with a number of mature trees that shield the Atcost barn from view. The trees do not have a Tree Preservation Order on them, which if they did would prevent them from being removed. The removal of this hedging and surrounding trees would reveal a dominant conversion of modern design using modern materials which would be very conspicuous and out of character with most of the other buildings in the area including significant Grade 2 listed farm buildings. The removal of the hedge would also result in a significant loss of wildlife habitat. The existing highway accessing the site is limited and dangerous for pedestrians. The conversion will not reduce agricultural traffic (which uses a different access) but will increase existing traffic levels. The road cannot take two-way traffic as the road is not wide enough. Consequently, this is an unsuitable location for further residential traffic.

*Vote: Having again taken the views of local residents into consideration the council proposed to object to this application as with the previous planning application 2020/1793.*

*Proposed by I Bishop – seconded by R Burridge – abstention C Eastwood.*

(ii) 2020/2347 Location: Land West of Bakers Cottage New Road Ashwellthorpe.

Proposal: Erection of bungalow with carport

The Parish Council had reviewed the application and felt that this one appears to meet the standards set by South Norfolk Planning in its design, access appearance and had no objection.

*Vote: No comment to make*

*Proposed by C Eastwood seconded by I Bishop all in favour.*

## 12) Finance

(i) Councils financial standing was reviewed

(ii) Bank statement as at 30/11/2020

Business community account £17585.21

Savings Account £3447.13

## (iii) Cheques approved for payment

Date	Payee	Method	Description	Amount
12/12/2020	EON	Direct debit	Streetlight electricity	28.63
16/12/2020	Autela Payroll	Chq:100960	Payroll services	48.24
16/12/2020	T W Gaze	Chq:100961	Abortive Costs for Land tenancy	396.54
16/12/2020	South Norfolk	Chq:100962	Dog waste emptying service	525.12
18/12/2020	HMRC	Chq:100963	Clerks income tax	35.40
18/12/2020	T Higlett	Chq:100964	December salary	258.24

## (iv) Payments received since last meeting – Land rent £1400.00

## 13)Correspondence:

Elan City Radar Speed Sign, NALC Newsletters, NALC Wellbeing.

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

Chair asked members how they felt about moving the time of meetings to 6:30pm. Council was in favour. Clerk advised this time would be suitable whilst carrying out meetings remotely but may find it difficult when revert back to face-to-face meetings.

15) Date of next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Meeting closed at 20:40