

ASHWELLTHORPE AND FUNDENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on Tuesday 19th January 2021 at 6:30p.m

Present: J Ives (Chair)
 Nick De Spon
 Roy Burr ridge
 Jerry Franey
 Chris Eastwood
 I Bishop
 R Morris
 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.
 None

3)Declarations of interest
 Cllr Eastwood – Planning 2020/2236

4) To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15th December 2020.
 Minutes were approved with one amendment. C Eastwood advised that agenda point 4 should read four new trustees.

5) Matters arising from those Minutes
 Nothing to report.

6)To receive reports from County and District Councillors if in attendance.
 (i)District Councillor Clifford Jackson spoke of the flooding which villages are experiencing. Scrutiny committee are meeting on the 27th of January 2021 to discuss further.
 Cllr Legg has spoken to the Head of Norfolk County Council as a South Norfolk resident has now been flooded out four times and something needs to be done. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 was brought about to make provision about water, including the management of risks in connection with flooding and coastal erosion. Units on Ashwellthorpe Industrial Estate have also experienced flooding.
 Cllr Francis supplied report before the meeting.

7) Public if in attendance
 Public in attendance for planning application 2020/2236

8)To receive reports and to consider any necessary action.
 (i)Footpaths – R Morris reported the footpaths are very muddy due to the weather. Advised members she has been actively looking into a new contractor for maintaining footpaths. Discussion with neighbouring council to see if they would be interested in joining forces to find a contractor who would cut both villages footpaths. I Bishop spoke of the Kett's Country Long Distance 17mile path

Clerk: Tina Higlett
 January 2021 Minutes

Chair.....
 Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall Parish Council

which will link Norwich and Wymondham. It will have five circular walks along the route and one of the proposed circular routes would see walkers take in Ashwellthorpe.

J Franey spoke of the amount of dog's mess on the pavement in the Street. Clerk spoke of correspondence from a resident who has noticed that it has been worse over the past 4-6 weeks. The particular area was on the pavements and grass verges between Greenwood Close and Old Hall Close. They spoke of the difficulties trying to avoid the mess on narrow pavements whilst walking with a toddler and pushing a pushchair. Chair stated there seems to be an increase of people coming into the village to use the PROW's. Although the council have erected signage asking people to clear up behind their dogs and erected dog waste bins people seem to ignore it. Council discussed erecting more signage and putting editorial onto the parish website.

(ii) Village Maintenance – C Eastwood reported that he had not heard from Jaydee Gardens regarding quotation for repairs to noticeboards. He proposed speaking to Mardens Gardens who may be interested in doing routine maintenance for the Parish Council. Footpath signage opposite Ashwellthorpe Village Hall needs to be replaced suggest quoting on this too. N De Spon has in storage replacement signage previously supplied by Highways.

(iii) Community Speed watch – I Bishop spoke of the problems we have been experiencing with the Speed Awareness machine near the bridlepath. Unit had been returned to the manufacturer for investigation and worked fine when it was returned to the Parish Council, but due to the poor weather the unit has not functioned. The batteries are either not up to standard or the fault is with the solar panels. Manufacturer is currently working on new chargers and if these do not alleviate the problem it is proposed to send the equipment back and ask for a full refund. Speed Awareness machine on New Road is working fine but it does not rely on solar panels.

9) Update on the new community centre

C Eastwood advised the web site is still in development. Booking system has been trialled but the pricing structure needs to be discussed for hirers. Room capacity still ongoing and requires photographs to be taken of the interior for inclusion on site. Landscaping still needs to be carried out.

N De Spon stated most of the main part is complete apart from the sports hall. Small jobs need to be completed. There had been a problem with the roof, found to have a couple of leaks but these have now been rectified. No date forthcoming on when the hall will be handed over to the Parish Council. South Norfolk have also made contact regarding a date as we need to be registered for Business rates. We will become rateable but then Charities and not-for-profit organisations can get up to a 100 per cent reduction in their business rates. A representative of the South Norfolk Electoral team has been out to carry out an inspection on the hall with a view to using for the Elections in May 2021. They were more than happy. Developer has approved the use of the pond for toad patrol. Developer has also corresponded with N D Spon regarding the license agreement. The S106 agreement states Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall Parish Council, however they note there is a charity called Ashwellthorpe Village Hall and wondered who the benefit needs to be with. Advised it was not the Village Hall and that the Community Centre maybe the charity that receives it. Council proposed going down the legal route and ask for advice from NP Law.

Vote to approach NP Law for advice

Proposed by N De Spon – seconded by I Bishop - all in favour.

10) Discussion on recent flooding in Ashwellthorpe

N De Spon had been in contact with Norfolk County Council Highways regarding the flooding on December 23rd, due to heavy rainfall. 58 The Street was flooded after the ditch in the field behind overflowed. The fire brigade was called as water was surging around the back of the property and the

whole of the ground floor was flooded. It was felt the main cause was the piped ditch adjacent being unable to handle the flow of water. However, there were serious problems with flooding on New Road and the junction of the Street. A property was flooded but also with sewage due to the incapacity of the Anglian Water sewage pumping station unable to handle the surface water and sewage. Chair advised that a resident on New Road had foul water coming into house and will be making a claim against Anglian Water. They have asked the Parish Council if they would endorse their claim. Cllr Legg has spoken to residents as Anglian Water are keen to compensate people and there is no need for the Parish Council to endorse. Cllr Spratt advised people to keep the pressure on organisations.

N De Spon advised on the 11th of January a meeting was arranged and attended by residents, Highways engineers, Chair of Parish Council and Cllr Spratt to discuss the problems and the way forward. A second site visit has been carried out by Highways engineers and a plan has been put in place to alleviate the problems. Current situation - main heart of the village everything is flowing as it should be. Pumping out has been carried out by Highways. Ditch has been opened and water is flowing. Culvert under the road to be re-instated, flow into the fields and into the woods. Concerns that New Road may flood up but if farmer clears out ditches and installs correct pipework then this shouldn't happen.

N De Spon passed on thanks to Cllr Spratt for all his hard work and time he had put into getting things sorted for residents over the festive period.

11) Planning

(i) Correspondence from South Norfolk regarding planning application 2020/2138. Parish Council had voiced their concerns with water drainage for the new build. The new development is discharging 0.1 l/sec into the existing drainage system - greenfield runoff rate so no increase in flows. South Norfolk Water Management Officer has no objection to the proposals for surface water drainage.

(ii) 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. Class Q regulations consist of minimal information to get application through. Discussion around the curtilage and ownership of the track. Planning committee consider only what is put before them. If Approved developer is open to amend whatever he wants, and entrance could then be onto Whipps Lane. Parish Council stands by its past comments, that the application should be refused.

Vote application should be refused.

Proposed by R Burridge – seconded by N De Spon - all in favour with one abstention from C Eastwood.

12) Budget 2021-22

All councillors had been sent a copy of the budget to study prior to meeting. Clerk had made small adjustments to the budget to reflect on expenditure on street lighting, street furniture and village maintenance as proposed in December 2020. All other budget headings either remained the same or decreased. Precept was set at £10,205 – 5% increase on 2020-21.

Vote on approval of Budget with Precept set at £10205.

Proposed by C Eastwood – seconded by J Franey – all in favour.

13) Finance

(i) Councils current financial standing

Business community account £17,463.92

Savings Account £3447.22

(ii) Cheques approved for payment

Date	Payee	Method	Description	Amount
12/01/2021	EON	Direct debit	Streetlight electricity	29.59
18/01/2021	T Higlett	Chq:100967	Clerks Salary – Jan	258.24
22/01/2021	T T Jones Electrical	Chq:100965	Street light repairs	908.87
22/01/2021	Wel-Medical	Chq:100966	Defibrillator cabinets x 2	948.00
22/02/2021	T Higlett	Chq:100968	Zoom meeting+Stamps	25.59

(iii) Payments received since last meeting £838.88 reimbursement of Insurance premium for new hall.

14)Correspondence:

NALC Newsletters, NALC Wellbeing, South Norfolk Electoral services

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

D Burrige reminded council that it was agreed to include the war memorial as a regular item on the agenda. Chair advised it will be included on the next agenda – February 2021.

16) Date of next meeting 16th February 2021

Meeting closed at 20:08