

ASHWELLTHORPE AND FUNDENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th November 2021 at 7p.m

Present: J Ives (Chair)
 Nick de Spon
 Roy Burridge
 K Peake
 G Williams
 C Eastwood
 Mrs T Higlett (Clerk)
 County Cllr B Duffin
 District Cllrs G Francis and N Legg

1) To consider apologies for absence.
 None

2) Council acknowledge receipt of Lord Lieutenant's COVID Commemoration Plaques on behalf of The Lord Lieutenant Lady Dannatt, MBE, by Deputy Lieutenant Ian Lonsdale. After a brief speech the plaques were presented to the Chairman. Council proposed displaying plaques in the community area of St Nicholas Church Fundenhall and Thorpe Hall Ashwellthorpe.
Proposed by N de Spon, seconded by R Burridge - all in favour.

3) Co-option of new councillor.
 Simon Allen gave an overview of why he wanted to join the parish council.
Vote to appoint Mr Allen
Proposed by R Burridge – seconded by N de Spon – all in favour
 Mr Allen accepted and signed the declaration of acceptance.
 Chairman invited Mr Allen to join the meeting.

4) Declarations of interest for items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations.
 None

5) To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2021
 These were not approved.

6) Public Open Forum
 Cllr Duffin – advised 2nd round of community tree fund is now open. N de Spon has already made contact to obtain trees for new development. Two oaks trees are also required for the dioceses. NCC has spoken of a possibility of 2.9% increase in council tax next year. N de Spon asked if there were any grants still available for cycle racks and possible electric car charging points. Cllr Duffin advised there is comms coming out in 2022 about charging points from the authority. Concerns were also raised about road signage to the estate as there is currently only one sign erected on the right-hand side which is no good if you are coming from Silfield.
 Cllr Legg – Accommodation review, Broadland Business Park is the preferred location for the joint working of Broadland and South Norfolk councils. Costing has yet to be carried out and this will be looked at in December. Staff are still working from home, with some officials working two days a week in the office. Affordable application is still on going for Wood Farm development and has now been

Clerk: Tina Higlett
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Chair.....
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with planners for 2 years. At a recent NCC scrutiny meeting concerns around general medical services and with future housing development in Hethersett a new doctor's surgery would be ideal.

7) Planning

Response to the following applications:

2021/2390 Location: Land West of Rose Farm The Street Ashwellthorpe

Proposal: Erection of two storey dwelling and double garage.

Members of the council reviewed the planning application and noted that this application is outside the development boundary of the village. Very difficult area to decide on as this particular area is the only view of the beyond open green area in the village. Council stated that no one else has been able to build outside this area and would like to make it known they cannot support and therefore no further comments. Council felt the decision should be left to South Norfolk Planning to decide.

Vote:

Proposed by K Peake – seconded by S Allen – all in favour

2021/2321 Location: Timber Yard North of The Street Ashwellthorpe

Proposal: Demolition of existing buildings used in association with timber yard and erection of five dwellings comprising two 4-bedroom (one self-build), and three 3-bedroom (one First Home), new internal private driveway onto existing highway access, car parking spaces, gardens, and biodiversity/landscaping enhancements. Outline

Council reviewed the application and had no objection to this application but as noted on previous applications for this site the project is outside the development boundary of the village. However, the Council also recognise that there is a potential planning gain of an affordable unit which they would welcome should South Norfolk Council be minded to approve this application. Council would like to see that this affordable unit is delivered either by means of a Unilateral Undertaking from the applicant or a Section 106 notice of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to ensure that this happens.

Vote:

Proposed by N de Spon – seconded by C Eastwood – all in favour.

8) Finance

a) To note councils current financial standing

Community Account £21785.58

Business Account £3447.49

b) To approve payments

Payee	Method	Description	Amount
EON	Direct debit	Streetlight electricity	34.00
J Vincent-Bunn	Cheque	Footpath maintenance	394.63
NALC	Cheque	Councillor training	64.80
Defib Shop	Cheque	Defibrillator	1,170.00
T Higlett	Cheque	Norton Security	16.99
T Higlett	Cheque	November salary	306.25
St Nicholas Church	Cheque	Hire of community area	15.00
Royal British Legion	Cheque	Donation	75.00

Tas Valley All Saints PCC	Cheque	Graveyard maintenance	250.00
St Nicholas Church	Cheque	Graveyard maintenance	250.00

c) Receipts since last meeting CIL payments - £1144.17.

d) Council approved raising invoice to tenant for land rental

e) Budget 2022-23. N de Spon advised council that a possible Insurance increase of 10-15%. This is due to the inclusion of Village Hall, Thorpe Hall and village pond. Budget will be finalised in January 2022.

9) New community centre

N de Spon advised council of work to be carried out. A toilet system lid is required, exit light controller needs attention, lights go off during daytime to be adjusted. Groundsman hut requires hardstanding, path and electrics. Drainage down pipes need to be addressed as not into a drainage system. Gate to entrance of field, and car park gate need to be installed. Concerns around illegal camping on land. Tennis courts require nets to be installed. Solar panels have been connected. Regular users and Trustees have been supplied with keys to access building. Talk of transferring the ownership to parish council including pond and drainage system, village green and through path in the near future. Building regulations completion certificate will be obtained once it complies. Drainage system will be overseen by the council. The hall, playing field, tennis courts and groundsman hut should go into the charity. Charity is administered by the parish council. Land will need to be registered with the Land Registry. Discussion around councillors becoming trustees but this was deemed as not practical. VAT liability will be discussed with a recognised authority on VAT. The on-line booking system is approaching completion.

Chairman advised there has been comments from hirers that the building is too austere, cold and concerns with the acoustics. Correspondence has also been received regarding the cost of hiring the hall compared to other halls in the vicinity.

10) Reports:

a) Footpaths- K Peake. Footpaths as reported at the last meeting final cut has been carried out. It was proposed that S Allen should also oversee footpaths.

b) Village maintenance – S Allen will oversee in the future.

Proposed by N de Spon – seconded by R Burridge all in favour

A schedule of works will be handed over to S Allen.

Chairman advised she had looked into purchasing new village noticeboards as previously discussed at October meeting. Metal, magnetic boards were favourable. Price range anything from £600 upwards depending on size. Proposed ordering one for Thorpe Hall before purchasing replacements for outside of village store and village hall.

c) Community Speed watch. – G Williams advised he will be having training on speed watch prior to becoming point of contact. Advised that the two new systems in the village, solar batteries are not suitable. Manufacture has advised that the battery cases electrical wiring is at fault. A meeting has been arranged with previous councillor who has corresponded in the past with manufacturer to discuss further. Question as to whether the solar panels are man enough. There are no issues with speed sign on New Road.

11) Matters arising from previous minutes

a) Recycling Clothing bank

Clerk was in receipt of further correspondence. The clothing bank will be emptied once a week as it is added to the driver's route who is in the area already so this will always be done weekly, or more frequently depending on how busy it is. There is no minimum threshold for payment / collections,

whatever is collected they will pay for, no requirement to reach a tonne for payment, it's just worked out on 30p a kilo. This is then totalled up and paid the following month. Council proposed to go ahead and N de Spon will liaise with representative regarding where the bank should be sited.

b) Noticeboards previously discussed under village maintenance.

12) Councillor Training

J Ives and K Peake had attended training on Planning. Found to be very informative.

13) Parish Issues

a) Chairman advised, the editor of the Mardle is still awaiting on editorial from Trustees of Thorpe Hall for inclusion.

b) Further correspondence had been received regarding the damage caused to the bridleway at Hudmans Loke. Clerk has contacted Highways and this has been referred to Countryside Access Officer to discuss with the landowner and the rectification of the damage to make it passable for walkers/horse riders.

14) Correspondence

a) Letter from EON regarding price increase and the offer of lower rates on a fixed term contract. Clerk had contacted EON and council would not benefit from moving over to a fixed term contract as there would be a monthly fee of £15.00.

15) Date of next meeting.

Council proposed there would be no meeting in December and the next meeting would be in January. Date would depend on return of precept documentation to South Norfolk Council.

Meeting closed at 20:55