

Pre-Meeting Business: There was no representative of the local press present.

Public Participation: It was felt that the Millennium Wood was in a poor state with nettles growing on to the pathways. The opinion was that the contractors were not doing a good job. It was confirmed that payment had been withheld because of certain issues. Agreement was given by a parishioner to a comment made at a previous meeting regarding what was perceived to be the untidy state of the village with no spraying having been carried out. Most of the concerns have now been tackled and it was explained that we had been informed that all pavements in the County will be sprayed in a month with the work starting on 17<sup>th</sup> June. Road sweeping and work on the grass verges has been completed. Dr. Wade- Martins gave a full response as follows:-

The Parish Council was asked how it intends to respond to the comments about the state of the village made at the last Parish Council meeting which were repeated in a “Letter to the Editors” in the July issue of *Elmham News*. Dr Wade-Martins responded by saying that matters were complicated because the issues raised were covered by three different layers of local government, as follows:

- The state of the playing field car park is the responsibility of the Parish Council since it is Parish Council property. The car park has since been sprayed and dealt with, but the Parish Council will need to organise better weed control here in the future.
- Pavement and roadside verge spraying is a County Highways responsibility and County Highways have explained that since they are now only allowed to use glyphosate, which is only effective when the weeds are in full leaf, they only started their County spraying programme in the middle of June. All spraying in villages will be completed within one month. Highways are not allowed to include a residual spray in the application to stop fresh germination for safety reasons, so fresh weeds may well germinate before the end of the season.
- The cutting of roadside verges was scheduled for last week, and indeed that has now been completed.
- Road sweeping is a Breckland responsibly, and that has also now been completed in the village. In places where mechanical sweeping can’t reach, like around traffic islands, there is a case for asking the Highway Rangers to include that regularly in their programme.
- Dr Wade-Martins concluded by saying that he has found the criticism helpful and he feels that there is a case for the Parish Council in the future funding its own weed spraying programme next year for the whole village early in the season, possibly in April.

A question was asked regarding the footpath along the railway line from the County School with particular emphasis on how far it goes. It was stressed that this is a permissive path and Mr. Robinson offered to view official documentation to clarify certain matters.

**North Elmham Parish Council**

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**Minutes of the  
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
held at 7.30 p.m. at the Sports Pavilion on  
Wednesday 3rd July, 2019**

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**060 Those Councillors Present Were:**

Mrs. J. Borgnis (Chairman), Mr. J. Brown, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. P. Grainger, Mr. M. Gower, Mr. J. Labouchere, Mr. M. Rayner, Mr. C. Robinson and Dr. P. Wade-Martins.

**Also in Attendance:** Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. G. Bambridge (District Council) and nine parishioners.

**061 To Consider Apologies for Absence:**

Mr. M. Phillips and Mr. C. Smith

**062 To Receive Declarations of Interest:**

The Chairman reminded the meeting that, should the occasion arise, interests should be declared by Councillors as soon as this was realised, and the interest should be minuted. The Chairman stated that there was a planning application in respect of her property on the agenda for discussion.

**063 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2019:**

Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. Agreed by all. (Proposed by Mr. Labouchere and seconded by Dr. P. Wade-Martins)

**UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING**

**064 Land Management Matters (item 034)**

- (a) Village Green Work on the gates and zip wire has been completed. The elm tree is dying and it was agreed to refer back to the person who provided it. The Chairman will attend to this matter.
- (b) Cathedral Ruins A swarm of bees had been identified and is being dealt with.
- (c) Cathedral Meadows Nothing to report.
- (d) Broom Green Nothing to report.
- (e) Millennium Wood Nothing to report.
- (f) Bridleway on disused railway line Nothing to report.
- (g) Prince William Wood It appears that four cherry trees are dying. Mr. Fitzalan Howard is to inspect.

**065 Street Lights (item 035)**

Light number 103 went off and has been repaired.

**066 Highway Matters (item 036)**

Dr Wade-Martins reported as follows:

- a. Breckland has now agreed to install new Station Road and Billingford Road street signs at the Worthing Turn as we have indicated.
- b. The Clerk has now set up an account with Highways for reporting road defects and Dr. Wade-Martins can start by reporting the poor road surface under the Broom Green railway arch and the blocked drains on Church Hill.
- c. The Chairman had carried out a consultation by a leaflet drop with all the households affected by the proposed Eastgate Street roadside parking scheme. There had been no objections. It was therefore decided to proceed with the scheme although concern had been expressed by members of the public under Public Consultation that it would make no difference. Once the scheme had been completed and had settled down Dr. Wade-Martins offered to organise a brainstorming session for residents in that part of the street to measure how effective the scheme had been and what more may be needed regarding a possible deterioration in the situation concerning parking congestion.
- d. It is now time to consider what we want to bid for under the Parish Partnership Scheme for 2020 which has a closing date of 6<sup>th</sup> December.
- e. In response to the letters the Clerk has sent to the Chief Constable and the Leader of the County Council about making use of our SAM2 data to set up speed traps and the need for elevated yellow strips on the road at the east and west bound approaches to the Kings Head crossroads, the Chief Constable had not bothered to reply and the Leader of the County Council had sent a very dismissive and unhelpful response. It was agreed that Dr. Wade-Martins and Paul Grainger would draft a further and stronger letter to the Bill Borrett as our County Councillor.
- f. As a follow-up to the discussion about roadside verges under Public Participation, Dr. Wade-Martins suggested that the Parish Council should organise its own pavement weed-spraying programme next year.
- g. It was agreed to discuss the possibility of Eastgate Street becoming one way at the next meeting.

**067 Eastgate Centre (item 037)**

Nothing to report.

**068 Pavilion and Playing Field – Play Area (item 038)**

Mr. Brown had obtained two quotations to have the pavilion decorated. These were for £1,400 and £875. It was agreed to proceed with the lower quotation from Mr. Seaman. All in favour. (Proposed by Dr. Wade-Martins and seconded by Mr. Labouchere). RoSPA reports had been received following the annual inspection.

**069 Allotments (item 039)**

Nothing to report

**070 Volunteers (item 040)**

Nothing to report

- 071 Village Institute Hall (item 041)**  
Nothing to report
- 072 Website (item 042)**  
Nothing to report
- 073 Traffic and parking issues in Eastgate Street (item 043)**  
Nothing to report
- 074 Church Meadow update (item 044)**  
It was agreed to carry out a Risk Assessment on the old ash tree at the entrance to Church Meadow as it is probably unsafe with many dead branches. The trees in the Millennium Wood would also be included in the assessment. The estimated cost is £250. Agreed by all (proposed by Mr. Fitzalan Howard and seconded by Dr. Wade-Martins)
- 075 V.E.T.S. (item 045)**  
The defibrillator pads are out of date. It was decided to replace them at an estimated cost of £35. Agreed by all.
- 076 Draft agreement re the sale of land at Brookside Farm (item 046)**  
Nothing to report
- 077 Plans for all weather footpath from Oak Avenue to Spencer Close (item 047)**  
Mr. Smith is in the process of obtaining quotations.
- 078 Pump at the north end of the village (item 048)**  
Nothing to report
- 079 Plaque for the King's Head pump (item 049)**  
The plaque has been ordered.
- 080 Rental assessment (item 050)**  
The meeting, to review the rents and assets, between the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Mr. Grainger will be arranged within the next two weeks.
- 081 Memorial Hall (item 051)**  
No annual accounts have yet been produced. Quotations are being obtained for the refurbishment of certain items.

**082 Welcome – VE Day 75 (item 052)**

It was agreed to carry this matter forward to the next meeting.

**083 Report from District Councillor**

Mr. Bambridge said that the final consultation for the Local Plan finishes on 8<sup>th</sup> July. The report is due back from the Inspector in August and it is hoped that it will be adopted in September. When this happens, the District will have a five years' land supply. Attempts have been made to ease the housing problem in Breckland. Land and property has been bought in Thetford which will provide twenty properties for temporary housing. Members of the Parish Council were deeply disappointed that the application for an additional dwelling on Larch Grove had been passed despite strong opposition from the Parish Council. Mr. Bambridge confirmed that he did not support it but it was recommended by the officer. There was a general feeling that, yet again, the very firm feelings of local members had been completely ignored by the District Council. Mr. Bambridge said that if an application satisfies the National Planning Policy Format it will be passed but advised that it is worthwhile sending a Parish Council representative to the meeting. It was agreed that, in future, a member of the Planning Group would go to Breckland for any controversial applications.

**084 New Information Panel**

Dr Wade-Martins had set out in a paper a detailed justification for the new panel and his proposal was accepted based on the cost put in the budget last November (£1,359). (Proposed by Dr. Wade-Martins and seconded by Mr. Rayner. Six members in favour and two against). It was further agreed to set up a working group to review the draft wording of the panel as before (the Chairman and Tom Fitzalan Howard) and the final draft would then be presented to full Parish Council for approval.

**085 The Memorial Hall Working Group**

It was suggested that the Group should consist of two or three members from the Parish Council and some residents. A piece is to be put in the Elmham News asking for people, with a list of the skills considered necessary, to volunteer and Mr. Fitzalan Howard thought it was vital to have someone to lead the project. Dr. Wade-Martins stressed the importance of locating a suitable site and, after an appropriate report is made, deciding how to take the matter forward. Messrs Grainger and Rayner said that they would be prepared to consider the possibility of playing a role and Dr. Wade-Martins offered to help. It was felt that Mr. Phillips may also be prepared to join the Group. Mr. Bambridge said that, in his experience, it is useful to have the involvement of outside experts from the very start.

**086 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income**

<b>a) Resolved to approve the following Accounts for payment:-</b>		
11/6/19	E-on (street lights – May)	£202.14
3/7/19	E-on (pavilion from 18/3/19 to 17/6/19)	£271.01
3/7/19	D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning for June)	£123.15
3/7/19	Thinking Rural (payroll services for May)	£12.00
3/7/19	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for June)	£693.44
3/7/19	HMRC (tax on Clerk's pay)	£77.40
3/7/19	HMRC (National Insurance on Clerk's pay)	£15.22

3/7/19	NGF Play Ltd (zip wire maintenance)	£102.00
3/7/19	Westcotec Ltd (new street light column in Holt Road)	£1,476.00
3/7/19	J. R. Fletcher (key keeping – May and June)	£62.50
3/7/19	J. Duffield (work in Cathedral Ruins)	£320.00
28/5/19	Public Works Loan Board (village green repayment)	£626.45
3/6/19	Public Works Loan Board (street lights repayment)	£1,753.41
3/7/19	Playsafety Ltd (annual RoSPA inspections)	£168.60
3/7/19	Norfolk County Council (Eastgate Street parking project)	£1,750.00

(Expenditure approved by all members)

**b) Schedule of Income:**

21/5/19	Rural Payments Agency (Higher Entry Level Stewardship)	£2,024.09
31/5/19	Coif Charity Investment	£27.76
31/5/19	Coif Charity Investment	£44.90
7/6/19	Pavilion takings	£20.00
13/6/19	Breckland Council (hire of hall for two elections)	£390.00
3/6/19	Bank Interest (4/3/19 to 2/6/19)	£13.80

Balances (as at 1/7/19):- Current a/c - £64,176.05, Business Premium a/c £28,434.41

**087 To consider planning applications and determinations:-**

**a) Applications**

- (i) Jon Pennells – erection of new dwelling on land off Larch Grove – (3PL/2019/0369/F)
- (ii) Martin Collier – to replace sash windows with new double-glazed units (3PL/2019/0516/LB) – no objections
- (iii) Garrod Developments Ltd – reserved matters for erection of four dwellings following o.p.p.- (3PL/2019/0620/D) – no objections.
- (iv) Mr. and Mrs. Borgnis – erection of a canopy over front door (3PL/2019/0603/LB) – no objections (proposed by Mr. Fitzalan Howard and seconded by Mr. Labouchere; all in favour)

**b) Determinations**

- (i) Jon Pennells – erection of new dwelling on land off Larch Grove – (3PL/2019/0369/F) – approved (please refer to item 083 – this application was passed by the District Council despite strong opposition from the Parish Council)
- (ii) Helen Hetherington – erection of extensions to side of property and add a skin around the existing walls at Dale Farm, Great Heath Road (revised location plan and ownership certificate) – (3PL/2019/0332/F) – approved.

**088    CORRESPONDENCE –3/7/19**

- 1) Clerks and Councils Direct magazine for July 2019
- 2) Confirmation from NCC of continuation of Parish Partnership Scheme
- 3) Letter from North Elmham school confirming Federation arrangement
- 4) Police Crime Update report for June 2019
- 5) Request for donation from Age U.K. Norfolk (declined)
- 6) Letter from parishioner asking for financial assistance to son's educational trip (may be appropriate to contact Breckland Council who have a fund that can be applied to)
- 7) Request from CPRE for assistance with road signs for summer fair
- 8) Invitation to Community Action Norfolk AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> July at Dereham

**089    Announcements**

None

**090    Agenda items for next meeting:**

- a) V. E. Day 75
- b) Rent/assets review
- c) Eastgate Street – one-way possibilities

**091    Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, 7th August 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date





