

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 7th April, 2021 (via Zoom)

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224 Those Councillors Present by Logging In Were:

Mrs. J. Borgnis (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips, Mr. B. Gee, Miss A. Ferris, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. P. Grainger, Mrs. A. Keeble, Mr. J. Labouchere, Mr. N. Markwell, Mr. M. Rayner and Mr. C. Smith.

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. C. Hill (Elmham News), Mr. I. and Mrs. S. Ball (webmasters) and one parishioner.

225 Apologies for absence: None

226 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.

227 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021:

Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. Agreed by all. (Proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Labouchere)

228 Public Participation

Mr. Markwell had received some items which are to be passed to Mrs. Ball for placing on the website. He is to send a photograph of himself and some personal details to the webmasters. Thanks had been expressed to those who had donated items to Foodbanks. It was also stated that it would be good to contact any people who need help and, in general terms, to look out for neighbours.

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

229 Land Management Matters (item 207)

- a) Village Green Mr. Smith advised that the quotation in respect of the footpath is still awaited. He will chase. Thanks were expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Ball for producing posters in respect of dog fouling. It was also agreed to place some posters in Millennium Wood.
- (b) Cathedral Ruins Mr. Duffield is to put some grass seed down.
- (c) Cathedral Meadows Mr. Fitzalan Howard said that the management of land is to become more complicated. Following Brexit, a new scheme is to be introduced and it will be necessary for professional advice to be utilised. As such, it was agreed by all to continue with our current relationship with Brown and Co. In addition, they are to apply for derogation so that the brash can be burnt.
- (d) Broom Green Mr. Labouchere reported that Mr. Cook is to cover the cost of digger hire and pipes, the Parish Council is to pay for materials (maximum spend £1,000) and the residents will be responsible for the road surface.
- (e) Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood) Twenty one post supports have been fitted at a cost of £20 each. Mr. Duffield is to put some shavings down at the entry to Millennium Wood.
- (f) Bridleway on disused railway line and other railway linked matters
Mr. Rayner recently had a meeting with Mr. Robinson, Chairman of the Mid Norfolk Railway, and the assurance was given that there would be a new path on the top of the embankment which would be wide enough to facilitate safe passage for those using it. The new fence has subsequently been placed some ten feet from the railway track which will result in the footpath being both narrow and not level. Mr. Robinson had given a promise that the path would be safe but the view is that it is not safely usable outside a distance of ten feet. Mr. Phillips felt that we must insist on safe access and it was suggested to place a piece in Elmham News asking for the views of parishioners.
The Mid Norfolk Railway had submitted a request to Breckland Council for a change in the original covenant which would result in the creation of a permissive footpath to the level crossing at County School. The Parish Council is united in its strong opposition to this proposal and Mr. Rayner was thanked for drafting a detailed response which will now be submitted to Breckland. It is hoped that Messrs Bambridge and Borrett will support the Parish Council's position on this matter.

The MNR is proposing to get a surveyor to inspect the bridge at the bottom of Church Lane in the hope of having it repaired. The bridleway remains unpassable with long standing problems created by a seemingly uncooperative farmer and his cattle. It was suggested that the issue should again be raised with Norfolk County Council and Mr. Grainger will attempt to make contact with the new Highway Engineer.

It was agreed by all to commence the process to make the area between County School and the buffers a Public Right of Way.

(g) Prince William Wood Nothing to report

230 Allotments (item 208)

Nothing to report

231 Street Lights (item 209)

Nothing to report

232 Highway Matters (item 210)

Mr. Grainger has not yet had a response from the new Highway Engineer (Matt Lines) but will continue to chase him. He has also asked about the empty grit bin at the junction of Eastgate Street and Orchard Close but it seems that it does not meet the required criteria. The cycleway across the green matter is still being considered.

233 Pavilion and Playing Field (item 211)

Mr. Smith reported that the new Football Club will have a total of seven teams playing next season with the juniors playing at North Elmham and the senior teams using the Billingford Lakes field.

Miss Ferris said that the Slimming World Consultant had provided an updated Risk Assessment and it was agreed that she could commence activities on a restricted basis after 12th April in accordance with the current Covid requirements. The Cricket Club will have eleven home matches during the coming season, commencing with a friendly with Fakenham Cricket Club.

234 Youth Club facilities (item 212)

Mr. Fitzalan Howard wished to thank Elmham News for reminding parishioners of the forthcoming survey.

235 Eastgate Centre (item 213)

Nothing to report.

236 Affordable Housing - update (item 215)

Nothing had been heard from Broadland Housing Association but it was confirmed that the Parish Council would have a say on the selection of any site.

237 Brookside Development update (item 216)

Nothing to report

238 Risk Management – considerations and updates (item 217)

The Clerk reported that AGAR details and documentation had been received from the external auditors. The return has to be forwarded by 30th June, 2021.

239 Specific member responsibilities for Messrs Gee and Markwell

The following actions were agreed:-

- (i) Mr. Gee to be involved with the Village Green (replacing Mr. Phillips) and Highways
- (ii) Mr. Markwell to be involved with Street Lighting and Prince William Wood. In addition, he is to assist Mr. Rayner with Mid Norfolk Railway matters.
- (iii) Also, Mr. Fitzalan Howard is to concentrate on Stewardship and Youth activities.

240 Defibrillators

Mr. Gee said that a number of old, red telephone boxes had been used to site defibrillators. Miss Ferris felt that it could be useful to have one at the Station Road end of the village and agreed to look at the present system, including how it works.

241 Village litter pick

Mr. Grainger had reservations about proceeding with a litter pick and felt that people should be encouraged to take personal responsibility for their own litter. Mr. Fitzalan Howard suggested that, through Elmham News, parishioners should be asked to pick up litter within 100 yards of their homes. Also, it was considered advisable to involve the school in any activities which, due to the current regulations, would need to take place after 21st June. A piece is to be placed in Elmham News after the next meeting.

242 Village Green proposal for a tree planting scheme

Mr. Grainger had submitted a proposal to members, for consideration, prior to the meeting. In response to the flooding of the path towards the bottom of the village green, it is the intention to contemplate a tree planting scheme to create a small wood between the ditch and the existing line of mature trees on the green. The objective is to get the trees to soak up excess water and in time provide a canopy against rainfall. The alternative appears to be to install more land drains, but if there is a more environmentally friendly solution then it should be considered.

A small woodland would leave the majority of the village green as open space and create an accessible area of woodland and wildlife habitat in the centre of the village. It would also make a contribution, as a community, to help meet county and national tree planting targets. We have been in touch with our county councillor, Bill Borrett, who has offered his support in principle in applying for the provision of the trees through the newly announced "1 million trees for Norfolk" initiative. All members were happy to proceed and Mr. Grainger is to obtain Mr. Borrett's confirmation of support. Grants are also available for projects of this nature. Mr. Labouchere stated that we should also recommend to Highways that the path is rebuilt.

243 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income

a) Resolved to approve the following Accounts for payment:-

12/3/21	E-on (street lights – February)	£182.57
22/3/21	Biffa (wheelie bin service from 20/2/21 to 26/3/21)	£42.00
7/4/21	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for March)	£753.20
7/4/21	HMRC (tax and N.I. on Clerk's pay)	£110.13
20/1/21	K. Webb (quarterly computer allowance – standing order)	£20.00
7/4/21	Mandrake (payroll service for February)	£24.00
7/4/21	Darren Brown (bench work and fit new tank)	£140.00
7/4/21	Hussey Knights Ltd (800 folded leaflets)	£65.00
7/4/21	J. R. G. Fletcher (key keeping – February and March)	£62.50
7/4/21	Norfolk Parish Training & Support (annual subscription)	£223.96
7/4/21	Tim Braybrook (tree work)	£450.00
7/4/21	T. H. Scott and Son (hedge cutting at Cathedral Meadow)	£1,812.00
7/4/21	E-on (pavilion from 4/1/21 to 28/3/21)	£69.17
7/4/21	Environment Agency (drainage charges)	£108.89
7/4/21	Mole Country Stores (rock salt)	£49.90
7/4/21	Mole Country Stores (growmore bucket)	£54.05
7/4/21	NARS (donation)	£50.00 **

** Cheque needed – no answer on telephone number (several attempts made)

(Expenditure approved by all members. Proposed by Mr. Labouchere and seconded by Mr. Smith)

b) Schedule of Income:

24/2/21	Breckland Council (Tier 5 Grant)	£2,096.00
26/2/21	HSBC (coif charity div)	£27.34
26/2/21	HSBC (coif charity div)	£44.22
8/3/21	Barclays Bank (interest from 7/12/20 to 7/3/21)	£0.82
31/3/21	HMRC (VAT refund from 1/6/20 to 31/1/21)	£2,889.29
6/4/21	Allotment rent	£10.00
6/4/21	Skate Park monies	£109.40

Balances (as at 1/4/21):- Current a/c - £97,974.36, Business Premium a/c £33,487.85

Mr. Phillips had circulated the Management Financial Report for the year ended 31st March, 2021. At the next meeting, the PWLB loan in respect of the Village Green is to be discussed. Messrs Phillips and Grainger will obtain appropriate details.

244 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-

a) Applications

- (i) Mr. C. and Mrs. A.M. Healy – single storey rear extension – 3PL/2021/0338/F – The Railway Arms, Station Road – no objections.
- (ii) Mr. G. Redwood – variation of conditions – 3PL/2021/0050/VAR – on 3PL/2017/0361/F – Granary Buildings, Eastgate Street – no objections.
- (iii) Orchard Homes Ltd – 3OB/2021/0010/OB - discharge of planning obligations comprising of: open space scheme, footpath links scheme, footbridge scheme and community car park scheme, attached to planning permission 3PL/2019/0874/F – land east of Brookside Farm – no objections.
- (iv) Orchard Homes Ltd – proposed sub-station to approved development (3PL/2029/0874/F) – 3PL/2021/0400/F – land east of Brookside Farm, Holt Road – no objections.
- (v) Mr. S. Blackmore – full planning barn conversion to allow for the extension of the eaves and change of use of land to garden – 3PL/2021/0285/F – Kings Head Farm Barns, Back Lane – no objections.

It was also mentioned that the owners of Jannimesa Farm, Eastgate Street have advised that they are not selling their property and have no intention of moving. They are unaware of any planning application.

b) Determinations

- (i) Mr. Gray – side and rear extension – 3PL/2021/0130/HOU – 7 Oak Avenue - approved

245 Correspondence

- 1) Community Update from Dereham Safer Neighbourhood Team – March, 2021
- 2) Environmental Stewardship annual claim form
- 3) Each Anglia's Children's Hospices Footprints magazine
- 4) The Time Machine Tour from 7/4/21 to 28/5/21 – Keeper's Daughter Theatre Company

246 Agenda items for next meeting:

- a) Overview of Parish Council financial situation

247 Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 5th May 2021 at 7.30 p.m. (Zoom) – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

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

Chairman

Date

