

Minutes - January Council held on 14th March 2017 at Colkirk Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs Colin Barron, Charles Joice (in the chair), Nick Loades, Steve Mulford, Michael Stamford and Bernard Smith were present. County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris and District Councillor Trevor Carter were present.

The clerk Charles Brindley was in attendance. Three members of the public were present

- 17/023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Whiteside (another meeting).
- 17/024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Mulford declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 as a resident of Conference Way
- 17/025 MINUTES OF MEETINGS DATED 17 JANUARY 2017: as previously circulated, draft minutes were considered. By resolution proposed by Cllr Loades and seconded by Cllr Barron, it was unanimously **AGREED that the minutes were a true record and were duly signed by the chairman**
- 17/026 CLERK'S REPORT: The clerk reported that the planning application to build 21 dwellings at land off Whissonsett Rd had been withdrawn. He updated the council with regards the situation with the two new build houses adjacent to the Crown Inn. Both had been issued with completion certificates in May 2016. Enforcement action was being considered by Breckland Council with regards highways issues but this was complicated because the owner is serving a prison sentence. The issues of use as a HMO were being investigated by the housing department. A reply on the resurfacing of the Whissonsett Rd car park was still awaited from the contractor, MW Resurfacing, who caused the damage. The clerk's verbal report was **NOTED**.
- 17/027 MATTERS RELATING TO THE VILLAGE HALL: The council received a report from Jenny Filby, a member of the village hall management committee on proposed updates to the hall. The council **AGREED unanimously to support the proposals by resolution proposed by Cllr Barron and seconded by Cllr Smith**
The clerk advised that a grant for £500 towards the costs of the proposed roof repairs had been secured from the Norfolk Village Halls Fund and it was **AGREED unanimously to sign the Funding Agreement by resolution proposed by Cllr Mulford and seconded by Cllr Smith**
A report on the funding required for the roof repairs was considered. A proposal to seek Borrowing Approval for the remaining funding requirement was considered and, by resolution proposed by Cllr Loades and seconded by Cllr Stamford, it was **AGREED unanimously to apply for Borrowing Approval for £5,000 to be taken over a 10 year period**.
- 17/028 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS: District Cllr Carter reported on the Better Broadband for Norfolk project and provided a copy of the latest newsletter. The current project aims to provide greater than 95% high speed broadband coverage in Norfolk by spring 2020. He reported that proposals for upgrades to the A47, including dialling the section from Honington to Easton were being consulted on by Highways England at present. Details of the latest proposals for cable routing to another sub station at Necton for the Vattenfall off shore wind farms were being consulted on at present. Council Tax for the Breckland District Council would rise by £4.95 per annum for a band D property.
County Councillor Kiddle-Morris gave his apologies for missing the last meeting of the parish council. He confirmed that the county council had agreed an increase of 4.8% to the council tax for 2017/18. Following comments from the EDP about children services, the paper was invited to shade officers to see the service at work. No report was subsequently seen in the paper as nothing contentious was seen by the reporter. The parish partnership fund for highways improvements will again operate in 2017/18

- 17/029 MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT: The clerk updated members on the submission of an application to the Breckland Outdoor Sport and Play Fund for the cost of the equipment and its installation and the feedback that he had received from the fund administrator. He confirmed that he had advised the administrators that further quotes for the project would be secured if the funding bid was successful and confirmed that further canvassing of residents would be undertaken to gauge support for the project. Finally, he explained that a decision would be taken with regards the location for the equipment.
The council considered the location issue and **AGREED unanimously that the equipment would be installed on the Campyngland.** The clerk's report and update were **NOTED**
- 17/030 STREETLIGHTING: Members considered various options to reduce the ongoing cost of the streetlights in Bramley Drive and Conference Way including installing timers, fitting LED heads and removal of the lamps. After consideration and because of capital costs involved and long payback periods, it was unanimously **AGREED to do nothing at this time.**
- 17/031 MATTERS RELATING TO THE PLAY AREA: Cllr Loades updated members on the repairs that had been undertaken under guarantee. The completion of these works was **NOTED**
- 17/032 MATTERS RELATING TO GROUNDS MAINTENANCE: The clerk advised members that he had spoken to the new contractors about setting up a three year contract for the works, the triggering of years 2 and 3 being implemented if both parties were happy with the contract after year 1. This had been written into the contract for the works and members **AGREED unanimously to authorise the clerk to enter into the contract.**
- 17/033 YEAR END 2016/17: The council considered the appointment of its internal auditor and **AGREED that, as Mr Andrew Stewart was both competent to under take the audit and independent of the council, he should be asked to complete the internal audit for 2016/17**
- 17/034 PLANNING: The Council **NOTED that the following responses had been made:**
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| 3PL/2017/0155 | Pantiles, Dereham Rd | No comments |
| 3PL/2017/0126 | Manor House Cottage, School Rd | Comments about prior removal of trees on the site |
| 3PL/2017/0197 | Bottle Brake Farm, Oxwick Lane | No comments |
- 17/035 FINANCE:
The Council **NOTED the following receipts in January**
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| Allotment Rents | £ 160.00 |
| Playing Field Rent - Colkirk Football Club | £ 100.00 |
- Bank balances were reported at 27 January 2017 as:
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| Business Premium Account | £ 4425.41 |
| Community Account | £ 6071.95 |
- Reconciliation with the cash book was confirmed against a cash book balance at 27 January 2017 of £ 10497.36
- 17/036 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: By resolution proposed by Cllr Joice and seconded by Cllr Mulford, the following payments were unanimously **APPROVED for payment**
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| 100783 | ANGLIAN WATER | Playing Field Water Supply | £ 13.15 |
| 100784 | C BRINDLEY | Clerk's salary Feb - Mar 17 | £ 404.22 |
| 100785 | C BRINDLEY | Clerk's expenses Oct 16 - Mar 17 | £ 79.57 |
- 17/037 RESIDENT'S CORRESPONDENCE RE PEAR TREE CORNER: The correspondence was considered and it was **AGREED to establish where the pear tree was located on the corner before taking the matter any further as the corner is split between Colkirk and Whissonsett parishes**

- 17/038 ANGLIAN WATER BUSINESS: The correspondence was **NOTED**
- 17/039 NORFOLK AND NORWICH ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND: It was **AGREED to defer this item to the next meeting**
- 17/041 E-ON: The correspondence was **NOTED**
- 17/042 RYBURGH PARISH COUNCIL: The correspondence was **NOTED**
- 17/043 CLERKS AND COUNCILS DIRECT: Receipt of the current issue was **NOTED**
- 17/044 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS: The date for the Annual Parish Meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 9 May 2017 at 7pm with the annual council meeting following immediately after the annual parish meeting

There being no further advertised business, the Chairman closed meeting at 20.54

Signed as a true record

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Date

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