

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 19 January 2016

Councillors Present: Mr Joice, Mr Mulford, Mr Barron, Mr Stamford, Mr Smith, Mr Loades, Mr Whiteside, Mr Carter and Mr Kiddle-Morris.

In attendance: Charles Brindley (new Clerk) together with five parishioners.

Mr Joice welcomed Charles Brindley to the Parish Council.

Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting dated 24 November were read, and it was proposed by Mr Smith and seconded by Mr Barron that the minutes be adopted. All were in favour.

Matters arising:

Litter Pickers

It was agreed to borrow equipment from Breckland for future litter picks.

Posts to the War Memorial

Invoice received for posts to War Memorial. Mr Whiteside is to seek reimbursement from the parishioner who damaged them. Remaining posts to be repainted in the Spring.

Clerk's replacement

Mr Charles Brindley will take on the role immediately after this meeting.

Risk Assessment

Mr Joice has removed some moss from roof of shelter and further work will be carried out in the summer along with replacing two broken tiles. Mr Loades has replaced the pin in the gate to the play area. The goal posts on the playing field will be removed in the Spring..

Speed sign for School Road

The Clerk asked Whissonsett if they would like to share their SAM sign but they do not.

Village Hall roof – grant application

An application to Awards 4 All is to be made for the maximum of £10,000 with the Parish Council contributing £1,000. Further 50% match funding can be applied for to Breckland for up to £5000. The Clerk is to find out whether the Awards 4 All grant can be used towards the match funding.

Speeding Vehicles through Oxwick

Mr Kiddle-Morris met with County Highways at Oxwick but it is not deemed suitable for a 30 mph speed limit through Oxwick. Mr Kiddle-Morris will advise Mr Settle of the decision.

Matters relating to the Village Hall

The grant application for wood panelling to the main hall was unsuccessful.

Mrs Filby has run a Land Registry search to find out who the lane belongs to and it is unregistered. Mr Joice will arrange for more of the pot holes to be filled.

Matters relating to the Playing Field

Mr Loades will look at what assets the Playing Field has with a view to selling some of them. He will speak to the School about their equipment in the container on the playing field and put de-icer in the tractor.

The Crown – asset of community value

The tenant landlords of the Crown PH have left and the pub is currently closed. Parishioners are concerned that Hawthorn Leisure will run the pub down and sell the site for development. One Parishioner had been in touch with Hawthorn Leisure and was assured that they are seeking the "right" tenant landlord to revert the pub back to what it was – a destination eating pub. Hawthorn Leisure hopes to have the pub re-opened by

Easter. It was agreed that this would be the right way to go but that to be cautious, the Parish Council could apply for a community right to bid for an asset of community value. This would give the Parish time, in the event of Hawthorn Leisure wishing to sell the site, to look at ways of keeping the pub operating. In the event of this happening, the Plunket Foundation gives grants for feasibility studies Shouldham Parish has gone down this route with the Kings Arms and would be willing to give advice. It was proposed by Mr Barron and seconded by Mr Whiteside that the Parish Council applies for community right to buy. All were in favour.

Report from District and County Councillors

Mr Carter reiterated that there has been a lot of contaminated recycling waste although this is mainly in towns rather than rural areas. It was suggested this could be due to the colour of the bins, with visitors and new residents being confused at having green bins for general waste.

A Help Hub is being created in Thetford which will provide a "one-stop" advice centre with a second hub proposed for Dereham in the future.

Grants are available for the Queen's Birthday celebrations and clean up. The Clerk advised that the Village Hall Committee has been successful in their bid and will be organising a Quiz and Clean for the Queen.

Breckland Council is putting £1m into broadband to reach the 6% of the Breckland population who don't get good quality broadband resulting in 96% getting good broadband.

Mr Kiddle-Morris reported on two bye-elections. The Lib Dems retained their seat but UKIP lost theirs to the Conservatives. This has made a difference on certain committees such as ETD, Resources and Pensions & Personnel. Council Tax will be increased by 2% with a further 2% for adult social services.

Current Planning Applications

The Paddocks Oxwick	Application for a lawful development certificate – granted
1 Fairview Drive	Single storey sun room extension – no objections from Parish Council

To Certify Accounts for Payment

Norse Easter Ltd	Playing Field	278.40
Anglian Water	Playing Field	10.75
Countryside Joinery	Posts for War Memorial	45.60

It was proposed by Mr Whiteside and seconded by Mr Loades that these be paid. All were in favour.

Correspondence:

Parish Councils are being given the option to opt out of the new audit regime. It was agreed not to opt out and that the Parish Council does not need to do anything.

The Breckland Local Plan Preferred Directions Consultation is open from 11th January to 22nd February. Various drop in sessions are being held around the district. Mr Stamford and Mr Joice took the plans.

Any other business:

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting -

Tuesday 15th March 2016 at 7.30 pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Minutes signed as true and accurate record

Signature

Position

Date