

COLKIRK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES POF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 6.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors Charles Joice (Chairman), Steve Mulford, Jeanette Paul, Bernard Smith, Michael Stamford & Nick Loades.

Maxine Hayes, Parish Clerk

David Winch The Land Group

8 members of the public.

21/038 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors C Barron (illness) Councillor M Kiddle-Morris, Councillor T Carter.

21/039 Presentation from D Winch re application 3PL/2017/1354/F)

Mr Winch attended the meeting to give an update on the application for 21 houses off Whisonsett Road.

He explained that the contract was currently out to tender and they were hoping to commence work at the end of the year.

He circulated details of the house styles to the meeting. He confirmed that there would be 2 affordable houses on the site – one to purchase and one to rent. He was asked what was meant by affordable and he stated it would be 80% of the market value. Residents were concerned that this may not be “affordable” to many people wishing to stay in the village.

He explained that they were obliged to provide 0.18 hectares of open space within the scheme and the cost of the upkeep would be managed by a company who would put this cost back to the householders of the estate. He was asked roughly how much each property would have to pay and stated around £200 per annum. He did not confirm whether every householder would pay the same amount.

Concerns were raised by residents regarding the removal of trees during the nesting season. They were informed that an independent survey was undertaken by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust who confirmed there were no birds nesting at the time of removal. Residents were not satisfied that this was accurate.

The Chairman raised the concerns that County Highways still had on this site and that they had still not approved the scheme. Mr Winch confirmed that this was the case and they were still in discussions with highways. They would not be able to commence work until highways had given approval.

Residents voiced their concerns about the increased traffic to School Lane and the speed of traffic on the Whisonsett Road.

Councillor Paul asked a question about the proposed surface water ponds and how often they expected them to be full and was told once every 100 years. She was also concerned about the safety of children on the estate and was told that the ponds would be fenced off.

Mr Winch asked the Council to consider whether they wanted street lighting on the estate.

He was thanked for attending the meeting.

21/040 Declarations of Interest

None.

21/041 To approve minutes of last meeting

It was PROPOSED (JP) SECONDED (MS) and unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25th May as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

21/042 To approve appointment of new Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

It was PROPOSED (NL) SECONDED (CJ) AND unanimously agreed to approve the appointment.

21/043 To receive reports

Councillor Kiddle-Morris sent the following report which was read to the meeting:

Grass Cutting: The second cut of the year to highway verges and junctions was due to start on August 9th and when completed should have addressed all the inadequacies of the first cut of the year which was, quite frankly, a shambles. Please let me know if there are still problems in your area with the standard of the cut.

One Million Trees: Norfolk County Council (NCC) acknowledges that trees are a vital resource in combating climate change alongside rewilding for carbon sequestration. As reported previously NCC have committed resources to work with communities, landowners and partners to plant 1 million trees over 5 years which must amount to a net increase. NCC's tree planting scheme will work in harmony with the unique "Queens Green Canopy" initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. There are packs of trees and hedging plants available to parishes to "kick start" the project. If there is any interest, please contact me for further detail on how to apply. The planting season runs from November 2021 to March 2022.

Offshore Transmission Network (OTN): There has been a lot of discussion between our local MPs in both Norfolk and Suffolk and government ministers about the number and length of cable routes crossing both counties bringing wind generated electricity to connection points on land. To minimise ecological and commercial damage to the countryside an OTN has been proposed. The OTN would allow connection of all future wind farm electricity output to a cable system lying offshore which would only require one overland route to a connection point with the National Grid. NCC have been involved in the initial Offshore Consultation Project in 2020 and are currently responding to an OFGEM consultation which is asking for comments on proposals to amend regulations to allow the use of an OTN.

Hazardous Waste Amnesty: There is to be a hazardous waste amnesty at NCC's local recycling centres as follows; Dereham on September 18th and 19th (open 9am to 5pm) and Hempton (Fakenham) on 1st, 2nd and 3rd October (open 9am to 4pm). Details of the which items of hazardous waste are acceptable is available on NCC's website.

Highways: Despite the lack of revenue funding in NCCs coffers there is still some future capital available to put towards some highway schemes such as resurfacing (not surface dressing) and junction and other highway improvements. If you have any work that you would wish to be carried out, please let me know and I will submit the suggestion for inclusion in the long-term capital budget.

21/044 Public Participation

Residents expressed their concerns about the poor condition of the churchyard. The Parish Council acknowledged receipt of their concerns which had also been sent by email.

The Council were due to meet with the contractors to discuss the poor condition of the churchyard and had asked that the hedge was cut as soon as possible. Residents were informed that hedges could not be cut until after the 1st of September due to birds nesting.

They were informed that in previous years the hedges had been cut by a resident before 1st September and householders cut their own hedges throughout the year. Residents hedges were their own private hedges, but the contractors had to abide by the rules and could only cut before and after the nesting season. The Parish Council said they could consider having the hedge cut twice a year February and October.

The Council would be discussing going out to tender next year and may have to consider a change of contractor.

A resident suggested a volunteer group be set up to help keep the churchyard tidy. This would have to be approved by the church and PCC.

They were thanked for attending and bringing their concerns to the meeting.

21/045 Finance

21/045/1 The following invoices and expenses had been paid under delegated powers during August and September accounts were present for payment:

It was PROPOSED(SM) SECONDED(MS) and unanimously approved to approve the accounts.

Payments August:

K & M Lighting Services	£168.54	Cheque 100962
Fakenham Skips	£220.00	Cheque 100963
The CGM Group	£109.99	Cheque 100964

Payment September:

Salaries and Office	£357.09	Cheques 100965/66
The CGM Group	£166.60	Cheque 100967

Bank Balances at 31.8.2021

Current account £3694.09

Business Savings Account £4447.57

Total £8141.66

21/045/2 It was PROPOSED(SM) SECONDED(MS) and unanimously approved to update the mandate form for signatories and consider internet banking.

21/045/3 It was PROPOSED(JP) SECONDED(MS) and unanimously approved to commission the 3 yearly survey of parish trees.

21/045/4 It was PROPOSED(SM) SECONDED(JP) and unanimously approved to purchase replacement pads for the defibrillator at a cost of £39 plus VAT.

21/046 Correspondence

Correspondence had been circulated and approved.

21/047 Planning

3PL/2021/1244/F – 3no Proposed dwellings land adj. Oakridge Market Hill

Parish Council object on the grounds of

Overdevelopment of the site

Highways increased traffic accessing houses on very busy lane.

3PL/2021/1238/VAR – Variation of condition no 2 (3PL/2019/0712/F)
Permanent use

Owls Nest Manor Farm Oxwick – **Parish Council have no objections.**

3PL/2021/1084/F – Installation of spray finishing facility Unit 6 The Orchards

Parish Council have no objections but would like consideration to be given to the following comment: We notice in the information on the spray booth that consideration should be given to fitting a fan silencer which the Parish Council would like to see installed.

3OB/2021/0040/OB Approval of open space Schedule 2 – Whissonett Road
Schedule 2

“Open Space s.106 obligations and approvals Under the terms of Schedule 2 of the s.106 Agreement dated 12th September 2019 in connection with the above there is a requirement to provide an area of 0.18 h of open space within the above development. This area is shown on the attached Wynne Williams Associates plan number 2132-WWA-ZZ-GF-GA-L-0100 between the site’s frontage along Whissonett Road and the private driveway serving plots 1 – 8. It is our current intention to create a Management Company to be responsible for the maintenance of this area and the other areas of common landscaping around the site and the costs of which will be borne by the residents of the development”

Noted.

3DC/2021/0199/DOC – Discharge of conditions 3,4,6,9,11,12,13,15,17,& 21 on application 3PL/2017/1354/F Land off Whissonett Road

Parish Council not formally consulted on Discharge of Condition

Breckland Planning Authority Decisions

3PL/2021/1034/HOU – Primrose Cottage, School Road – Replacement single storey extension and change of fenestration and replacement single garage and store – APPROVED

3PL/2021/1083/HOU – White Cottage, Church Road – Replacement rear extension and demolition of existing lean-to

21/048 Items for Discussion

21/048/1 Data collected from SAM unit – no report.

21/048/2 Meeting Room – It was agreed to remain in the main hall for future meetings.

21/048/3 Discussed under agenda item 7.

21/048/4 SAM Unit – It was agreed that the Chairman would collect the SAM unit. The previous clerk had agreed to help this time.

21/048/5 Items for next agenda: Hedges School Road, Football Club

21/049 Resolution to close meeting and go into committee

It was PROPOSED(NL) SECONDED (CJ) and unanimously agreed to approve the Contract of Employment for the Clerk.