

COLKIRK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2021 AT 6.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors Charles Joice (Chairman), Steve Mulford, Jeanette Paul, Bernard Smith, Michael Stamford & Colin Barron

Councillor M Kiddle-Morris, Maxine Hayes, Parish Clerk

2 members of the public.

21/050 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor N Loades.

21/051 Declarations of Interest

None.

21/052 To approve minutes of last meeting

It was PROPOSED (\$M) SECONDED (JP) and unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2021 as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

21/053 To receive reports

Councillor Kiddle-Morris had circulated the latest Norfolk County Council information sheet updated on 4th November.

He briefly reported on the County Council budget and the increases to cover social care.

It was noted that District Councillor Trevor Carter had resigned due to illness. There would be an election to replace him on the 2nd December.

21/054 Public Participation

No questions.

21/055 Finance

21/055/1 The following invoices and expenses had been paid under delegated powers during October and November accounts were presented for payment:

It was PROPOSED(\$M) SECONDED(BS) and unanimously approved to approve the accounts.

Payments October:

Maxine Hayes Clerks Salary & Expenses £230.65

Payments for approval November:

Norfolk Parish Training and Support – Councillor Planning Training £55.00

CGM Group – Grounds Maintenance September/October £560.90

Royal British Legion – Poppy Wreath £70.00

Maxine Hayes – Clerks Salary & Expenses £250.37

21/055/2 The Clerk had circulated the financial statement to 31.10.21, bank balances and reconciliation. It was PROPOSED(SM) SECONDED(MS) and unanimously agreed to approve the balances.

21/056 Correspondence

Correspondence had been circulated and approved.

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by a resident about organising a village litter pick. It was agreed to defer this item until next Spring.

The Clerk was still trying to get a contractor to quote for the pruning of the beech tree on Campyngland.

Quotes for the tree survey would be circulated to all members when received.

21/057 Planning

3PL/2021/1266/VAR Location: COLKIRK: Land off Whissonsett Road Proposal: Variation of Condition No's 17 & 21 on 3PL/2017/1354/F - 17 - To amend the trigger point for approval of details to prior to commencement above slab level 21 - To amend the trigger to prior to the commencement of development, except for below slab level works to Plot 8

The Chairman reported on the District Council Development Committee meeting held on 1st November. He had attended on behalf of the Parish Council and had objected to the above application. The development committee had approved the variations of condition.

The following decisions had been made by Breckland District Council

Approved

REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/1084/F
PROPOSAL: Installation of a spray finishing facility within the front extension (South end) including fume extraction
LOCATION: COLKIRK: Unit 6 The Orchards Main Dereham Road
APPLICANT: Edmund and Sedgwick Ltd

Approved

REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/1091/D

PROPOSAL: Reserved matters application for erection of two dwellings following outline permission 3PL/2021/0365/O
LOCATION: COLKIRK: White Cottage Church Road
APPLICANT: PGM Properties

Approved

REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/1238/VAR
PROPOSAL: Variation of Condition No 2 on 3PL/2019/0712/F - to allow to be used permanent
LOCATION: COLKIRK: Owls Nest Manor Farm Oxwick
APPLICANT: ES Abram Farms

Residents raised their concerns with Councillor Kiddle-Smith over the activities taking place on the site, whether the trees would be protected before the work commenced and not being informed about the date and time of the development committee which they had also taken up with Breckland District Council.

21/058 Items for Discussion

21/058/1 **Update on contractor site meeting.** The Clerk gave the following report to the meeting:

Discussions took place over the hedge which has now been cut. It was agreed that it may have to be cut twice a year to keep it tidy February & October. Michael Barter (church warden) asked that the hedge was reduced to 5'. from road/ground level. To have the hedge cut again would be very expensive but this could be included in the new contract.

Damage to some of the grave edges from strimmer and machinery was pointed out to the contractor. He agreed to discuss this with the contractors who attend the churchyard as this was not acceptable.

The boundary edge needed to be made clearer on the contract so that all the weeds and nettles are cut down.

Discussion took place over weedkilling around the edge of the church building. It was agreed a small strip would be kept cleared with weedkiller as the strimmer isn't able to go up to the edge - it would damage the walls.

Michael agreed that some areas of the churchyard were not cut regularly due to the bulbs and wild flowers dying back. They have to be left for 6 to 8 weeks after fully flowering. This needed to be made clear on the contract plan.

Discussion took place over setting up a volunteer group to keep the churchyard tidy and this would be overseen by the church. Michael agreed to take this to the next PCC church meeting for discussion.

Contractors did not always clear the area between the hedge and the graves and they would be reminded to do this.

A large gap in the hedge had appeared and looked like it had been cut to ground level. Peter confirmed that this had not been done by CGM. The church would investigate further and a temporary fence would be put up.

The older graves which were very overgrown were the responsibility of the families or the church to maintain and tidy. The Contractors are not permitted to touch graves as they are the property of the family. These could be maintained by the volunteer group.

The new contract needs to be made much clearer and the church need to provide a map showing which areas need to be cut and which areas need to be left. Michael agreed to provide the PC with a copy.

Finally, CGM were asked why the playing field car park area and area by the hut had been cut but not the rest of the field. He explained that the smaller areas are cut by mowers and the main field by tractor so they may be cut at different times.

The Parish Council would be seeking quotes for next year's contract.

21/058/2 **Football Club** – The Chairman agreed to speak to the Chairman of the football club about organising a meeting to discuss applying for grants to upgrade the pavilion. He would report back to the January meeting.

21/058/3 **Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations** – Discussion took place over what could be organised as a community celebration. The idea of a bonfire or beacon and fireworks were discussed. It was agreed to liase with other community groups and report back to the January meeting.

21/058/4 **Hedges School Road** – It was agreed to write to the residents whose hedges were overhanging the pavement in School Road.

21/058/5 **Potholes** – Councillor Smith reported a blocked drain at the junction of Crown Road/Dereham Road and the Clerk agreed to report this to County Highways.

21/059 Meeting dates 2022

The Clerk would circulate the dates. It was agreed that the acoustics of the main hall made it very difficult to hear what people were saying and the Clerk would ask if the Parish Council could meet in the bar room.

21/060 Next Meeting

Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 6.30pm.

Signed.....Dated.....