

Pre-Meeting Business: None

Public Participation: The following points were raised:-

- a) A drain halfway down Church Hill is clogged with leaves. The Clerk will contact the County Council to request that this is attended to. In addition, a village sweep of the roads is overdue. The Flower Festival is to take place on the 25th and 26th of September and a request will be made of Breckland Council to carry out a sweep a week before this event.
- b) The current position regarding the affordable housing project was queried. The next stage is for a Housing Needs Survey to be carried out with Broadland Housing's aim being to deliver forms to parishioners on Friday, 10th September. A piece informing residents of the survey will be placed in Elmham News.
- c) It is some ten years since the Village Green was purchased. An undertaking was given that the names of all contributors to the fund-raising would be displayed at the location. This has not yet happened. Precise details on how this will be achieved will be discussed fully at the next meeting.

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 4th August, 2021

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324 Those Councillors Present Were:

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

Also in Attendance: Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor), Mr. K. Webb (Clerk) and two parishioners.

325 Apologies for absence: Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard

326 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.

327 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 7th July, 2021:

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

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

328 Land Management Matters (item 304)

- a) Village Green Mr. Smith said that the RoSPA report had provided several recommendations. In addition, there are three items requiring attention – the zip wire, the small slide and the climbing frame. The last item has already been fixed. Mr. Phillips is to contact NGF Play Ltd. The hedges will be cut after September 1st. Mr. Smith reported that the contractors have not been cutting and strimming in certain areas. The Chairman will contact them regarding this with a view to getting an Operations Manager to visit so that the problems can be clearly detailed. Mr. Smith said that some shots had apparently been fired near the Play Area. The matter is in the hands of the police. The circus is visiting the village between 30th August and 4th September.
- (b) Cathedral Ruins Mrs. Keeble said that the slopes have not yet been cut.
- (c) Cathedral Meadows Mr. Fitzalan Howard had forwarded a report. There has been no development yet on the disposal of brash from hedge cutting. Natural England will need to make a decision but, at this stage, there is no urgency. On the middle meadow, signs have been put up to divert the footpath a few meters to allow a small area of specific interest to wildflowers and insects to remain undisturbed. A new footpath has been established. Unfortunately, it has been noted that the rope has been removed from the area.
- (d) Broom Green Mr. Labouchere said that drainage work has still to be done but is in hand.
- (e) Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood) Nothing to report.
- (f) Bridleway on disused railway line and other railway linked matters
Breckland Council have advised that they will respond to our original letter at some stage.
- (g) Prince William Wood Mr. Markwell said that the gateways had been tidied up. The parishioner who asked the question regarding a fire break has advised that he will not do the work himself. The Parish Council had made a manual contribution on an occasion in the past but there was no commitment to make this a regular occurrence. There is an intention to provide an additional dog waste bin and the Chairman will check with Breckland Council to ensure that they are content with this proposal.

329 Allotments (item 305)

Nothing to report.

330 Street Lights (item 306)

The Parish Council is in favour of having some limited street lighting in the new Brookside development but has accepted that this is not realistic due to environmental issues involving the bats. Lighting for the car park and footbridge, however, is still required and will be pursued with the developer.

331 Highway Matters (item 307)

Mr. Grainger reported that the outstanding Parish Partnership projects have been completed. A parishioner has voiced concerns about speeding traffic in Station Road. Police have been carrying out speed checks with a number of vehicles identified as travelling in excess of the limit. The police have said they will return to carry out further monitoring at a later date. A number of potholes near the Brookside development are to be repaired. Mr. Gee is to look into the possibility of having safety rails, perhaps by making use of the Parish Partnership scheme, outside the Post Office to protect people exiting.

332 Pavilion and Playing Field (item 308)

The moles seem to have disappeared and the amount of rubbish at the top of the field has decreased. Local organisations have started using the pavilion again.

333 Youth Club facilities (item 309)

Research continues.

334 Eastgate Centre (item 310)

The Centre is now open for bookings with relevant precautions in place.

335 Affordable Housing - update (item 311)

The Housing Needs survey is to be distributed by the Housing Association (see "Public Participation" b))

336 Brookside Development update (item 312)

Please refer to item 330 above.

337 Risk Management – considerations and updates (item 313)

Nothing to report.

338 Defibrillators (item 314)

This matter will be discussed at the September meeting.

339 Village Green proposal for a tree planting scheme (item 315)

Norfolk County Council has now advised that an application needs to be made to the Woodland Trust. The minimum number of trees for an applicant is 500! Mr. Bambridge said that Breckland's scheme provides 100 trees, free of charge, and he will inform Mr. Grainger of contact details.

340 Overview of Parish Council financial situation (item 316)

Nothing to report

341 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 (item 317)

This matter was carried forward to be discussed at the September meeting. In the meantime, it was agreed by all to form a small working group, led by Mr. Smith, and also including the Chairman and Mr. Gee.

342 CCTV cameras

Mr. Labouchere, as agreed, had obtained a quotation for a CCTV surveillance system. This amounted to £1,362.00 (inc VAT). It was acknowledged that we would need a policy and a named administrator. In addition, there are GDPR considerations. It was also felt that concentrating on one area could put pressure on other parts of the village. As such, a parish project would be more appropriate. Mr. Grainger proposed that a vote be held, which was agreed by all, with three options:-

- a) A village project incorporating a number of cameras with a maximum spend of £10K.
- b) To place the matter on hold for a year with the costs to repair items following any acts of vandalism being monitored.
- c) Proceed with just one camera for now.

All members voted against a), all voted in favour of b) except Mr. Labouchere who abstained but was in favour of c).

343 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income

a)	Resolved to approve the following Accounts for payment:-	
12/7/21	E-on (street lights –June) – (direct debit)	£195.62
25/7/21	Biffa (wheelie bin service from 26/6/21 to 23/7/21) - (d/d)	£35.57
4/8/21	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for July)	£678.00
4/8/21	HMRC (tax and N.I. on Clerk's pay)	£184.64
4/8/21	CGM (monthly grounds maintenance)	£804.55
4/8/21	Mole Country Stores (rock salt de-icer)	£81.60
4/8/21	Playsafety Ltd (RoSPA (annual play areas inspections)	£168.60
4/8/21	E-on (pavilion from 28/3/21 to 9/7/21)	£270.63
4/8/21	Darren Brown (new loft ladder for pavilion)	£150.00
4/8/21	J. R. G. Fletcher (key keeping – June and July)	£62.50
4/8/21	D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning – 12 hours)	£106.92

(Expenditure approved by all members.

- a) Schedule of Income:
None

Balances (as at 19/7/21):- Current a/c - £108,471.70, Business Premium a/c £34,488.69

344 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-

- (i) Mr. N. Steggles – proposed single storey side extension – 3PL/2021/1092/HOU – 64 Orchard Close – no objections.
- (ii) Mr. Pointer – side single storey extension and replacement porch – 3PL/2021/1098/HOU – 1 Ash Court – no objections.
- (iii) Mr. and Mrs. M. Reeves – erection of a decked pergola – 3PL/2021/0777/HOU – Grey Gables, Pump Street – no objections.
- (iv) The Willows, 57 Eastgate Street – request to remove trees with attempt to be made to retain as many as possible that are not impacting on drains or dampness – TRE/2021/0194/TCA – no objections.

a) Determinations

- (i) Ivy Properties Ltd – erection of dwelling and garage – 3PL/2021/0798/F – Vicarage Farm, Church Lane – refused.
- (ii) Mr. and Mrs. M. Hammond – first floor rear extension and rear dormer extension – 3PL/2021/0840/HOU – 48 Station Road – refused.
- (iii) Mr. J. Ashford – conversion of one half of double garage to dog grooming parlour – 3PL/2021/0727/F – Orchard House, Pump Street – approved.
- (iv) Mr. M. Sexton – single storey front and rear extensions to existing attached garage plus proposed enlarged opening to rear of property to accommodate bifold doors – 3PL/2021/0880/HOU – 11 Wensum Drive – approved.
- (v) Mr. and Mrs. M. Reeves – erection of a decked pergola – 3PL/2021/0777/HOU – Grey Gables, Pump Street. – approved.

Tree Preservation Order

Order 2021 NO.09 dated 21/7/21 served on Leslie and Maria Cole, Church Farm, Holt Road. “The trees are important landscape features with high amenity, historical and biodiversity value. It is considered expedient to protect the long-term future of the trees by way of serving a tree preservation order”.

Retrospective planning application 3PL/2021/0868/F – miniature railway

Following the Parish Council’s objections to the application, a letter was sent by Mid-Norfolk Railway to the Development Management Planner at Breckland Council. As a result, a further objection is to be lodged with a view to addressing what are considered to be factual inaccuracies. Mr. Bambridge is also to attempt to bring this application before the District Council’s Planning Committee.

345 Correspondence

- 1) Dereham Safer Neighbourhood Team – Community update for July, 2021.
- 2) Clerks and Councils Direct magazine for July, 2021.
- 3) NPFA annual certificate.
- 4) Advice from e-on of increase in energy prices from September, 2021 – 22.10 per kWh to 25.40 per kWh (unmetered supply)
- 5) CPRE Fieldwork magazine for Summer 2021.
- 6) CPRE Countryside Voices magazine for Summer 2021.

- 7) Plastic pollution poster from North Elmham Primary School.
- 8) Biffa annual controlled waste description and transfer note from 1/8/21 to 31/7/22.
- 9) Receipt from Norfolk Record Office of bound volumes of minutes from May, 2013 to December, 2016.
- 10) E-mail from parishioner concerned with speeding and overtaking on Pump Street (problems were acknowledged but these are essentially matters for the police)
- 11) E-mail from parishioner complaining that the village is “scruffy” (as requested, the e-mail was read out. There is already awareness of the issues stated with action either taken or being planned. The ‘phone boxes are to be repainted, the car park weeds are to be sprayed, hedges are to be cut (after September 1st) and Breckland will be lending litter pick kits).

346 Agenda items for next meeting:

- a) Village Green board displaying names of contributors to the fund raising
- b) Defibrillators.
- c) 2011 Community Plan.

347 Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 8th September 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.38 p.m.

Chairman

Date