

Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council

Meeting held 7.30pm Thursday the 9th March 2017

At Sporle Community Centre

Present:

Mr G Burrows (Chairman)

Mr J Barley

Miss H Dye

Mrs S Clark

Mr P Smyth, Norfolk County Councillor (NCC)

Mr P Wilkinson Breckland District Council (BDC)

Murdo Durrant (Clerk) in attendance

Mr K McLeod (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs J Howard

Ms H Bartley

Members of the public 1

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

1. **Apologies:** PCSO Tappin (Norfolk Police) AL
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 9th February 2017 had been circulated and were adopted as a true record. Proposed by Miss Dye seconded by Mrs Howard passed unanimously.
3. **Declarations of interest:** Nil
4. **Meeting adjourned to allow members of the public to speak:** Nil
5. **Update from the County Councillor, District Councillor & Norfolk Police: Mr P Smyth (NCC)** gave an update from the county Council, the NCC web site had been updated to further promote adoption and fostering. Norfolk Adult Education services had a poor OFSTED report and were looking to focus away from leisure activities and more towards disadvantaged people who may have missed out on educational opportunities in the past. At the moment things were looking better than previously.
A new Road safety campaign has started focusing on drink drive, not using mobile phones in light of new legislation, checking that medication taken will not impair driving and the use of seat belts.
There was an online survey for people to take part in to look at the use of 20 recycling centres throughout the county.
The budget for the county council had been passed, there would be an increase in council tax. There would be an increase in spending of 3% in investing in social care and a 1.8% increase in spending on other social services.
The Fire and Rescue Services had cuts of £900,000 revoked. A motion to stop a further £450,000 cuts in the next year was voted down. Mr Smyth gave a detailed explanation of how NF&RS was distributed and manned across the county. There were 42 stations in Norfolk, 34 manned by retained firefighters (RFF), five shared by full time and RFF, the remainder full time. Due to social changes across the county there were less people available to be RFF, NF&RS was therefore struggling to maintain staffing levels. 70% shortage of staff at retained stations at times, with only 9/12 RFF at some stations with a minimum of four being required to man each machine. Meaning some stations are not available for deployment. 8 stations in the Breckland area were unavailable 30% of the time, meaning machines had to travel from other areas, meaning a real danger to life.
Mr P Wilkinson (BDC) there would be £4.95 increase in council tax which was below the national average, meaning a 9.5p a week increase on a band D home. There was a £3.3m shortfall in revenue compared to last two years, Council was looking to make savings of £2.7m, but still had the lowest council tax in Norfolk.
There would be a jobs fair in Swaffham on the 15th March between 10am-2pm in the Assembly rooms.
A Healthy Children campaign is being supported by councils across Norfolk, Bedfordshire, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire the one step number to call is 0300 3000 123. Youth Advisory Group funding there is an early help number 01362 654 515.

District council, NCC England Highways have joined together to keep the A47 in government plans but this could take up to 20 years.

The council had recruited a new officer to YAB, Mr Russell Reeve who has a lot of experience working for two other authorities in Berkshire.

Mr Wilkinson informed the council that he had written a letter of support for the pavilion project to the Community Foundation.

The budget for Highways in the area would be short over the next two years.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes: The chairman would ring Mr Wyatt on Friday about the bus shelter.

Bunkers Hill bus shelter is being used to dump rubbish in, however councillors reported that there was less trouble there now the windows in it had been sorted out. Youths have been gathering there and playing music loudly in the evenings. It was noted that it is not being used as a toilet.

Vehicles were still parking on the grass verge at Sidney Dye Court and have destroyed the daffodils planted there.

Mr Roddie had been seen and spoken to by the chairman and is now happy with the new street lantern at the end of his road.

The placing of new signs on the A1065 regarding pedestrians and horses crossing, the council appeared to be going round in circles and not getting very far at this time. **Resolved** Clerk to contact South Acre and Castle Acre Parish Councils to ask them to contact highways in support of Sporle pc.

Mr Wilkinson (BDC) may be able to assist with details of a contact at NCC.

There had been a query about insurance cover for people using the strimmer on behalf of the Parish Council. **Clerk** to check Insurance documents, the need for Health and Safety equipment and report back to pc.

7. Planning:

- a) 3PL/2017/0238/HOU 65, The Street Sporle retrospective permission for new access and drive. No objections.
- b) 3PL/2016/1542/D There was confusion over where this was, it had however been refused by the planning authority.
- c) 3PL/2017/0237 Dunham Road development (Not on Agenda as received late) The Parish Council were opposed to this development on the grounds that the affordable homes that were part of the original planning application had been removed and the development was now five large detached houses. The changes to the entry/exit system was now believed to be more dangerous to road users on the Dunham Road and to people leaving and entering the development **Resolved** The parish clerk would write to the planning authority raising these objections.

8. To approve payments as shown at Annex A:

- Village Hall hire for Feb 2017 £12
- R Tyrrell Bus shelter cleaning £15
- AJ Restoration (bus shelter remedial work) £232.78
- Clerks wages Dec 2016-March 2017 £785.76*
- HRMC Clerks PAYE Dec 2016-March 2017 £196.20*
- Clerks expenses Dec 2016-March 2017 £72*
- Postage £4.47*
- Total £1,318.21

Items marked * were not included on the Agenda, it was resolved that they should be paid at this meeting unanimously.

Proposed by Ms Bartley Seconded by Mr McLeod passed unanimously.

9. Grass cutting contract: It was reported that the football club were already looking after the pitch and it was looking good. The VAT was to be claimed back from the present contract. It was now necessary to look at the list of companies who could do the work to obtain quotes. Mr McLeod informed the council that he did not know when the grass had been cut. Mr Burrows would ask the Football Club to inform the council when the grass on the rest of the playing field had been cut so records could be maintained.

There was a general discussion around the requirements of the church and it was **resolved** that:

- a) The church yard in front of the tower and alongside the church as far the path on the school side, with tidying up and strimming around gravestones.
- b) The football pitch would be maintained by the Football Club, the grass cutting contract would be to cut and trim the remainder of the field up to 1m from the edge of the pitch.
- c) The dyke needs to be trimmed and cut back once/twice a year from Sidney Dye Court all the way along The Street as far as the ramp access for the school. Quote required for this as well.

A question raised who was responsible for the maintenance of the school playing field **resolved** that the Clerk was to contact the school to ascertain who had that contract.

Mr Barley reported that the hedge at Caulfield House had been trimmed back and was in a much better state for pedestrians.

- 10. To discuss the playing field and pavilion project:** The chairman said that the funding given by the Norfolk Community Foundation for the play area at the playing field (£4090) should be used to start the work planned, as it could only be used for that and not included in the money raised for the pavilion.

The Football Club were raising funds via a 'buy a brick' draw, with the prize of a hamper when all the bricks were sold. Bricks cost £2 and all were invited to take part.

The chairman presented a cheque for £500 to the fund from his former work colleagues in London, which was gratefully accepted.

Further funding would be sought from larger groups such as The Football Foundation, The Lottery Fund and Sport England. It was agreed that the council and fund raising group needed to try for larger donations to ensure the project was a success.

The Clerk agreed that he would explore the possibilities of making applications to these and other charitable groups.

The Clerk was asked to find out if the fundraising group could use the Parish Councils charity numbers for fund raising purposes.

Further suggestions were made to see if on-line shopping could be used to raise money, and to have a large thermometer outside the community centre to show progress.

Mr Barley suggested that the trustees of the two Parish Council charities be changed from named individuals to the 'Parish Council'. **Clerk** to raise this with the charity commissioners.

The Football club had raised the possibility of moving the large metal storage container from its present location to alongside the pitch so that it could be adapted to act as a wet weather standing area for spectators. There were concerns with vandalism, security and maintenance. No resolution, but to be a discussion item at a future meeting.

- 11. Renewal of street lighting in the village:** All councillors stated they had had many positive comments, and there had been two minor complaints both of which had been addressed. The Parish Council was very impressed with the new lighting and felt it made a very positive contribution to the community.

- 12. To consider correspondence:** The clerk reported on a letter he had received from E-on about energy tariffs changing, and gave the quotes he had received from E-on. It was proposed that the council remain with E-on on their 3year tariff by Miss Dye Seconded by Mr Barley and agreed unanimously. **Clerk** to inform E-on of decision.

The chairman informed the council that the company who had been responsible for the clothing recycling had gone bankrupt. He had spoken with them by phone, they informed him they would not remove the container. The council would now have to look at ways to have the container emptied and the container removed before it became a health hazard. **Clerk** to contact BDC to see if they can assist with recycling and removal of container.

The chairman reported that after the work by Anglian Water in Bunkers Hill water was still running down the hill and forming a lagoon at the bottom. To be further monitored. It was also reported that the same was happening at Love Lane where the ditch had been filled in with rough soil which was now running into the road.

Mr McLeod gave a detailed over view of trees within the playing field and the around the church yard. These had been obtained from a tree surgeon who had carried out the review as a favour to Mr McLeod. His view was that plans needed to be drawn up for the future maintenance of the trees, in the short term as a matter of urgency a tree at the top end of the

field by the church, and a second large tree in the opposite corner need to be taken down as a matter of urgency. 2 trees by the church require pruning, a number of Lime trees near St Marys view need topping to a height of around 15 feet, this will require permission from householders.

It was **resolved** that quotes for the removal of the two large trees requiring urgent attention be obtained. With a separate quote being obtained for the Lime trees, these quotes to include removal and or chipping of waste at a day rate. It was also felt that the **Clerk** should investigate whether BDC had a felling service.

- 13. To receive any other items for consideration:** Mrs Clark brought to the attention of the council a problem for a parishioner in Sidney Dye Court who had sold part of their garden and were having problems with the building work next door. It was considered that this was not a matter the Parish Council could deal with and the parishioner should deal with the issue through BDC and the Highways authority.

Mr Barley asked if the council could provide 'No Parking' signs at the junction of Sidney Dye Court and The Street to prevent people parking inconsiderately on the verges and pavements. This would be looked into with a further report at a future meeting.

Mr McLeod said that a number of 'No Dogs' signs had been removed from the playing field, possibly by a member of the village who objected to them. The council have two more that could be put up. It was felt that as the Parish Council was the owner of the playing field it was within the rights of the owner to refuse permission to walk their dogs on privately owned land. The Clerk pointed out that the removal and disposal of the signs could amount to theft if evidence of whom had removed the signs were to become available. The Clerk would look at acquiring BDC signage for the future.

Next meeting

Thursday 13th April 2017 7.30pm at the Community Centre, Sporle

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.55pm.

Chairman.....Date.....