

Present: C Farnham (Chair), T Abel, F Bradford, C Hewson, J Magrath, Patricia Page, Philip Page, N Parsons, M Steward. In attendance: Mr N Hartley (Parish Clerk) Cllr W Richmond (Norfolk County Council). Cllr L Turner (Breckland Council). Eleven members of the public.

The meeting commenced with a period of Public Participation. Cllr Farnham noted the death of Ruby Wright, a former Chairman of the Parish Council. He said that she will be 'sorely missed.'

A number of residents objected to the Planning Application at Scarning Fen. It was noted that the residents had separately written to Breckland Council. Residents noted that the land had been deemed unsuitable for planning and not included in the Local Plan; that the drainage poor; that it would represent the loss of amenity land; and that ownership of the proposed access road was not clear. Cllr Turner noted the property was outside the Settlement Boundary. It was further noted that the existing access road to the houses is a narrow track which currently serves nine houses (with fifteen cars) and that the application for the proposed properties is for another eight cars. Cllr Turner offered to speak on behalf of residents if the application goes to Committee. She noted that Breckland Council will check who owns the land over which the proposed access road would run and also check any rights/easements. In the longer term, the Parish Council will check the ownership regarding the existing access road to the houses and the land.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Hewett (Breckland Council).

2 Declarations of Interest

None.

3 Minutes

It was resolved to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2019 as a true and accurate record.

4 Matters Arising

None.

5 Planning

5.1 Breckland Council decisions

20 Harry Blunt Way
Two storey extension to side

3PL/2019/1453/HOU
Approved

5.2 Applications considered

Land at Scarning Fen
Erection of two detached dwellings and associated garages

3PL/2019/1533/F

The Parish Council objected for the following reasons:

The proposed properties are outside the Settlement Boundary and did not form part of the Local Plan. The road access up the track is poor. The Council is not clear as to the ownership of the proposed new access road.

The Homestead, Dereham Road Raising roof pitch to create new first floor loft accommodation together with a single storey rear extension to create kitchen	3PL/2019/1548/HOU No objection
East of England Co-Operative Society, Swaffham Road Elevational changes and new illuminated signage	3PL/2019/1538/A No objection
East of England Co-Operative Society, Swaffham Road Elevational changes and new illuminated signage	3PL/2019/1538/F No objection
Grove House, Dereham Road Proposed outline development of residential properties and associated community facilities for the over 55's.	3PL/2019/1237/O

There were no fundamental changes to the initial application. Further reports are awaited from consultees such as Norfolk County Council regarding access, as well as a report for the Tree Officer who cannot yet assess any impact on trees if the application proceeds. The Council **RESOLVED** to reiterate its initial comments - that it broadly supports the application, but is concerned by the access.

6 Finance

6.1 The following payments were made in accordance with the Budget:-

Chq 102115 Thinking Rural, payroll services, £24
 102116 D Bracey, safety report for Scarning Water Meadows ply area, £120
 102117 HMRC, clerk's PAYE, £10.80
 102118 Wensum Valley Electrical Ltd, installation of defibrillator, £396
 102119 S Goldsworthy, reimbursement of cost of plants for flower boxes, £7.99
 102120 T T Jones Electrical Ltd, lighting maintenance and new LED, £416.93
 102121 Mansfield Fencing, works at Water Meadows and re defibrillator, £200
 102122 John Service, mow & rake Lucy's Meadow, £260
 102123 Mid Norfolk Conservation Volunteers, work at Lucy's Meadow, £125
 102124 Eon, unmetered street lights, £217.98
 102125 Thinking Rural, payroll services, £12
 102126 Dee Jackson Training, defibrillator/first aid course, £50

6.2 The meeting received a report of Actual Expenditure to Budgeted Expenditure

7 Budget and Precept 2020/21

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Budget for 2020/21 and to set the Precept at £36,000.

8 Summer Fete

There is another Committee meeting on 22 January. A report will be made to the next Council meeting.

9 Water Meadows Play Area Safety Report

The clerk noted that the annual Safety Report had been carried out on the Water Meadows play equipment. It was **RESOLVED** to carry out the necessary works.

10 Trees

The Council received an update regarding planting trees in the parish. Cllr Parsons explained that Breckland Council have refused another request to plant trees in two corners of Scarning Water Meadows as they are concerned about long term maintenance. They would like the Parish Council initially to plant trees on its own land.

It was noted that Breckland Council has declared a Climate Emergency and that they, together with Norfolk County Council, may initiate a scheme of tree planting.

A formal request was made to Cllr Abel as the Chairman of Scarning United Charities to see if the Parish Council can plant trees on any of the allotment land off Dereham Road.

11 Enclosed Dog Area

The Council considered a proposal for an enclosed Dog Area on Scarning Water Meadows. It was **RESOLVED** not to introduce such an area.

12 Parish Website

The Council considered changes to the parish website to comply with new legislation regarding accessibility. It was **RESOLVED** to establish a separate Parish Council website and transfer across all the information from the existing website.

13 Defibrillator Course

The Council considered providing another defibrillator/basic first aid course. It was **RESOLVED** to run another course.

14 Data Protection Policy

The Council reviewed its Data Protection policy. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the current policy and to review again in 2022 (or sooner if changes in the law require earlier review).

15 Privacy Notice

The Council reviewed its Privacy Notice. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the current Privacy Notice and to review again in 2022 (or sooner if changes in the law require earlier review).

16 Disciplinary and Grievance policy

The Council reviewed its Disciplinary and Grievance policy. It was **RESOLVED** that no amendments were necessary and to review again in 2022.

17 Equality policy

The Council reviewed its Equality policy. It was **RESOLVED** that no amendments were necessary and to review again in 2022.

18 Grants policy

The Council reviewed its Grants policy. It was **RESOLVED** that no amendments were necessary and to review again in 2022.

19 Health and Safety policy

The Council reviewed its Health and Safety policy. It was **RESOLVED** that no amendments were necessary and to review again in 2022.

20 Openness and Transparency policy

The Council reviewed its Openness and Transparency policy. It was **RESOLVED** that no amendments were necessary and to review again in 2022.

21 Press and Media policy

The Council reviewed its Press and Media policy. It was **RESOLVED** that no amendments were necessary and to review again in 2022.

22 Training and Development policy

The Council reviewed its Training and Development policy. It was **RESOLVED** that no amendments were necessary and to review again in 2022.

23 Newsletter

Tim Farnham has offered to compile a new newsletter, but feels it needs the involvement of more than one person. The clerk was asked to contact Dereham 6th Form to see if there is a Scarning resident student who may like to format a new newsletter.

24 First World War Books

It was **RESOLVED** to place the remaining copies in the church. All proceeds to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

25 Litter Picks

It was **RESOLVED** to hold two parish litter picks - on 7 March and 4 April from 9am to 11am.

26 Items for inclusion in the next agenda

None.

24 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 17 February 2020 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.40pm.

