

Minutes of Scarning Parish Council Meeting held in Scarning Village Hall on 17 April 2023

Present: F Bradford (Chair), T Abel, M Blackburn, S Bunn, C Farnham, C Geary, C Hewson, T Mallard, M Steward. In attendance: N Hartley (Parish Clerk) Cllr L Turner (Breckland Council). Seven members of the public.

Public Participation

The Council was asked if it was holding an event for the Coronation. Councillors noted that this had been discussed at several Parish Council meetings and the Council had decided not to host an event. It was further noted that Coronation events are being held in Dereham and that a number of residents had said that on the day of the Coronation they would be watching it on television. The date of the coffee morning had been changed for this reason. Cllr Turner (Breckland Council) noted that none the parish councils in her area are hosting events and that members of the community are holding individual events such as street parties.

It was asked if the Council's phone number can be added to its social media.

It was noted that the two oak trees on Shipdham Lane will be coming into leaf and that the light from the street-lights will be less than it was over the winter months.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs W Richmond (Norfolk County Council) and P Hewett (Breckland Council).

2 Report from Breckland Councillor

Cllr Turner noted that she is challenging a change to the system under which, on behalf of Scarning residents needing support, she will have to provide more reports in order to support them. She noted that all matters are being held in abeyance pending the elections on May 4.

3 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Farnham declared an interest as a trustee of the Playing Field Committee and as a landowner adjoining the 19 Park Lane planning application.

4 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2023, as a true and accurate record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

5 Matters Arising

None.

6 Planning

6.1 Breckland Council decisions:-

Hope Springs, Dereham Road 3PL/2023/0124/HOU
Proposed two storey side extension, single storey front extension, detached garage
with home studio/office in roof space Approved

6.2 Application considered:-

19 Park Lane 3PL/2023/0369/HOU
Demolition of substandard single storey rear extension and erection of two storey rear
extension No objection

7 Finance

7.1 The Council approved the following payments in accordance with the Budget:-

N Hartley, clerk's salary, £917.01
HMRC, clerk's Paye, £2.23
SCS Accounting, payroll services, £18
Norfolk Parish Training & Support, annual subscription, £420
TT Jones Electrical Ltd, repairs to street lights, £101.96
Scarning Playing Field Committee, grant towards running costs, £3,100
Scarning Village Hall, annual running cost of defibrillator, £52
Scarning PCC, refreshments for April litter pick, £23.50
Npower, unmetered street light supplies, £228.90
Mansfield Fencing, install and remove grit and dog bins, £290

7.2 The following payment had been received:-

Breckland Council, part precept, £21,000

8 New Mower

The Council is holding £9,000 toward the cost of a new mower for the Shipdham Lane Playing Field Committee. Cllr Hewson, Chair of the Committee, noted that the Committee has found a replacement mower for £6,000 + VAT, total £7,200. Cllr Abel noted that there is a good likelihood the Committee can sell the existing mower for around £1,200. It was noted that if the Parish Council purchases the mower the Council can reclaim the VAT.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will purchase and own the new mower.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will consider the apportionment of the excess funds from the £9,000 after payment for the mower at its meeting in May. It was proposed that the funds could be put toward the proposed new car park on the Playing Field.

It was **RESOLVED** that the funds from the sale of the mower will be returned to the Playing Field Committee and that this should lead to a reduced request for funding from the Parish Council in the next financial year.

Cllr Abel will speak with the groundsman and ask if he is prepared to maintain the new mower.

9 Shipdham Lane Car Park Working Committee

Cllr Hewson noted that the Playing Field Committee has put forward himself and Steven Eagle as members of the Working Committee. The Committee is to work out the type of surfacing most appropriate for the site and its useage, and to obtain costs/quotes. Cllrs Abel and Steward are the two Parish Council members on the Working Committee, together with two members of the Village Hall Trust.

10 Lease of Blackthorn Drive and Ted Ellis Way Play Areas

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the lease of the two play areas. The Council signed the Deed of Surrender and the new lease.

11 Tree Preservation Orders

The Council's objection to the Tree Preservation Orders on two oak trees next to the Shipdham Lane Playing Field will be considered by Breckland Council on April 18.

Cllr Geary left the meeting.

12 Trees on Shipdham Lane Playing Field

Cllr Hewson noted that the Playing Field Committee is happy to continue to maintain the trees on the Playing Field, but would like the Parish Council to maintain the two oak trees near the tennis courts. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council will maintain the two oak trees and the Playing Field Committee will maintain all the other trees on the site.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Playing Field Committee will action the necessary works highlighted in the recent Tree Survey.

13 Tree and Hedgerow Management Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a Tree and Hedgerow Management policy.

14 Council Reserves

The Council earmarked the following into reserves in its accounts to 31 March 2023.

£9,000, held for the Playing Field Committee for a new mower (see item 8 above).

£3,100, a grant to be paid to the Playing Field Committee (see payment in item 7 above).

£11,000 towards new play equipment on the Blackthorn Drive play area.

£750, maximum payment to Nplaw for legal work on the lease of the Meadows play areas.

Cllr Blackburn noted that she believes the equipment on the Shipdham Lane Playing Field is in need of replacement.

It was noted the Parish Council is waiting to hear from the Working Committee regarding the proposed cost of car parking on the Shipdham Lane Playing Field.

It was acknowledged that no formal resolution has been made regarding the car park. It was **RESOLVED** to earmark £5,000 into its reserves toward the cost of a car park, subject to a decision of the Council being taken.

15 Local Plan

It was noted that a meeting in the Village Hall on 1 April had been well attended. The meeting was hosted by Cllrs Hewett and Turner (Breckland Council). Residents were encouraged to respond to the survey and the Council will post the link for the Issues and Options Consultation on its website and on social media.

16 Issues and Options Consultation

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint a Working Committee to formulate a response on behalf of the Parish Council to the Issues and Options Consultation. The committee comprises Cllrs Mallard, Hewson and Abel.

17 Request from Bintree Parish Council

The Council considered a request from Bintree Parish Council for support in relation to Breckland Council's Issues and Options Consultation. Cllr Bradford noted that a

new town of 5,000 houses has been proposed between Bintree and North Elmham. This is contained in the Issues and Options Consultation. She noted there is no infrastructure and no employment in place. It was **RESOLVED** to support Bintree Parish Council and other parish councils in opposition to the proposed development. Cllr Bradford will write a letter of support to Bintree Parish Council on behalf of Scarning Parish Council.

18 Flower Boxes

The Council had received a request for seasonal plants in its three flower boxes. It was **RESOLVED** to pay up to £25 for each box, total £75.

19 Council Street Lights

The Council's contractor noted that two street lights (Park Lane and Soames Place) are beyond reasonable repair. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase LEDs for both lights.

20 Safeguarding Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to introduce a Safeguarding Policy.

21 Advertisement of Parish Meetings

Cllr Blackburn noted that a number of residents had complained on social media about a lack of promotion for the Local Plan event on 1 April (see item 15 above). It was noted that the event had been promoted. However, the Council acknowledged that it needs to review its communication.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Bradford will contact the school's Head in order to promote the Parish Council connected events and meetings through the school's newsletter.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Blackburn as the Council's Media Officer and to consider a media strategy at the Council's May meeting.

Cllr Turner (Breckland Council) said that if she and Cllr Hewett are re-elected on May 4, they will provide the parish with regular updates on the Local Plan in conjunction with the coffee mornings.

22 Items for Next Agenda

A media strategy for the Parish Council to improve communication.

An update from the Working Committee on the proposed car park at Shipdham Lane Playing Field.

An update on the purchase of the new mower.

An update on the Tree Preservation Orders at Shipdham Lane.

23 Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting on May 22 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9pm.