

## **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Scarning Village Hall on 20 September 2021**

Present: S Bunn (Chair), T Abel, C Farnham, C Geary, C Hewson, T Mallard, M Steward. In attendance: N Hartley (Parish Clerk) Cllr W Richmond (Norfolk County Council). Four members of the public.

### **1 Public Participation**

A resident of Scarning Fen noted his objections to the planning application of Asam Investments Ltd. He noted that what had started as an application for an extension has become an application for a separate dwelling. Cllr Bunn, as a resident, confirmed the comments regarding the application in relation to the standard of the present building works, sewage and other matters.

It was noted that some of the equipment on the Shipdham Lane playing field is looking old and dirty. Cllr Hewson noted that the slide is to be repaired and that the committee is waiting for the materials to repair it.

### **2 Resignation of Cllr Druce**

The Council noted the resignation of Cllr Druce. The deadline for applications to co-opt a new councillor is September 30.

### **3 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr F Bradford, and Cllrs P Hewett and L Turner (Breckland Council).

### **4 Report from Norfolk County Councillor**

Cllr Richmond answered the various Norfolk County Council issues raised during the course of the meeting.

### **5 Declarations of Interest**

All councillors as trustees of Scarning Fuel Allotment Charity regarding the planning application of Asam Investments Ltd.

Cllr Bunn, as a resident, in the planning application of Asam Investments Ltd.

Cllrs Farnham and Hewson, as trustees of the Scarning Playing Committee, in the grant application of Scarning Playing Field Committee.

### **6 Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2021 as a true and accurate record.

## 7 Matters Arising

None.

## 8 Planning

### 8.1 Parish Council comments sent to Breckland Council

Chestnut Lodge, Dereham Road Conversion of barn and part of existing dwelling to provide two new dwellings, including rear extensions; and cart lodge to be converted to provide further accommodation in association with the existing dwelling, together with infill extension between dwelling and cart lodge including new access	3PL/2021/1064/F         No objection, subject to good access being assured
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5 Jessopp Close, Rear extension	3PL/2021/1114/HOU No objection
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### 8.2 Breckland Council decisions

21 Park Lane Erection of single storey front porch	3PL/2021/0906/HOU Approved
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Land at Pennymeadow Nursery New dwelling and garages with ancillary accommodation over	3PL/2021/0755/F Approved
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5 Jessopp Close Rear extension	PL/2021/1114/HOU Approved
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### 8.3 Application considered:-

Asam Investments Ltd, 3 Scarning Fen Erection of dwelling	3PL/2021/1260/F
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The Council objected to this application on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site. It was noted that what had started as an application for an extension has become an application for a separate dwelling. The Council will ask Breckland Council if the present building site has been visited due to concerns over the standard of work. The Council expressed concerns over drainage and possible problems with flooding. The Council will ask Cllrs Turner and Hewett (Breckland Council) to request the application goes to committee.

## 9 Finance

9.1 The Council confirmed the following payments had been made in accordance with the Budget:-

N Hartley, clerk's salary, £729.65  
C Farnham, reimbursement for stain for flower boxes and trellis, £78.54  
N Parsons, reimbursement for stain for flower boxes, £49.96  
N Hartley, reimbursement for stamps for Council, £7.92  
TOP Garden Services, verge and grass cutting, £531  
TOP Garden Services, grass cutting Scarning churchyard, £180 (Sct 137)  
N Hartley, reimbursement for paper to copy the Beacon, £5.70  
Viking, photocopier ink, £36.92  
Load Restraint Ltd, drag mats for Water Meadows, £170.40  
TOP Garden Services, verge and grass cutting, £531  
TOP Garden Services, grass cutting Scarning churchyard, £180 (Sct 137)

9.2 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments in accordance with the Budget:-

N Hartley, clerk's salary, £729.65  
GW Shelter Solutions, new bus shelter outside Village Hall, £4,240.08  
N Hartley, reimbursement for printer ink, £29.67  
Viking, photocopier ink, £29.72  
PKF Littlejohn, external audit fee, £360  
Chq 102278 HMRC, clerk's PAYE, £186.04  
102279 Royal British Legion, Remembrance Day wreath, £50

9.3 The meeting received a report of Actual to Budgeted expenditure

9.4 The clerk noted the completion of the External Audit. A difference of £93 had been recorded in the wrong box on the Annual Return (payments received not salary adjustment) and had subsequently been amended.

9.5 The clerk confirmed the addition of Cllr Bunn as a signatory to the Council's current account.

## 10 Scottish Widows Account

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Bunn as a signatory to the Council's Scottish Widows account.

## 11 Clerk's Report

The meeting received the clerk's report.

## 12 Flower Boxes

Sharon Goldsworthy requested up to £25 per box to plant winter bedding plants. It was **RESOLVED** to approve this.

### **13 Scarning Playing Field Committee Grant Application**

The Council considered a grant application from Scarning Playing Field Committee. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a grant of £3,600 to cover the Committee's maintenance costs.

### **14 Street Lights**

The Council considered the recommendations of its lighting contractor. It was noted that the concrete column at the junction of Chapel Lane and Dereham Road has been inspected by Westcotec, who advised that it does not currently need replacing. The report suggested that the foliage on three lights needs to be cut back. Cllr Abel offered to cut back this foliage.

### **15 Request to widen the Dereham Road footpath**

It was noted that Norfolk County Council has cut the hedge from Black Horse Close to the beacon layby. Cllr Richmond will ask if the cuttings can be removed. He noted that widening the footpath would be prohibitively expensive. The Parish Council noted that if the hedge is properly cut and maintained that widening the footpath would be less important. Cllr Richmond noted the work to the footpath should take place April-June 2022.

### **16 Request for a reduction in the speed limit through the older part of the parish at Dereham Road/Chapel Lane**

Cllr Richmond noted the expense of a Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit. He also noted the low accident record. It was agreed that the Community Speed Watch group would be a good way forward in terms of collecting driver speeds to submit to the Police and/or Norfolk County Council. It was **RESOLVED** to request a visit from the Police to monitor speeds through this part of the parish.

### **17 Update on the Speed Watch group and use of the SAM2**

Cllr Hewson withdrew from the Speed Watch group and handed responsibility to Cllr Geary. Cllr Hewson will continue to move the SAM2.

### **18 Positioning of the school sign under the Parish Partnership Scheme 2021/22**

It was **RESOLVED** to agree the positioning of the school sign between the junctions of Dereham Road/Chestnut Road and Dereham Road/Draytonhall Lane.

Cllr Richmond will raise with Highways problems caused by the two dips in Dereham Road near Chestnut Road.

### **19 Parish Partnership Scheme 2022/23**

The Council considered the cost of new and design of new village signs. Cllr Richmond offered to pay for the new signs from his budget. It was **RESOLVED** to request new signs (with the beacon logo) to replace the existing signs at either end of Dereham Road and for a new sign (with the beacon logo) near the junction of Draytonhall Lane with the A47.

### **20 Outdoor Table Tennis Table (Blackthorn Drive)**

The Council considered action regarding the installation of a concrete base for an outdoor table tennis table at Blackthorn Drive play area. The Council has only been able to obtain two quotes for varying reasons. Tim Abel will meet the clerk on site and report back to the next meeting.

### **21 Replacement Bins**

One of the bins in the play area at Blackthorn Drive is to be repaired. The other has been damaged beyond repair. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a replacement bin.

### **22 Next expenditure at Blackthorn Drive play area**

It was **RESOLVED** to carry this forward to the next meeting after the annual safety inspection report has been carried out.

### **23 Land near Ted Ellis play area**

It was **RESOLVED** to ask Breckland Council to register the land near the Ted Ellis play area.

### **24 Planting Trees**

The Council noted a number of locations for trees including the former Highway Surveyor's Land at Daffy Green and on the edge of the Scarning Fuel Allotment land at Scarning Fen. As trees can be planted on County Council land, it was **RESOLVED** to obtain a definitive map of Norfolk County Council land and to establish a working party. The Council may make another request to Breckland Council to plant trees on the edge of the water meadows site.

## **25 Update regarding planting a tree in place of the Beacon**

Cllr Abel noted that whatever tree is planted will depend on the time of year the beacon is moved.

## **26 Scarning War Booklets**

The clerk noted that about a dozen copies of the war booklet remained. It was **RESOLVED** to leave ten of the remaining booklets in the church asking purchasers to make a donation to the church.

## **27 Defibrillator/first aid course in the Village Hall**

It was **RESOLVED** to hold a second defibrillator/first aid course in the Village Hall.

## **28 Maui Wauai Festival**

The Council noted that it had received a small number of complaints in relation to the Maui Wauai Festival. It was suggested that the Council could ask Breckland Council to advise when there were events. It was noted that Breckland Council would not be able to advise on all events. It was **RESOLVED** that there was no further action the Council could take at this time.

## **29 Social Media Policy**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt a Social Media policy.

## **30 Delegation of authority to Councillor Farnham under the Council's Advertising policy**

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to Cllr Farnham in assessing the suitability of advertisements in the Beacon.

## **31 Queen's Jubilee 2022**

It was **RESOLVED** to establish a committee comprising councillors and other volunteers.

## **32 Dereham Delivery Plan**

It was **RESOLVED** to make no comment regarding the plan.

### **33 Items for Inclusion in the Council's budget 2022/23**

Budget for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations 2022.

### **34 Request to make a donation to Norfolk Wildlife Trust**

This was held to the next meeting to be considered with the charitable donations.

**The meeting was closed to the public.**

**Pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it was RESOLVED that, because of the confidential nature of the business transacted, the public was asked to leave the meeting so that the Council could discuss an offer to purchase the former Highway Surveyors Land at Chapel Lane.**

### **35 Report of the Council's assets**

The Council had received an offer to purchase the former Highway Surveyors land at Chapel Lane. The cost of maintaining the land was noted. The Council will obtain a valuation of the land.

### **36 Litter Pick**

The next parish litter pick will be on 2 October and organised by Neil Parsons. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will pay for tea/bacon butties for participants.

### **37 Items for inclusion in the next agenda**

Update on Queen's Jubilee celebrations 2022.

### **38 Next meeting**

The next meeting will be on October 18 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.35pm.