

Minutes of Scarning Parish Council Meeting held online on 18 January 2021

Present: C Farnham (Chair), T Abel, F Bradford, S Bunn, C Druce, C Hewson, I Semmons, N Parsons, M Steward. In attendance: N Hartley (Parish Clerk) Cllr P Hewett (Breckland Council) Cllr W Richmond (Norfolk County Council).

1 Public Participation

Cllr Abel noted that the Podmore Lane sign has still not been restored. Cllr Richmond will chase.

2 Report from District and County Councillors

Cllr Hewett (Breckland Council) noted that Covid rates remain high. He noted that vaccination centres have been earmarked. There has been some disruption to services at Serco, but noted that the bins will always be emptied even if the day to empty them changes.

Cllr Richmond (Norfolk County Council) noted that he has £300 remaining in his Member's Budget. He proposed using this toward replacement markers on the old Dereham Road near the Grange. He noted that a new Highways engineer is to be appointed for Scarning. He further noted that the speed limit on the old Dereham Road when heading west toward Wendling is to be reduced to 50mph following a number of accidents.

3 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr L Turner (Breckland Council).

4 Declarations of Interest

None

5 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign as soon as practicable the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2020 as a true and accurate record.

6 Matters Arising

Cllrs Farnham and Abel had checked the beacon in the village sign lay-by and noted that its condition does not warrant moving it at the moment. The beacon will be moved

subject to County Council approval of the proposed re-location. Cllr Druce noted that Bunnings will supply a new metal beacon for £200 + Vat. This is a community gesture of goodwill.

7 Planning

7.1 Breckland Council decisions

Adjacent Malish, the Broadway, Fen Road Outline planning permission for an affordable self build family dwelling	3PL/2020/1199/O Refused
Brambly Hedge, Shipdham Lane Rear extension, two storey side extension to both side (one to include an annex), general alterations	3PL/2020/1351/HOU Approved
Willow Pond Farm, Church Farm Lane Single storey side extension to form a garage	3PL/2020/1355/HOU Approved
Woodstock, Dereham Road, Retrospective permission for garage conversion to annex, proposed extension to Front of annex	3PL/2020/1338/HOU Approved

7.2 Applications considered

2 Wright Drive Proposed first floor extension over garage	3PL/2020/1443/HOU No objection
Scarning Village Hall Trust, Scarning Village Hall Proposed storage shed	3PL/2020/1440/F No objection

8 Finance

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

- Chq 102235 UK Table Tennis, purchase of two table tennis tables, £3,026.40
- 102236 Wensum Valley Electrical Ltd, install Christmas tree lights and repair
electrics, £307.20
- 102237 The Noticeboard Company, noticeboard outside Scarning School,
£596.40
- 102238 T T Jones Electrical Ltd, two new LED lanterns and work under
maintenance contract, £815.83
- 102239 Eon, unmetered electricity supplies for street lights, £217.98
- 102240 N Hartley, reimbursement for Zoom subscription (Dec & Jan) £28.78

8.2 The Council received a report of Actual to Budgeted expenditure.

9 Internal Auditor

It was **RESOLVED** to re-appoint SCS Accounting Solutions as the Council's Internal Auditor.

10 Clerk's Report

The Council received a copy of the clerk's report. In addition, it was noted that the solar light near the church is to be repaired again.

11 Information Audit

The Council received an updated Information Audit for 2021.

12 Model Publication Scheme

The Council received an updated Model Publication Scheme.

13 General Data Protection Regulations

The Council reviewed its General Data Protection Regulations without amendment.

14 Financial Regulations

The Council reviewed its Financial Regulations without amendment.

15 Standing Orders

The Council reviewed its Standing Orders without amendment.

16 Complaints Procedure

The Council reviewed its Complaints Procedure without amendment.

17 Noticeboard on Shipdham Lane Playing Field

Cllr Farnham proposed the Council install a noticeboard near the entrance to the Shipdham Lane playing field car park. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a noticeboard from the Noticeboard Company and to install it next to the existing sign in the car park.

18 Budget/Precept 2021/22

Cllr Semmons raised concerns about an increase in the Precept in the current economic climate. It was noted that the Parish Council has a responsibility to provide equipment, services and facilities for residents and that the cost of these services and facilities are increasing. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a Budget and Precept of £38,000 for 2021/22.

19 Dogs on Scarning Water Meadows

A complaint had been received from a resident who had been bitten by a dog when walking on the Water Meadows. The resident had reported the incident to the Police. The resident complained about the amount of dog mess on the Meadows and asked if the Council would create dog-free areas on the site. The clerk had consulted the Dog Warden who had not received complaints about dangerous dogs or dog fouling in the area. The clerk noted there was not an excess of dog waste on the site when he carries out the weekly checks. Cllr Hewett noted that Shipdham Parish Council had enacted a bye-law that dogs should be kept under control, but that the bye-law cannot be enforced. He noted the Parish Council wishes it had not started the process. It was **RESOLVED** that no action needs to be taken at the Water Meadows.

20 Accessibility at Scarning Water Meadows

The Council had received correspondence from a resident about accessibility to its play areas on the Water Meadows for the disabled, blind and visually impaired. In response, it was **RESOLVED** to install signs on the gates of each play area (Blackthorn Drive and Ted Ellis) which amend the wording regarding No Dogs Allowed to allow Assistance dogs and Guide dogs. The resident suggested the Council should have an Equality Impact Assessment of its play areas. The Council checked with its Rospa approved safety inspector, who said that such an assessment can be carried out. The Council had not previously been made aware of this and the clerk noted that the Council's training arm was unaware of this. Concerns were expressed that the Council's safety inspector had not made the Council aware regarding an Accessibility report. The Council will obtain a comparable price for its annual safety report and an Accessibility report.

21 Dog Bin at Park Lane

The Council had received correspondence from a resident regarding the amount of dog mess on Park Lane. In response, Cllr Parsons had delivered a letter from the Council to all residents on Park Lane and the Watlings asking them to please clean up after their dog/s. It was **RESOLVED** to seek approval from Breckland Council for a dog bin on Park Lane about twenty metres from the 30mph sign.

22 Green Lane

The Council had been asked if Green Lane could be converted to a public bridleway as vehicles have been using it in the wet weather and created deep rut holes the length of the track and near the field entrances. It was suggested the entrances to the lane could be blocked to prevent further damage. The ownership of the land is not clear.

23 Flooding

A mid Norfolk Flood Group has been established. Cllrs Hewett and Turner (Breckland Council) attended the initial meeting. The next meeting is at the end of January. The Parish Council has reported to Norfolk County Council flooding on Fen Road (near the junction with the A47) and at the corner near Scarning Fen. Cllr Richmond has contacted the County Council's Flood Manager and the Highways engineer, who will look into this further. The ditch at the junction of Fen Road and the Broadway will also be investigated.

24 Scarning Facebook Group

Cllr Farnham noted that he has established a Scarning Community Facebook group. There is also a Scarning Community Instagram group. He noted the Scarning Next Door site has nearly 400 members.

25 Jubilee Weekend 2022

Cllr Farnham has spoken to Michael Whitehead, who is delighted for a fete/event to be held on his land to celebrate the Jubilee Weekend. A number of suggestions were made such as having street food vendors, live music and other entertainment. Cllr Semmons proposed holding a Fun Day on the Water Meadows. Cllr Farnham will ask for feedback in the next Beacon and the Council will consider at its March meeting.

26 Litter Pick

The date for the next parish litter pick was set for 6 March 2021.

27 Items for Inclusion in Next Agenda

Slow-ways/public footpaths

The clerk's working hours.

28 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held online at 7.30pm on 15 February 2021.

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