

## **Minutes of Scarning Parish Council Meeting held in Scarning Village Hall on February 21 2022**

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

### **Public Participation**

The Council was asked for an update regarding a replacement Youth Shelter on the Water Meadows. This was referred to under item 10 (below).

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr W Richmond (Norfolk County Council).

### **2 Report from District and County Councillors**

Cllr Turner (Breckland Council) noted that the bin collection days will be changing from 21 March for 50% of Breckland residents. All households will be notified. This does not effect the collection of Brown bins. She said that it has been recommended that the District Council element of the Council Tax be raised by £4.95 a year for a Band D property (three quarters of properties in Breckland are in Bands A-C). For each £99 received in Council Tax, Breckland spends £753 in services, thanks to prudent investments and the success of its property portfolio.

Cllr Richmond sent a report which noted that Norfolk County Council's budget for 2022/23 is to be decided at a Full Council meeting on 21 February. The County Council is proposing a 2.99 per cent rise in its share of Council Tax.

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Farnham and Hewson as trustees of Scarning Playing Field Committee (item 9).

### **4 Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2022 as a true and accurate record.

### **5 Matters Arising**

None.

## 6 Planning

### 6.1 Applications considered:-

Berm House, Dereham Road  
Proposed detached retirement bungalow and garage infill plot on garden at side of existing property

3PL/2022/0131/F  
No objection

White House Farm, Bradenham Lane  
Prior approval for the change of use of Agricultural Buildings (Unit 3 and part change of use of Unit 2) to Class B8 (flexible commercial use) under Class R of Part 3, Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015

3PN/2022/0004/UV  
No objection

## 7 Finance

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

N Hartley, clerk's salary, £810.57  
LogicRed, web, email and database hosting, £99  
Mid Norfolk Conservation Volunteers, clearance of Meadows, £65  
Norfolk Parish Training & Support, course for Steve Bunn, £36  
N Hartley, reimbursement for colour and black ink to print the Beacon, £69.75  
Dereham Cancer Care, charitable donation from advertising income in the Beacon newsletter, £12.50 (Section 137)  
East Anglia Childrens Hospice, charitable donation from advertising income in the Beacon newsletter, £58.34 (Section 137)  
Lilac, charitable donation from advertising income in the Beacon newsletter, £35.42 (Section 137)  
St Martins, charitable donation from advertising income in the Beacon newsletter, £58.34 (Section 137)  
Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability, charitable donation from advertising income in the Beacon newsletter, £58.34 (Section 137)  
Papyrus, charitable donation from advertising income in the Beacon newsletter, £35.42 (Section 137)  
The Samaritans, charitable donation from advertising income in the Beacon newsletter, £35.42 (Section 137)  
Priscilla Bacon Lodge, charitable donation from advertising income in the Beacon newsletter, £35.42 (Section 137)  
Leeway, charitable donation from advertising income in the Beacon newsletter, £35.42 (Section 137)  
Mansfield Fencing, remove graffiti from information board, repairs to play tower and youth shelter, £135  
N Power Business Solutions, street light unmetered supplies, £131.13  
Skwegii, cleaning the Council's bus shelters, £150

### 7.2 The meeting received a report of actual expenditure to budgeted expenditure

## **8 Clerk's Report**

The meeting received the clerk's report. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

## **9 Terms of Reference between the Parish Council and Scarning Playing Field Committee**

The Council considered a Terms of Reference document between the Parish Council and Scarning Playing Field Committee. Cllr Hewson said the Playing Field Committee had agreed the document.

The Council considered a request from the Village Hall Trust to enlarge the Playing Field car park and install lights on the footpath from the car park to the Village Hall. It was **RESOLVED** to ask members of the Village Hall Trust and the Playing Field Committee to the Parish Council's March meeting to discuss the proposals.

## **10 Lease of Scarning Water Meadows**

The Chair and the Clerk had attended a meeting with Breckland Council's Asset Managers, who intimated that the Council might not be complying with all its obligations under the terms of the lease and the Management Plan for the site. No specifics had been provided at the meeting. The Council requested these be emailed to it. The Council considered this email and noted that there remained a lack of specifics.

Cllr Hewett (Breckland Council) noted, and the Council agreed, that the Meadows site needs specialist management. The Clerk pointed out that the Management Plan Breckland Council is referring to is dated 2012 and that the current Plan was agreed in September 2020. Asset Management had been advised of this.

The Council is addressing the clearance of the ditches, but it was noted that the Council is not responsible for the maintenance of trees on the site.

It was **RESOLVED** to arrange a meeting with the Asset Managers regarding the Management Plan and to resolve anything that might be considered a breach of the lease. The Council would also like clarity regarding responsibility for the trees.

## **11 Appointment of a contractor to cut Lucy's Meadow and the main meadows in 2022**

It was **RESOLVED** to hold this in abeyance until matters are resolved with Breckland Council.

## **12 Proposal for a bench on Dereham Road**

It was noted that there is no suitable location for a bench on Dereham Road and that there is already a bench at the beacon lay-by. It was **RESOLVED** not to install another bench.

## **13 Removal of Norfolk County Council signs from roads in the parish**

It was **RESOLVED** to ask Cllr Richmond (Norfolk County Council) for the signs to be removed and if it is permissible for the Parish Council to remove the signs

## **14 Proposal to cut the hedge on Dereham Road from Black Horse Close to the Beacon lay-by**

It was noted that Norfolk County Council is to resurface the footpath. It was **RESOLVED** to ask the County Council when this will be carried out so that the Parish Council can consider making an additional cut of the hedge.

## **15 Proposal to widen the footpath on Dereham Road from Black Horse Close to the Beacon lay-by**

The cost of this proposal was noted. It was **RESOLVED** to ask Cllr Richmond (Norfolk County Council) if he has any funds he could put into this.

## **16 Highway Surveyors Land at Chapel Lane**

The Council had offered the lease of the former Highway Surveyors Land at Chapel Lane to its current tenant at the increased rental of £100 pa. The tenant did not wish to continue with the lease. The current lease has expired.

Mr Page had expressed an interest in purchasing the land. The Council had resolved not to sell the land. It was **RESOLVED** to ask Mr Page if he wishes to lease the site and if not, the Council will leave it without a tenant. The Council amended the existing lease so that the tenant is responsible for maintaining the trees on the site bearing in mind that the Parish Council had recently had the trees surveyed and all works had been carried out in accordance with the survey.

## **17 Speed Watch Group**

Cllr Geary advised that two speed watches have been carried out and a number of drivers were caught speeding. Cllr Hewson will move the SAM2 from its current location.

## **18 Queen's Jubilee**

Cllr Mallard advised that she is unable to take the lead regarding the Jubilee celebrations due to family commitments. Cllrs Blackburn and Farnham offered to take over.

## **19 Proposal to Digitise Scarning: A Portrait of a Village**

Cllr Farnham noted the book is out of print and that he will contact Everetts to obtain a copy that can be put online.

## **20 Norwich Western Link Project Update**

Council members agreed to make individual comments.

## **21 Flower Boxes**

A request was made for up to £25 to purchase more shrubs, primroses and daffodils for one of the Council's flower boxes. It was **RESOLVED** to approve this.

## **22 Additional Matters**

It was noted that there is still flooding on the pavement outside 1 Hall Cottages. The clerk will contact Norfolk County Council.

The slip road off the A47 at Fen Road is continuing to flood. The clerk will contact Norfolk County Council.

The Council remains concerned about the dip in the road at Dereham Road/Chestnut Road. The kerbs are dropping. The clerk will contact Norfolk County Council again and will request the criteria in writing as to when this area is considered dangerous.

Cllr Abel will speak to the owners of the old garage site on Dereham Road regarding loose debris from the site.

The clerk will arrange for the dog bin on Dereham Road/Coach Lane to be emptied.

The street light at 6 Hall Cottages is out. The clerk will report.

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

A Youth Club

## **24 Next Parish Council meeting**

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on March 21 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.10pm.

## **Clerk's Report**

### **Bus Shelters**

Skwegii has cleaned the shelter at Black Horse Close. The shelters either side of Dereham Road (near Chestnut Road) have been cleaned (see graffiti below).

### **Deer Signs**

Norfolk County Council has agreed the location for two signs when exiting and entering the older part of the village. Am waiting for an installation date.

### **Dereham Road/Hall Cottages**

Norfolk County Council has cleared the drains outside 1 Hall Cottages to help prevent flooding.

### **Fen Road**

William Richmond met Norfolk County Council re plans to build up the bank at the junction of Fen Road and the Broadway. He may have an update.

### **Footpath at Scarning Fen**

William Richmond met Norfolk County Council to review the work at the Stone Road entrance to the Fen footpath. He may have an update.

### **Graffiti**

There is graffiti in several areas around Draytonhall lane and into Dereham. Some is on the Parish Council bus shelter at Dereham Road/Chestnut Road. I have asked Skwegii to remove when cleaning the shelter. There is graffiti on the Council bin by Ted Ellis play area. I have asked Tom Mansfield to remove.

### **Highways Issues**

Norfolk County Council has agreed to take action re:-

'Pushing back' the hedge next to 1 Hall Cottages/Saints View on the Shipdham Lane side.

I am waiting to hear back from the County Council re the following:-

A request from Scarning PCC to repair/resurface the pavement outside Scarning church between the lay by to the left of the church and the gates next to Chapel Lane.

### **Green Lane**

Green Lane has been reopened.

### **Manhole Cover (Park Lane)**

Have cleared.

## **WATER MEADOWS**

### **Ditches**

The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the ditches under the terms of the lease. May need clearing.

### **Lucy's Meadow**

Lucy's Meadow has been cut and cleared. Lucy's Meadow North was to have been cut on 14 February, but Asset Management claim the Parish Council is responsible for tree maintenance on the site.

### **Main Meadow**

The main meadow has been cut and cleared.

### **Table Tennis Table**

Tim Abel to install in the spring 2022.

### **Ted Ellis Walk**

I've asked the Mansfields to remove graffiti from the dog bin.