

Minutes of Scarning Parish Council Meeting held in Scarning Village Hall on 15 August 2022

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

Public Participation

The bin beside the Chestnut Road bus shelter has been vandalised and will be replaced. The Council was asked if it can ask for the brambles to be cut back near the junction of Draytonhall Lane and the A47. Volunteers are clearing Himalayan Balsam from the stream on the Water Meadows. The Council was asked to report damage to the road sign at the junction of the A47 and Fen Road.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Farnham, Hewson and Mallard (Parish Council), Cllrs Hewett (Breckland Council) and Cllr Richmond (Norfolk County Council).

2 Report from Norfolk County Councillor

Cllr Richmond (Norfolk County Council) sent the following report:-

The uneven road surface near the Draytonhall Lane/A47 junction has been prioritised for repair. Norfolk County Council Highways is in conversation with National Highways regarding a required diversion route for the works.

The bank on Fen Road near the junction with the Broadway is to be protected with gabions and this is to be done under a Scheme due to the cost.

With regard to the public footpath near Fen Road, the Countryside Access Officer will consider the path maintenance. The relevant landowners have a responsibility to cut back the footpath next to their properties.

3 Footpath 5 (Fen Road)

Cllr Turner (Breckland Council) asked the Council to write to the residents next to Footpath 5 at Fen Road asking them to cut back their side of the fence where it overhangs the footpath. She noted that Norfolk County Council makes payments to some parish councils to cut the footpaths more regularly. Cllr Abel proposed that the Parish Council investigate which footpaths may need more frequent cutting and obtain more information from the County Council re funding. The Council will seek guidance to see what action it can take in relation to home owners' clearance of vegetation, which may result in a change to its Standing Orders.

4 Declarations of Interest

None.

5 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on July 11, 2022 as a true and accurate record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

6 Matters Arising

None.

7 Graffiti

With regard to the removal of graffiti, the Reparations Team at Norfolk County Council said it was best if the perpetrator/s were identified and charged, and that they then removed the graffiti, but if the Parish Council has the materials/equipment to remove the graffiti they may be able to help. It was **RESOLVED** not to use the scheme proposed by the Reparations Team.

The Council considered the rising cost of living facing residents and **RESOLVED** that it will not use taxpayer funds to remove graffiti when those funds could be better used elsewhere. It was noted that the bus shelter at Chestnut Road has been graffiti-ed twice recently and that the bin next to it has been damaged twice.

The bin has been burned out and the Council is to replace it. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will continue to repair items when it is a question of Health and Safety and/or a necessary public service.

8 Update on the Footpath and Heap of Soil

Cllr Bradford noted that following the receipt of correspondence sent to the Council, she and Cllr Hewson had spoken to the resident with regard to the heap of soil outside Hall Cottages. The Council is concerned that when it rains the soil will enter the drains. The resident gave assurances that the soil heap would be removed.

The Council noted that its contractor had cut the hedge between Black Horse Close and Podmore Lane. Cllr Blackburn noted the weeds growing out of the path. It was noted that these would not be easy to remove until the footpath is cleared and resurfaced. Norfolk County Council has programmed this work for 2023/24.

9 Planning

9.1 Breckland Council decisions:-

1 Primrose Close, 3PL/2022/0661/HOU
Erection of 1.8m high fence (Retrospective) Approved

The Council noted that a resident had asked members to revisit the property. The Council remained of the view that the original decision was correct.

Chestnut Lodge, Dereham Road 3PL/2022/0232/VAR
Variation of conditions 4,5,7,8 & 12 on 3PL/2021/1064/F Approved

Chestnut Lodge, Dereham Road 3PL/2022/0735/HOU
Extension and conversion of outbuilding to provide additional accommodation for the existing dwelling Approved

9.2 Application considered:-

2 Scarning Fen 3PL/2022/0834/HOU
Two storey side extension

The application for an extension was on the agenda, but due to the lack of information the matter was decided at a later date.

10 Finance

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

Npower, street lighting supplies, £292.09
N Hartley, clerk's salary, £851.30
Aon Services, cut and clear hedge from Black Horse Close to Podmore Lane, £600
N Hartley, reimbursement for Microsoft subscription for Council laptop, £59.99
Vue It Training, laptop training, £40
TOP Garden Services, grass & verge cutting (May) £531
TOP Garden Services, grass cutting Scarning churchyard (May), £180 (Section 137)
TOP Garden Services, grass & verge cutting (June) £531
TOP Garden Services, grass cutting Scarning churchyard, (June) £180 (Section 137)
N Hartley, reimbursement for purchase of litter picking bag hoops, £87.30

10.2 The Council received a report of Actual Expenditure to Budgeted Expenditure

11 Clerk's Report

The Council received the Clerk's report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The clerk will see if he can obtain dates when scheduled works will be carried out by Norfolk County Council.

12 Surrender of the Council's Lease (Water Meadows)

Breckland Council's solicitors have proposed a short term Tenancy at Will to bridge the gap until a new full lease is agreed. Cllr Bradford noted that the Parish Council will still require access to the play areas and was told by Cllr Turner that Cllr Hewett would enforce the email received from the Breckland Asset Manager granting such access.

13 Live Streaming Meetings

The results of the Council's test of live streaming its July meeting is that only about twenty per cent of the meeting could be heard. The sound quality was poor and not helped by an echo in the Hall. People talking over each other made it harder to hear.

It was **RESOLVED** to hold another trial in November and to advertise it to all residents. The Council will determine whether to proceed with the project following the results of the second trial.

14 Undergrowth near Dereham Road/Chestnut Road

Norfolk County Council has programmed cutting back this area. The Parish Council is waiting to hear back from the Street Lighting Team about a request for street lighting in this area.

15 New Play Equipment

The Council discussed the provision of play equipment for Blackthorn Drive play area and for Shipdham Lane Playing Field. It was **RESOLVED** to establish a committee to carry out a survey of what equipment/facilities the parish's children and residents would like, and to take forward proposals for funding, including fund raising by residents.

Cllr Abel said he would be on the committee. The clerk will write to the three councillors who were unable to be at the meeting to see if any of them wish to join the committee.

16 Help for Residents in Need

Following a conversation with a resident Cllr Bradford wondered if there was any way in which the Parish Council can assist with tasks and matching these up with volunteers. It was **RESOLVED** that because of safeguarding issues and Parish Council restrictions, the Parish Council is unfortunately not able to help in this respect.

17 Help for Residents over the Winter/increased Costs of Living

Cllr Geary said Bristol City Council is discussing plans to provide warm places for residents to attend in the winter. It was agreed that the only location for such a scheme would be the Village Hall, which is not under the control of the Parish Council. Cllr Turner will see if the Mobile Food Bus can be brought to Scarning. The Parish Council will ask Scarning PCC if food donations can be left in the church porch for residents in need.

18 Speed Watch group

Cllr Geary said that due to the time commitment involved the group needs more volunteers, particularly in the areas of the parish closer to Dereham. Due to the shortage of volunteers, most of the speed watches are being carried out in the older part of the parish. She noted that if there are not sufficient volunteers, she will step aside in March 2023 when the group will have been established a year. It was agreed to seek more volunteers from the areas closer to Dereham.

Cllr Steward offered to move the parish speed sign if Cllr Hewson no longer wishes to be responsible for it.

19 Scarning Footpath 1

With regard to the public footpath from Podmore Lane to Chapel Lane, Norfolk County Council has proposed a number of works the landowner can carry out to make the path clearer. The Parish Council was asked if it is in contact with the landowner. Cllr Abel said he will speak with the landowner.

20 Items for inclusion in the Next Agenda

Update on the establishment of a subcommittee re play equipment/facilities

Update on a request for food donations to be left in the church porch and the use of the Mobile Food Bank

Update on funds available to support residents in need

Proposed change to the Council's Standing Orders

Update on cutting Footpath 5 (Fen Road)

Update on cutting near Chestnut Road

21 Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall on September 19 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.15pm.

Clerk's Report

A47/Fen Road Slip Road

Norfolk County Council has inspected and will clear the ditches/drains to prevent flooding.

The Broadway

Norfolk County Council has programmed to have the offlets cleaned and jetted (Job 222542). The Give Way sign will be repaired (222537).

Dereham Road 'Dips'

The 'dips' have been programmed (Job 222556 and 222555).

Graffiti Chestnut Road/Dereham Road Bus Shelter

I have asked Skwegii for a quote to clear the graffiti.

Highway Surveyors Land (Chapel Lane)

Mr Eagle is to lease the land again from 30 September 2022.

Litter Bin Chestnut Road/Dereham Road Bus Shelter

I have ordered a replacement bin from Glasdon UK.

Public Footpaths

I have requested that Norfolk County Council mark out the footpath from Podmore Lane to Chapel Lane (reference ENQ 900209372).

I have asked Norfolk County Council to replace the Public Footpath signs from Church Farm Lane to Washbridge (reference ENQ900209375).

WATER MEADOWS

Gate

One of the gates at the Ted Ellis play area has been pulled off its hinges. The Mansfields have installed a new gate, as it could not be repaired.

Graffiti

There is graffiti on the bench near the stream. I have asked the Mansfields to remove. There is also graffiti on the picnic bench by the enclosed play area.

Outdoor Fitness Rower

Norfolk Games & Frames will repair the damaged rower for £209.28. The repair has been programmed.

Outdoor Fitness Equipment Sign

One of the signs has been replaced as it was damaged beyond repair.

Picnic Bench

One of the outer pieces on the picnic bench near the enclosed play area has been removed. I have ordered a replacement part from Realise Futures.

Table Tennis Table

Tim Abel has installed the base. The table will be added.