

Minutes of Scarning Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on January 17 2022

Present: F Bradford (Chair), T Abel, M Blackburn, C Farnham, C Geary, C Hewson, M Steward. In attendance: P Hewett (Breckland Council) N Hartley (Parish Clerk) One member of the public.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Bunn, who was attending a Council course and Cllr Mallard, who was unwell, and from Cllr W Richmond (Norfolk County Council) and Cllr L Turner (Breckland Council).

2 Report from District and County Councillors

Cllr P Hewett (Breckland Council) noted that Breckland's precept will increase for this year. He said that Serco is restructuring all its bin collection routes. Residents will be informed when the routes are finalised. In April 2022, there will be a call for sites as part of the Local Plan review. He and Cllr Turner would like to hold forums in the Village Hall relating to this.

Cllr Richmond sent a report which noted that he has received confirmation that the re-surfacing of the Dereham Road footpath is scheduled to take place in 2022/23. The estimated cost is £20,000. This is the most expensive of seven schemes in the Breckland area.

3 Declarations of Interest

None.

4 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign as soon as practicable the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2021 as a true and accurate record. The Council ratified all the decisions made at the meeting as if the meeting had been in the Village Hall.

5 Matters Arising

The clerk at Gressenhall had advised the Council that the date for this year's Maui Wauai Festival has been set for 25-28 August. There had been complaints in 2021 over noise and traffic, but it was noted that the Parish Council has no power to intervene regarding such matters. It was also noted that there had been positive comments about the festival. The Council will contact the organisers regarding the music and the routing of traffic, noting that Scarning residents are affected by the Festival and trying to work with the organisers.

6 Planning

6.1 Breckland Council decisions:-

Land at Pennymeadow Nursery, Podmore Lane New dwelling and garages with ancillary accommodation over (Amended scheme - dwelling re-orientated)	3PL/2021/1526/F Approved
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Westholme, Chapel Lane Removal of garden sheds and construction of new garden room/workshop	3PL/2021/1485/HOU Approved
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7 Finance

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

N Hartley, clerk's salary, £810.57
Wensum Valley Electrical, installing Christmas lights, £90
T T Jones Electrical, street light maintenance, £57.78
J Service, cut and rake Water Meadows, £800
N Hartley, reimbursement for purchase of folders for Beacon, £11.99
SCS Accounting Solutions, payroll services, 18
Toftwood Social Centre, hire for Speed Watch group, £30

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

7.3 The meeting noted the addition of Cllr Bunn as a signatory for the Council's accounts with Barclays and Scottish Widows.

8 Complaints Procedure

The Council reviewed its Complaints Procedure without amendment.

9 Co-option Procedure

The Council reviewed its Co-option Procedure without amendment.

10 Disciplinary and Grievance Policy

The Council reviewed its Disciplinary and Grievance policy without amendment.

11 Equality Policy

The Council reviewed its Equality policy without amendment.

12 Health and Safety Policy

The Council reviewed its Health and Safety policy without amendment.

13 Openness and Transparency Policy

The Council reviewed its Openness and Transparency policy without amendment.

14 Press and Media Policy

The Council reviewed its Press and Media policy without amendment.

15 Training and Development Policy

The Council reviewed its Training and Development policy without amendment.

16 Clerk's report

A copy of the clerk's report is attached to the minutes. It was **RESOLVED** to remove the graffiti from the Council's bin near Ted Ellis Walk and from the bus shelter at Dereham Road/Chestnut Road.

17 Request to remove the Grit on Roads/pothole signs

Cllr Farnham noted that the signs have not been removed. It was **RESOLVED** to email Cllr Richmond (Norfolk County Council) for an update regarding this.

Cllr Hewson noted that a manhole cover on Park Lane next to the playing field has been damaged in the recent clearance work. The clerk will advise Norfolk County Council.

18 Proposals for improvements to the footpath from Black Horse Close to Rushmeadow Road

The Council considered proposals from the Bright Ideas for Scarning document regarding the Dereham Road footpath. The proposals were for a seating area and for a new dog bin. The Council also discussed the maintenance of the hedgerow. It was **RESOLVED** to email Cllr Richmond (Norfolk County Council) as to why the footpath from Black Horse Close to Hill Rise cannot be widened. The Council again expressed concerns about the overhanging hedgerow in this area and will ask Norfolk County Council if anything can be done to resolve this. It was **RESOLVED** that no additional bin is required, but the Council will seek permission from Norfolk County Council for a seat near the junction of Dereham Road and Podmore Lane.

19 Bright Ideas for Scarning

The Council considered further proposals from the Bright Ideas for Scarning document concerning the play areas at Blackthorn Drive and the Shipdham Lane playing field. Cllr Hewett will look into Breckland Council's decision not to allow a metal youth shelter at the Blackthorn Drive area. It was noted that the outdoor table tennis table will be installed later this year and that the Council is carrying out other improvements to the play area.

20 Christmas lights

The Council's contractor had noted that the Christmas tree would benefit from the purchase of another two strings of lights. It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the additional electricity cost and the fact that the Council was satisfied with the number of lights on the trees, no further purchase was necessary.

21 Speed Watch Group

Cllr Geary noted that the group is having training on 2 February and will start thereafter.

22 Beacon Newsletter

In view of concerns about sharing a plastic folder at the current time, it was **RESOLVED** to place three paper copies of the February Beacon in the Village Hall and three paper copies in the church.

23 Items for inclusion in the next agenda

Terms of Reference regarding the facilities of the Parish Council and those of Scarning Playing Field Committee.

Response from Cllr Richmond re the footpath and hedge between Black Horse Close and Hill Rise.

24 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30pm on February 21 in the Village Hall.

Under the Public Admission to Meetings Act 1960, members of the public and press were excluded from the meeting to allow discussion of the following confidential item.

25 Rent of Former Highway Surveyors Land at Chapel Lane

The Council considered the rent agreement form and rental of the former Highway Surveyors Land at Chapel Lane. It was **RESOLVED** to increase the rent to £100pa initially to the Council's existing tenant and if necessary to offer the tenancy to the prospective purchaser at the same rent.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Clerk's Report

Beacon (Dereham Road lay-by)

Norfolk County Council has given permission to move the beacon/install a new beacon in a more central position. Bunnings to supply new post. Chris and Tim to install. New tree to be planted in place of the beacon. Proposal to be put at the meeting to move the beacon to a different location.

Fen Road

Will Richmond met NCC 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

Will Richmond met NCC 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 our contractor (who is due to clean this shelter and the one opposite) for a quote to include removal of the graffiti. There is graffiti on the Council bin by Ted Ellis play area.

Highways Issues

I am waiting to hear back from NCC re the following. Chase email sent 14/12/21:-

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.

Cutting back the hedge outside the old rectory where it overhangs the lay by and possible drainage issues in the layby.

Cutting back the undergrowth/hedges on Dereham Road (opposite Chestnut Road).

The condition of the pavement outside 1 and 2 Hall Cottages.

Who is responsible for 'pushing back' the hedge next to 1 Hall Cottages/Saints View but on the Shipdham Lane side where the hedge has been cut recently.

An update on the Council's request for Deer Warning sign/s at the Wendling entrance to the older part of the parish.

Speeding

We received the following from the Police:-

I have raised this with the local Beat Managers and am aware that our Roads Policing Officers were in the area on 29 September. You will also be pleased to learn that I also raised this on the behalf of the Scarning Parish Council at the Dereham SNAP Meeting and this has been adopted as one of the SNAP Priorities, so I am hopeful that you will see more of a presence over the coming weeks.

Temporary closure of Green Lane

Green Lane has been closed. It will be re-opened at the end of this month.

WATER MEADOWS

Lucy's Meadow

Lucy's Meadow has been cut and cleared. Lucy's Meadow North is to be cut shortly.

Main Meadow

The main meadow has been cut and part cleared by Mid Norfolk Conservation Volunteers. Further clearance has been carried out by Mid Norfolk Conservation Volunteers. There is some clearance work remaining.

Safety Report issues

NGF Play has replaced the swing seats and swing chains as necessary. Awaiting missing caps for the fitness equipment, to be supplied by NGF.

Table Tennis Table

Tim Abel to install in the spring 2022.

Ted Ellis Walk

I've asked the Mansfields to remove graffiti from the Council's Information Board and dog bin.

Toddler Tower

The Mansfields have replaced two rotting planks in tower. The arch has been removed in accordance with the play area safety report.

Youth Shelter

The Mansfields have replaced a broken slat on Youth Shelter and one of the seat planks that had an exposed nail/broken end.