

## **Minutes of Scarning Parish Council meeting held in Scarning Village Hall on 15 November 2021**

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

### **Police Visit**

The meeting was addressed by Paula Gilluley (Police Engagement Officer for Breckland). She noted that crime levels were low in Scarning. She urged residents to report any crimes to the Police. She noted the Police usually see a spike in opportunistic crime over Christmas and urged residents to carry out simple procedures, such as locking sheds and garages. With regard to parking outside the school, she noted that powers/responsibility for this has been transferred to Norfolk County Council. The Police can only issue a ticket if a vehicle is causing a dangerous obstruction. She said the local beat managers carry out speed enforcement and asked about the progress of the Scarning speed watch group. She urged Scarning to be more demanding in terms of its needs and requirements, and for councillors to attend SNAP meetings, which will allow matters concerning Scarning to be considered.

### **Public Participation**

It was noted that Asam Investments may have included land in its planning application that is under the ownership of the Scarning Fuel Allotment charity. The charity will look into this. It was also noted that the previous occupant of 3 Scarning Fen carried out car repairs at the front of the property and that there may be contaminated land in this area. The Parish Council noted that it had raised concerns about this application with the planning authority.

The Council was asked who was responsible for maintenance of the Scarning Fen footpath. Cllr Richmond noted that it is Norfolk County Council.

### **1 Co Option of New Councillor**

It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Melanie Blackburn to the Parish Council.

### **2 Apologies**

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

### **3 Report from Norfolk County Councillor and Breckland Councillor**

Cllr W Richmond (Norfolk County Council) noted that he has put Dereham Road under the Road Safety Scheme Reduction plan to be considered in 2023. He was asked if the skid signs placed after works to potholes were an efficient spend and whether these could be more frequently removed. He noted the signs were positioned for safety reasons and will see if the signs can be removed more often. He was asked about the dips in Dereham Road (near Chestnut Road). The Council asked what the criteria was on which it is judged that these need attention. The clerk was asked to contact Norfolk County Council regarding this.

Cllr P Hewett (Breckland Council) noted the Local Plan is to be reviewed. He noted that he and Cllr Turner have called in the Asam Investments planning application and that it will be considered by the Planning Committee.

#### **4 Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### **5 Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2021 as a true and accurate record.

#### **6 Matters Arising**

Cllr Farnham asked if a second defibrillator/first aid course could be booked for next year. The date to be agreed for May 2022.

#### **7 Planning**

##### **7.1 Comments sent to Breckland Council**

Asam Investments Ltd, 3 Scarning Fen  
Erection of dwelling - scheme reverted back to an attached dwelling

3PL/2021/1260/F

The Parish Council objected to this application on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site. The Council noted that what had started as an application for an extension has become an application for a separate dwelling. The Parish Council requested that Breckland Council visit the site re concerns over drainage and possible problems with flooding that may affect nearby residents.

##### **7.2 Applications considered**

Hope Springs, Dereham Road  
First floor side extension

3PL/2021/1403/HOU  
No objection

23 Allwood Avenue

3PL/2021/1462/HOU

Proposed first floor extension over garage and utility room      No objection

Westholme, Chapel Lane

3PL/2021/1485/HOU

Removal of garden sheds and construction of garden room/workshop

No objection, subject to the addition of a clause stating that the additional properties cannot be developed into a residential property or sold separately.

## 8 Finance

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

N Hartley, clerk's salary, £729.65

HMRC, clerk's PAYE, £186.04

N Hartley, reimbursement of expenses, £216.73

N Hartley, reimbursement to cut key to Water Meadows for grass contractor, £7

Mansfield fencing, install bin, remove arch tower, restore springy at Blackthorn Drive play area, £130

Dee Jackson Training, defibrillator/First Aid course, £50

TOP Garden Services, cutting churchyard grass, £180 (Section 137)

TOP Garden Services, cutting verges & Blackthorn Drive play field, £531

Age UK, charitable donation, £100 (Section 137)

Big C, charitable donation, £100 (Section 137)

Dereham Cancer Care, charitable donation, £100 (Section 137)

East Anglian Air Ambulance, charitable donation, £100 (Section 137)

East Anglian Children's Hospice, charitable donation, £100 (Sec 137)

Norfolk Accident Rescue, charitable donation, £100 (Section 137)

Priscilla Bacon Lodge, charitable donation, £100 (Section 137)

Revitalise, charitable donation, £100 (Section 137)

Dereham Meeting Point, charitable donation, £150 (Section 137)

Norfolk Citizens Advice, charitable donation, £150

A Glister, purchase and install Christmas tree at Scarning church, £170

S Goldsworthy, flowers for boxes, £31.96

J Service, cut, rake and clear Lucy's Meadow, £625

8.2 The meeting received a report of Actual to Budgeted expenditure

## 9 Clerk's Report

The meeting received a copy of the clerk's report.

## 10 Amendments to Internal Control Policy

The Council considered amendments to its Internal Control policy to include the move to online banking. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the amendments.

## **11 Amendments to Risk Management Policy**

The Council considered amendments to its Risk Management policy to include the move to online banking. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the amendments.

## **12 Green Grant**

The Council has been awarded a Green Grant of £500 from Breckland Council toward the cost of LEDs.

## **13 New Scarning Signs**

Cllr Richmond (Norfolk County Council) confirmed the five locations for the new signs. Dereham Road (two), Stone Road/Fen Road, Draytonhall Lane and Fen Road off the A47.

## **14 Cutting the Grass in Scarning**

The Council considered a request from Scarning PCC to cut the churchyard grass in 2022. It was proposed that from a budgetary point of view there should be a cap on the number of cuts each year. The Council is waiting for a quote from its contractor and will consider this at its next meeting.

## **15 Water Meadows Committee Report**

The Council received a copy of the Committee's report. It was **RESOLVED** to use part of the monies set aside for the play area to install safety surfacing under the swings and to apply for match funding. It was noted the four swing seats are to be replaced shortly. It was **RESOLVED** there is no need to employ a handyman.

## **16 Proposal for a Youth Shelter**

The Council considered a request for a replacement Youth Shelter at the Blackthorn Drive play area. It was **RESOLVED** to replace the two wooden youth shelters with one new shelter. In advance of this, the Council will ask Breckland Council if the Council can install a pre-cast concrete or brick shelter, or steel shelter on the site. The Council has not included this expense in its draft budget for 2022/23 and will consider it in its budget for 2023/24.

## **17 Outdoor Table Tennis Table**

The Council considered three quotes to install a concrete base for an outdoor table tennis table at Blackthorn Drive play area. The cheapest quote was that of Tim Abel and it was noted the Council is aware of the quality of his work. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Tim Abel to carry out the work in spring.

### **18 Draft Budget for 2022/23**

It was questioned whether the Council should be making charitable donations from the Precept. The draft budget will be considered again at the next meeting.

### **19 Printing the Beacon**

Cllr Abel advised the printing cost of the Gressenhall/Longham newsletter. It was questioned whether the Council should be printing a newsletter from an environmental perspective. The Council is currently printing four copies. It was **RESOLVED** to print ten copies on a trial basis for the next two months. Four copies to be put in the church and six copies in the Village Hall.

### **20 Queen's Jubilee 2022**

Cllr Mallard outlined the suggested events over the Jubilee period and the need for more volunteers to help. It was **RESOLVED** to focus on the Big Lunch on the Sunday.

### **21 Speed Watch Group**

Cllr Geary noted that there are eleven volunteers in the Speed watch group. Most have carried out the online training. When all have done the training, there will be face to face training.

### **22 Bright Ideas for Scarning**

This document will be considered further at the next meeting.

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

Bright ideas for Scarning proposals

Sale of former Highway Surveyors land at Chapel Lane

Terms of reference between the Parish Council and Scarning Playing Field Committee

A proposal to relocate the Beacon from Dereham Road lay-by

A request to cut the grass in Scarning churchyard

Draft budget 2022/23

## **24 Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will be in the Village Hall on December 13 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.50pm.