

Minutes of Scarning Parish Council Meeting held online on 19 October 2020

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 Turner (Breckland Council) Cllr W Richmond (Norfolk County Council).

1 Public Participation

Cllr Abel noted that a resident had asked if a silver birch tree on Dereham Road could be felled as it interferes with light into her garden. It was noted that the tree is healthy. The Council will discuss this request at its November meeting.

It was noted that a branch on the power line at the Broadway junction with Stone Road has been reported to Norfolk County Council.

Cllr Farnham noted that a Pizza Caravan will be at the Mid Norfolk Trailer garage on Dereham Road from 5.30-8.30pm on 12 November.

Cllr Hewson noted the street light on Black Horse Close is on all the time. The clerk will report.

2 Report from District and County Councillors

Cllr Turner (Breckland Council) reported that Breckland has successfully prosecuted several fly tippers, sending out the message that there is a penalty for fly tipping. She reminded householders who rely on others to take away their rubbish assuming it is going to the recycling centre to please ask to see the collectors Waste Carriers Licence. If they don't have one, and any fly tipping by them is identified, it is the householder who will be held responsible and likely fined.

Front line services continue to be delivered, and whilst most officers have returned to their original duties still working efficiently from home, with the onset of a possible second wave of the pandemic, systems are in place to continue supporting the community, especially the vulnerable.

Local businesses continue to be supported with advice and help. The Council continues to work with other local authorities and agencies in managing the impact of the pandemic on the whole community.

Cllr Richmond (Norfolk County Council) said that he had noticed the 20mph advisory speed limit near the school starts at the Grange and ends at School Plain. He is suggesting to Highways that this is moved to further down the Dereham Road, beyond the Draytonhall Lane junction. This may help the road crossing operative in this location. Cllr Richmond will be using his Local Member Highways Budget, but asked if the Parish Council would support him if the cost exceeds his Budget of £3,000. Cllr Hewson noted that there is no signage on Grange Road.

3 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr P Hewett (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 21 September 2020 as a true and accurate record.

6 Matters Arising

A date for delivery of the noticeboard outside the school is awaited.

7 Planning

7.1 Breckland Council decisions

Brookside Barn, Brookside Farm, Chapel Lane Construction of three bay cartshed	3PL/2020/0850/HOU Approved
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Pennymeadow Nursery, Podmore Lane Two bungalows and garages (amended scheme following grant of planning Permission on appeal)	3PL/2020/0856/F Approved
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8 Finance

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

Chq 102197 PKF Littlejohn LLP, external audit fee, £240
102198 Mansfield Fencing, matting & seeding of football goal areas at
Meadows, £885
102199 T T Jones Electrical Ltd, electrical testing programme, £178.20
102200 Parsons & co, printing October newsletter, £147.98
102201 Parsons & co, printing November newsletter, £145.08
102202 T T Jones Electrical Ltd, street light maintenance, £57.17
102203 Royal British Legion, Remembrance Day wreath, £50
102204 TOP Garden Services, cutting verges and Water Meadows play field,
£796.50
102205 TOP Garden Services, grass cutting in churchyard, £180
102206 Eon, unmetered street light energy, £217.98

8.2 The following payments received were noted:

A Buckingham, rent for former Broadway Allotment site, £311.14
Cash, sale of world war one booklet, £5
Breckland Council, balance of Precept, £18,000

8.3 The meeting received a report of Actual to Budgeted expenditure

8.4 Internal Control Report

Cllr Parsons reported that he had carried out the checks of the Council's accounts. His report was dated 16 September 2020 and will be held on file. He noted there had been some difficulty in reconciling the Council's charity payments, which had been made at the end of the financial year and which had not all been banked by the 31 March 2020. The clerk noted that as a result of this the charity payments were to be made earlier.

8.5 The completion of the External Audit was noted.

9 Clerk's Report

The clerk noted that he had submitted a match funding application to Norfolk Community Foundation in respect of new metal fencing at the Water Meadows play area.

Prices have been obtained re Youth Shelters and Table Tennis tables.

The new bus shelter at Dereham Road/Chestnut Road will be installed in early November.

A delivery date for the new noticeboard to be installed near the school is awaited.

The tenant has renewed his lease of the former Broadway Allotment site.

Taylor Wimpey has cut the hedge at Draytonhall Lane/A47 junction.

10 Scarning Beacon

Cllr Farnham advised that the November edition of the Beacon will be eighteen pages in length. It will be the last printed copy to be delivered to all residents. He said that he would like to take advertisements from January 2021 and to donate the proceeds of all advertisements to charity, with readers choosing which charity from a choice of three charities in each edition. He noted that eighty people had signed up to receive the newsletter by email. Cllr Abel asked if a small number of copies could be printed from the advertising revenue. Cllr Turner said that in Shipdham each distributor of the newsletter is given ten SAE's and they post the newsletter to these residents. A small donation is requested for this. It was noted that when the Village Hall reopens, some printed copies could be made available at the coffee mornings.

11 Report from the Playing Field Committee

Cllr Hewson noted that the accounts of the Playing Field Committee had been submitted to the clerk, together with a Budget for 2021/22. He said he is waiting for quotes regarding the repairs to the play equipment and new play equipment. He noted that a dead cherry tree had been cut down on the corner of Park Lane and that the hedge had been cut to improve visibility when leaving the car park onto Shipdham Lane.

Cllr Parsons asked if the Playing Field Committee might like the Parish Council to install an outdoor table tennis table on the playing field.

12 Report from the Water Meadows sub committee

Matting has been laid down in preparation for moving the two goals and backboards on the Water Meadows play area. The wood of one of the goals is rotten and will be replaced when the goals are moved. One of the backboards was pulled down and was also rotting. This too will be replaced. The goals and backboards will be moved in October/November once the seeded areas have taken.

The meadows have been cut, but the contractor has cut it all instead of half of it and he has not cut the area near the Ted Ellis play area.

Lucy's Meadow is to be cut and cleared late this month/early November depending on the hire of a baler. A date is awaited from the contractor.

An area either side of the entrance into the Water Meadows from Blackthorn Drive has been cleared. The brambles near the Ted Ellis play area will be cut back.

Cllr Druce has repaired the damaged litter bin and put back in the small children's play area.

The Internal Drainage Board has cleared the ditch by the entrance to the Water Meadows at Blackthorn Drive and has cleared the stream.

13 Hedge

The meeting received an update re cutting the hedge from Black Horse Close to Podmore Lane. It was noted that if it is a roadside hedge, the hedge can be cut more than once a year. The Council will return to this in the spring.

14 Fencing at Water Meadows Play Area

It was noted that the Council had **RESOLVED** to appoint G & G Fencing to install new iron fencing at the Water Meadows play area.

15 Ted Ellis Play Area

It was noted that the Council had **RESOLVED** to appoint Fenland Leisure to install matting at the Ted Ellis play area.

16 Chestnut Road

A resident at Chestnut Road has asked the Council to tarmac part of the pavement at Chestnut Road. Cllr Turner noted that Alison Webb, the Cabinet Member for Housing is involved and trying to resolve the situation. A Police officer has been appointed. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council should take no action regarding the pavement.

17 Scarning Fen Footpath

Cllr Abel noted that the entrance to the footpath would benefit from concrete or tarmac laid into the edges. He was asked to quote for the work. The clerk will contact Norfolk County Council, as the Parish Council does not own the footpath.

18 Solar Light

The Council considered the installation of a solar light at the Black Horse Close/Dereham Road bus shelter. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Westcotec to carry out the work.

19 Dereham Road/Draytonhall Lane Junction

The Council considered a request for double yellow lines near the Dereham Road/Draytonhall Lane junction. It was noted that drivers should not be parking near the junction. It was questioned that if double yellow lines were laid down, who would enforce them. It was **RESOLVED** to write to the school asking parents to be considerate of residents when parking. A similar request will be made in the newsletter.

20 Road Crossing Operative

It was noted that Norfolk County Council is to appoint a new road crossing operative near the Dereham Road/Draytonhall Lane junction,

21 Scarning Playing Field

Cllr Hewson noted that he was still waiting for quotes. It was **RESOLVED** to carry this matter to the November meeting.

22 Bus Shelter Contractor

The Council considered the appointment of a contractor to install bus shelter at Dereham Road as part of the Parish Council's Parish Partnership bid. The Council received three quotes. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint G W Shelter Solutions to carry out the work.

23 Scarning PCC Request

The Council considered a Grant Application from Scarning PCC to cut the grass in the churchyard. It was **RESOLVED** to cut the grass in 2021.

24 Grass Cutting in Scarning Churchyard

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint TOP Garden Services to cut the grass Scarning churchyard in 2021.

25 Roadside Verges and Water Meadows Playing Field Contractor

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint TOP Garden Services to cut the roadside verges and Scarning Water Meadows in 2021.

26 Scarning Water Meadows

The clerk had met officers from Breckland's Asset Management team re the Water Meadows. As the whole of the scrub area had been cut by the Council's contractor instead of half, and because Lucy's Meadow had still to be cut, Breckland Council refused to allow the Parish Council to install a bench near the stream. The clerk has asked Breckland Council to show the Parish Council the relevant clause in the lease under which the Parish Council needs permission for actions outside the two play areas. It was noted that the Parish Council has been maintaining its areas of land since the inception of the lease.

Cllr Turner said that Breckland will be giving permission for a bench to be installed. She noted that the Water Meadows is a vast area to maintain. She further noted that Cllr Sherwood is leading a new group regarding the environment and suggested the Council might like to meet with him regarding the Meadows.

27 Purchase of Fencing

At the meeting (above) Breckland suggested in terms of health and safety that the Parish Council may wish to fence off the front area of the three ponds on the Meadows (two of these being next to the path and the third near the large playing field.) It was

noted that the Parish Council risk assesses this area and that signs alerting to the presence of water are in front of the ponds. It was **RESOLVED** to carry out any works as part of the management of the whole site.

28 Litter/Dog Bin Water Meadows

The Council considered the purchase of an additional litter/dog bin for the Water Meadows. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase and to install at the entrance to the large playing field near the stream/play area. Breckland Council has agreed to this location.

29 Charitable Donations

It was **RESOLVED** to donate £100 to each of the following charities:-

Big C
Dereham Cancer Care
East Anglian Children's Hospice
East Anglian Air Ambulance
Norfolk Accident Rescue
Norfolk Age UK
Priscilla Bacon Lodge
Revitalise

30 Items for inclusion in the next agenda

A proposal to archive all village documents.

31 Next meeting

The next meeting will be online at 7pm on November 16.

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