

**Minutes of Scarning Parish Council Meeting
held in Scarning Village Hall on 12 December 2022**

Present: F Bradford (Chair), T Abel, M Blackburn, S Bunn, C Geary, C Hewson, M Steward. In attendance: N Hartley (Parish Clerk).

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Farnham and Mallard, and Cllrs P Hewett and L Turner (Breckland Council) and Cllr W Richmond (Norfolk County Council)

2 Report from Norfolk County Councillor

Cllr Richmond sent the following report. Re the Washbridge footpath, Serco has assessed the drainage issue and will get this cleared. Some minor work has been done by hand, but there will be a delay as Serco needs a licence re the surrounding trees to be able to complete the clearance work.

3 Declarations of Interest

None.

4 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November, 2022, as a true and accurate record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

5 Matters Arising

It was noted that Norfolk County Council will monitor whether the hedge at the junction of Chapel Lane and Dereham Road needs to be cut.

A request has been made to the Area Team by Norfolk County Council's Ketteringham depot for the road signs in the parish to be cleaned.

Cllr Richmond (Norfolk County Council) had reported that works to the 'dips' at Dereham Road near Chestnut Road were patching works.

Ravenscroft is to carry out a Tree Survey for the Parish Council at the end of December.

6 Planning

6.1 Applications considered:-

Emmerdale House, 75 Dereham Road
Proposed two storey side & single storey rear extensions including rooflights to the rear elevation

3PL/2022/1315/HOU
No objection

27 Hawthorn Drive
Timber structure/pergola to rear elevation and including rear decking (Retrospective)

3PL/2022/1174/HOU
No objection

7 Meadowlea, Podmore Lane

Cllr Abel noted that there are works being carried out to Meadowlea, Podmore Lane, which may not have planning permission. These works are the incorporation of a barn into the building, an increase in the roof height and the construction of an extension at either end of the building. It was **RESOLVED** to draw Breckland Council's attention to this.

8 Finance

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

Scarning Fuel Allotment Charity, grant payment, £1,050
N Hartley, clerk's salary, £1,124.78
A Glister, purchase and installation of Christmas tree outside church, £170

9 Clerk's Report

A copy of the Clerk's report is attached to the minutes.

10 Update on the Council's request for a 40mph Speed Limit on Dereham Road

Cllr Richmond (Norfolk County Council) had reported that he had previously put forward the speed limits on Dereham Road to be considered under the County Council's Safety Community Fund. The speed limits will be considered in the 2023/24 financial along with other proposals within Breckland and South Norfolk.

11 Grass Cutting Contract 2023

The Council considered a quote from Top Garden Services to cut the verges, meadows play areas, Scarning Fen and churchyard in 2023. The costs will increase from £75 to £78.75 to cut the grass in the churchyard and £221.50 to £232.60 to cut the other areas. It was **RESOLVED** to re-appoint Top Garden Services.

12 Update on Tree Preservation Orders

The Council had been advised by Breckland Council that its comments on the Tree Preservation Orders on two oaks on the Shipdham Lane playing field will be considered by the Planning Committee so that the elected members can decide whether to confirm the order or not. The date of the meeting will be advised.

13 Tree and Hedgerow Management Policy

This was held over to the January meeting once the Playing Field Committee has met.

14 Lease of the Water Meadows Play Areas

The Council considered further the proposed lease from Breckland Council. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would like a clause in the lease outlining how the Parish Council approaches Breckland Council with requests for new assets/play equipment on one or both play areas, as well as holding events. The Council accepted the remainder of the lease, which will include its requested 10 year term. Breckland Council will also remove a clause requesting £250 from the Parish Council to monitor the condition of two trees outside the Ted Ellis play area.

15 Appointment of Solicitors

It was **RESOLVED** to wait until the Council has received the final lease.

16 Ted Ellis Walk Litter Bin

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a replacement litter bin to be installed near the church end of Ted Ellis Walk.

17 Draft Budget for 2023/24

It was **RESOLVED** to set the Budget/Precept for 2023/24 at £42,000. The Council calculated the increase in its portion of residents' Council Tax bills, while recognising the increase in the prices its contractors charge in order to continue to provide services to residents.

18 Playing Field Car Park

It was **RESOLVED** to invite Alan Glister, Chair of the Village Hall Trust, to the Council's January meeting to provide an update on the proposed car park extension.

19 Request to Cut the Hedgerow in the Church lay-by

It was **RESOLVED** to ask Norfolk County Council to cut back the hedge in the church lay-by to improve car parking.

20 Update on Live Streaming Council Meetings

It was noted that whilst the Parish Council had advertised live streaming the November meeting on its website, in the Dereham Times, the parish website and social media, only one person had asked to join the meeting remotely. It was **RESOLVED** not to pursue this further.

21 Update on the Community Boxes

Cllr Geary noted that whilst there had been donations of foodstuffs into the boxes at the church, people are not taking items out of the boxes. Cllr Geary has been taking surplus items to the Dereham Foodbank. The scheme is being advertised. The Council will review the scheme in March 2023.

22 Update on the Speed Watch Group

Cllr Geary noted that a new volunteer has been trained and the Speed Watch group will resume in the new year.

23 Items for Inclusion in the Next Agenda

Invitation to Alan Glister to update the Council re the Shipdham Lane Playing Field car park

Purchase of a new grit bin or lid for the bin next at Mayfair

Update on a new lease re the Meadows play areas

Appointment of solicitors re the Meadows lease

Coronation celebrations

24 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on 16 January 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.30pm

Clerk's Report

Litter Bin Chestnut Road/Dereham Road Bus Shelter

A new bin has been installed.

Outdoor Fitness Sign

A replacement sign has been fitted at Shipdham Lane playing field.

WATER MEADOWS

Play Report Works

The Mansfields have carried out some of the works recommended in the annual report. The Parish Council has accepted the quote of NGF Play Ltd to carry out the remainder of the works.