

WHISSONSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual meeting of Whissonsett Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 13th July 2020.

Under the Coronavirus Act, the Secretary of State has published meetings regulations which remove the requirement to hold annual meetings and allow virtual meetings up to 7 May 2021. These are contained in The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Present: Cllr Sally Dye (Chair)
Cllr Bruce Andrews (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Caroline Edge
Cllr Catherine McGee
Cllr Charles Holloway

D/Cllr Trevor Carter
C/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, there were no apologies received.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2020.

Cllr Dye proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Holloway and agreed by Council. The Chairman will sign the minutes in due course.

4. Open Forum for Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

5. County & District Councillors Reports.

A written report was received from C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris and is attached to these minutes. In addition he reported that County Council were now looking at the recovery phase in respect of Covid-19, to get the economy back on track and people working again, further details are available on the NCC website.

The C/Cllr also reported that he was dealing with the water leak on London Street. A team had flushed the drain and also repaired a missing storm grate which had been letting debris into the pipework, causing blockages. The main cause for concern now was that part of the drainage system included inadequate pipework and the C/Cllr will continue to try to resolve this.

D/Cllr Carter reported the following in respect of Breckland:

- Play areas were opening up and this included safety advice for members of the public.
- Charity shops are also re-opening but were in urgent need of donations.
- MOT testing for vehicles which had been eligible for an extension would be required from 1st August.

The Chairman thanked both Cllr's for their inputs.

6. Planning Issues

a) Decisions to note.

Council noted the following two planning decisions:

Application	Parish Council Comments	Breckland Decision
3PL/2020/0107/F – 1 & 2 Sunnyside, London Street – two new three-bedroom dwellings.	WPC objected on the grounds of: Inappropriate scale in comparison to existing settlement, and Access road inadequate.	REFUSED.
3PL/2020/0114/HOU - 1 Primrose Cottage, London Street - demolition of existing garage and erection of detached annex	WPC had no objections on the proviso that the building remains as an annex to the existing property and cannot be considered a separate property at any time in the future.	PERMISSION

b) Applications to consider.

In respect of the following two applications, Council agreed to reiterate previous comments but, in respect of 3PL/2020/0629/D, it would appear that the original planning approval was for a single storey dwelling and this would be confirmed and challenged if correct.

- 3PL/2020/0630/D – The Old Pit, High Street - Reserved matters application for 3 dwellings following outline permission 3PL/2017/0352/O.
- 3PL/2020/0629/D – The Old Pit, High Street - Reserved matters application for one dwelling following outline 3PL/2017/0937/O.

7. To consider any Highways matters.

a) To receive an update re matters previously reported.

- Fly tipping on Raynham Road – this had been removed by Council members, however, a new tip had been spotted and D/Cllr Carter will remove this.
- Water Leaks, London Road – see item 5 above.

b) To receive a report on the data collected by the SAM II sign.

Cllr McGee reported that there had been no meaningful data collected, due to the lockdown, until very recently and now that traffic has returned to much more normal levels there will be data to report at the next meeting.

After receiving comments about the speed of vehicles (especially agricultural traffic) travelling on Raynham Road, leaving the village, the sign has been turned around to investigate potential speeders where, despite the 30pmh signs, vehicles appear to speed up as they pass West End. The data did not show vehicles exceeding the speed limit in the other direction.

Having received reports of speeding drivers travelling up Mill Lane from the fork in the road, Cllr McGee proposed an additional site somewhere in area of the houses at the bottom of Mill Lane. This is permitted by Highways and the cost to the Council would be for a post and bracket for the sign to be attached to, approx. £80 to £100. Cllr Dye seconded this proposal and Cllr McGee will take the issue forward.

The sign can be located at any site for a maximum of four weeks and cannot be returned to the same spot for six weeks. It is currently rotated around three sites; West End, Dereham Road and London Street but there is no limit on the number of sites, although they must be approved by Highways.

A new battery has been purchased as the data is unusable if the battery dies whilst in situ and there are now two fully functional batteries.

The Chairman thanked Cllr McGee for her efforts in respect of speeding in the village.

c) To consider possible options for an application to the Parish Partnership Scheme.

There were no possible options suggested.

d) To consider any new issues.

There were no new highway issues raised.

8. To consider issues relating to the Play Area.

a) To consider actions required to re-open the play area to members of the public.

Council agreed that a risk assessment should be carried out to ensure the area was safe to re-open and this will be carried out by Cllr's Dye and Edge.

b) To consider any further actions resulting from the 2019 Play Area Inspection Report.

Cllr's Dye and Edge will look at any remaining actions required in the report.

c) To consider any other issues.

There were no other issues to consider.

9. To consider maintenance and other issues relating to:

a) The Allotments.

The allotments are in good order, with the plots now being well used.

b) Parish Council trees, including consideration of a tree survey (see item 12.b below).

Cllr Dye proposed a professional tree survey for the high-risk trees and any others which were causing concerns, this was seconded by Cllr Holloway and agreed by Council.

Two areas of concern had been raised by local residents and in respect of the one at St Mary's Meadow, this will be included in the tree inspection. The concern at Church Close will be dealt with by the grass contractor, although it could not be done before August due to the nesting birds.

In respect of the Tree Policy, for consideration at item 12.b, it was agreed to investigate the costs of the professional tree survey prior to adopting the policy.

c) Grass Cutting.

There were no further issues other than those raised in the item above.

d) The Village Sign.

Cllr Edge is dealing with any maintenance issues.

e) Springwell, the Campingland railings and the turnstiles, including works to reset turnstile.

The renovation works have been completed with the exception of the works to reset the turnstile, however, that was due to be completed shortly. Council noted that the urgent works to re-set the turnstile had been authorised at a cost of up to £200.

f) All other village areas.

There were no other issues raised.

10. To receive an update re the publication of a Parish newsletter.

Council agreed to remove this item from the agenda due to the lack of interest from other groups in the village.

11. Correspondence

Council noted the Covid-19 related correspondence and Cllr McGee reported that she had been assisting some of the more vulnerable members of the community but this had eased off as everyone was now coping.

12. Finance & Governance Matters

a) To receive a financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2021.

The financial statement was noted.

b) To consider approval of a Tree policy.

This item had been dealt with at item 9.b above.

c) To approve the following payments:

Cllr Dye proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Edge and approved by Council.

• Clerk (Salary/Allowance – June/July)	£267.30
• HMRC	£0.20
• Norfolk PTS (Training)	£40.00

- Cllr Dye (Allotment & previous Website costs) £50.95
- Insurance Renewal (year 2 of 3) £403.67 (paid 5.6.2020)
- Contractor (railings etc) £940.00
- Contractor (grass cutting) £2034.00
- Sam II Sign – replacement battery £96.00

13. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

Cllr Holloway requested a new item 'Consideration of Budget' and Cllr Holloway requested 'Clearance of Footpaths' be included on the next agenda.

14. To note the next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 14th September 2020.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the meeting then closed at 8.51pm.

Signed:

Date:

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Report July 2020

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) have received new equipment to the tune of £1.44m as part an investment by NCC in technology and equipment. In addition, 5 new tactical response vehicles (smaller fire appliances with 4-wheel drive) will be put into service this month. This will enhance NFRS's capability in extreme weather conditions and at difficult to reach locations. The total cost of these vehicles, including purchase cost and fitting them with specialist equipment, is £187k.

On the 6th July NCC Cabinet was given a summary of the forecast financial position for 2020-21 at March 2021. The revenue budget is forecast to be £15.8m overspent mainly due to pressures from NCC's necessary response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The summer highway improvement programme is well under way. Work on surface dressing and resurfacing is being carried out by teams observing social distancing measures which have been put in place to protect the workforce from Covid-19. The second cut of highway verges has just started and should be completed by August. NCC has been allocated an additional £22m from the government "pothole fund" which will lead to accelerated improvement to the counties road over the next few years.

As part of the governments plan to control future local outbreaks of Covid-19, all local authorities have been instructed to have a Local Outbreak Control Plan in place. NCC have been allocated £3.7m from the Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant to support the additional public health capacity to implement plans and run the scheme in Norfolk. The plan will set out how NCC will work with partners to prevent local outbreaks and how real time data from the NHS Test and Trace system and local intelligence to identify emerging recurrence of Covid-19.

An ambitious plan to get the economy of Norfolk and Suffolk back on its feet in the wake of Covid-19 has been launched. It is being put together by the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership working closely with County, District and Borough Councils in Norfolk and Suffolk. The outline of the plan and how it is to be funded can be viewed in the recent Cabinet agenda which is available on the NCC website.

Mark Kiddle-Morris