

WHISSONSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Whissonsett Parish Council held virtually at 7.30pm on Monday 8th March 2021.

Present: Cllr Sally Dye (Chair)
Cllr Bruce Andrews (Vice Chair)
Cllr James Daniels
Cllr Catherine McGee
Cllr Charles Holloway
Cllr Caroline Edge
Cllr Tristan Ireson

District Cllr Trevor Carter
County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
One member of the public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris who would be arriving late.

2. To consider the co-option of a new Councillor.

This item will be dealt with later in the meeting; the prospective candidate had been delayed.

3. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2021.

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

5. Open Forum for Public Participation.

The member of the public queried the need to fell the Beech Tree and asked if it could be postponed or stopped altogether. The Chairman responded that the disease had now been confirmed by Forest Research and sadly but for safety reasons the tree must come down.

6. County & District Councillors Reports.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris had submitted a written report and this is attached.

D/Cllr Carter reported the following matters:

A number of District Councillors are assisting residents with support needs, such as loneliness, shopping etc and this has been very effective. The scheme will continue and anyone requiring support is advised to contact Samantha.armitage@breckland.gov.uk.

Breckland are launching a new support programme for young carers age 16-24. The 'My Future Social Programme' will offer workshops such as carers skills for the workplace, well-being and comedy. Carers can register at www.breckland.gov.uk/myfuture.

The Norfolk Assistance Scheme continues and the point of contact for anyone vulnerable is 0344 800 8020. Help can be provided with food, shopping, bills and money for everyday essentials. Help is also available by contacting communitysupport@breckland.gov.uk.

Breckland front-line, essential services are continuing with service updates on the Breckland website. After some disruption caused by the weather recently, waste collections are now back to normal.

The Chairman thanked the D/Cllr and confirmed that no requests for assistance had been received recently from Whissonsett residents.

7. Planning Issues

a) Decisions to note.

Council noted the following application had been approved.

- 3PL/2021/0087/D – Old Gravel Pit, Mill Road - Reserved matter application for one residential dwelling.

Decisions were awaited on the following three applications. The Chairman confirmed that the no objections had been submitted by the Parish Council in respect of the two Church Farm Barn applications.

- 3PL/2021/0111/F – Church Farm Barn, New Road - Subdivision of Existing Barn (granted permission under reference 3PL/1998/0364/F) into 2 Residential Units and retention of Art Workshop.
- 3PL/2021/0112/Listed Building Consent – Church Farm Barn, New Road - Subdivision of Existing Barn (granted permission under reference 3PL/1998/0364/F) into 2 Residential Units and retention of Art Workshop.
- 3OB/2021/0004/OB – Field between New Road and London Road - discharge of obligation from Section 106 on 2019/1416 - re plots available for self build.

b) Applications to consider.

There were no planning applications to consider.

c) To receive an update re the appeal to the Secretary of State in respect of the following application: 3PL/2020/0107/F - 1 & 2 Sunnyside London Street Whissonsett, Two new 3-bedroom dwellings.

Council noted that this appeal had been dismissed.

8. To consider any Highways matters.

a) To receive an update re matters previously reported.

The following matters will be dealt with upon the arrival of C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris.

- Mill Lane – Highways Land – C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris is taking this matter forward.
- Mill Lane – resurfacing works lifting – C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris is taking this matter forward.
- London Street – flooding – C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris is taking this matter forward.

b) To receive a report regarding the SAM II sign.

Cllr McGee had circulated a report from the sign which indicated there were no speeding issues at the current locations. Council agreed to consider alternative locations but these needed to be agreed with the new Highway Engineer.

Cllr McGee confirmed that the results were skewed on rainy days, when the sign counted the rain as a vehicle.

c) To consider any other issues.

There are a large number of potholes in the village and the Chairman requested that all Councillors report any that they are aware of as soon as possible.

At this point, D/Cllr Carter left the meeting.

9. To consider issues relating to the Play Area.

a) To consider matters arising from the 2020 Play Area Inspection Report.

Cllr Edge had dealt with many of the matters raised in the report but some are ongoing as specialist equipment is required. Council agreed that quotes to repair the fencing and paint the goalposts should be obtained. It was agreed that the missing strut on the goal post was not structural but simply to hold a net in place.

b) To consider any other issues.

The Chairman confirmed that the moles had been dealt with.

10. To receive an update regarding the maintenance of parish council trees.

a) To receive an update regarding ongoing tree works including the Beech Tree, now positively identified as having Kretzschmaria deusta.

The Chairman reported that, sadly, the disease had now been confirmed and, in the interests of safety, the tree needed to be removed. Four quotes had been received and, although discussions concerning selling the felled wood took place, it was decided that the contractors had likely factored in the sale of the wood into their quotes and the quote would probably increase if they were not able to take the wood. Cllr Holloway proposed approval of a quote for £5,675 to fell and remove the wood, this was seconded by Cllr McGee and approved by Council.

b) To consider the need to remove wood from below the Oak Tree, near to the Church.

Council noted that the larger branches had been removed and anything remaining would be valuable for wildlife; that being the case then no further action was required.

c) To consider any other issues.

The Tree Warden will give his report at the May meeting.

11. To consider any maintenance and other issues relating to village areas.

Wire fence near to Church Close – a complaint had been received about this fence being used as a walkway and Council agreed that it served no purpose other than as a boundary line. However, if the wire was removed, with the posts remaining, the line would still be visible. Council agreed to remove the wire and Cllrs Edge and McGee will deal.

12. To consider the installation of a new dog bin at North View Drive.

Breckland had approved the siting on a new dual-purpose litter/dog waste bin at North View Drive. Cllr Dye proposed the purchase of a green bin for £235, this was seconded by Cllr Holloway and agreed by Council.

A request to reinstate a 'no dog fouling' sign had been received and Council agreed that dog fouling was a difficult issue to resolve but notices did not appear to have any effect on the problem and decided that any further signage was not value for money. Anyone with evidence of dog fouling was advised to contact the Breckland Dog Warden, who can take the matter forward.

At this point in the meeting, both C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris and Mr Ireson joined the meeting and the following items were dealt with.

Item 2 – Cllr McGee proposed that Mr Tristan Ireson be co-opted onto the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Edge and agreed by Council. Cllr Ireson signed his declaration of acceptance of office form.

Item 6 & 8 – C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris had no further updates from County except that the remedial works to resolve the pipework issues on London Street have been programmed and he will be attending site meetings with the new Highways Engineer later in the week and would be taking a look at the issues in Whissonsett. Council asked that he also include the ownership of the Ash Trees in New Road and the road degradation on London Street.

Cllr Ireson reported an eroded manhole cover and this will be reported on the Highways system.

At this point, C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris left the meeting.

13. To receive an update regarding the Village Hall & Committee.

Council had been advised that some of the long-serving Village Hall Committee members were standing down and new members were required. If new members were not found then the management of the Hall would pass to the Parish Council and there was a danger the Hall would have to close. The Chairman advised members that they were eligible to volunteer if they wished but to spread the word please as help was urgently required. It was noted that the groups who regularly used the Hall should be sending representatives to the Committee meetings.

14. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted and no actions were required.

- Application to amend the Definitive Map – London Road to Fakenham Road, Colkirk
- Email from NALC re Extension of Regulations to hold Virtual Meetings & Date of 2021 Annual Meetings.

15. Finance & Governance Matters

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

Council noted the financial statement and no queries were raised.

b) To consider any financial year-end charitable donations.

Cllr Andrews proposed a donation of £50 to the Norfolk Citizens Advice, this was seconded by Cllr Dye and agreed by Council.

c) To review and consider approval of the following policy documents.

Council noted only minor amendments had been made and Cllr Dye proposed approval of the policy documents, this was seconded by Cllr Edge and agreed by Council.

- Financial Regulations
- Standing Orders
- Risk Assessment & Management Policy
- Asset Register
- Training & Development Policy
- Publication Scheme
- Planning Policy
- Grant Awarding Policy

- Lone Worker Policy
- Information & Data Protection Policy

d) To approve the following payments.

Cllr Dye proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr McGee and agreed by Council. However, in respect of the Village Hall grant this was approved with the proviso that confirmation the Hall would remain open be received.

• Clerk (Salary/Allowance – Feb/March & Expenses)	£324.35
• Grass Contractor (mole removal)	£100.00
• ICO (Data Protection)	£35.00 (direct debit)
• Forest Research (Lab test on Beech Tree)	£48.00
• Tree Contractor (Oak – removal of damaged branches)	£180.00
• Website Renewal (reimburse Clerk)	£98.86
• Village Hall Grant	£2,500.00
• Norfolk Citizens Advice	£50.00

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

The Chairman requested consideration of a Parish Council Facebook group be added to the next agenda.

17. To note the Annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 10th May 2021, following the Annual Parish meeting commencing at 7.00pm.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the meeting then closed at 9.13pm.

Signed:

Date:

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Report March 2021

Budget:

The County Council set the budget for 21/22 at the February meeting. As related in previous reports the general council tax has been raised by 1.99% and the adult social care part of the tax has been increased by 2%. There is significant pressure on the budget through growth in demand especially in adult social care and making over £18m provision for short term Covid 19 pressures. However, the budget represents a continued sustained investment in maintaining and strengthening the councils key services while simultaneously providing the maximum possible resources to address ongoing Covid 19 costs which are expected to continue into 2021/22.

Included in the budget is £400k to be spent on renewal and expansion of local footpaths as well as a further £495k over the next 3 years on the Greenways project to which will benefit the health and wellbeing of Norfolk residents.

Members personal budget has been increased from £6k to £10k and as well as small highway improvements can also be used to support environmental projects.

Highways:

At last, a new highway engineer has been appointed and he started work last week. I have planned to escort him around my division next week to impart some of my local knowledge as he does not know this part of Norfolk. Another 2 members of staff have also been recruited to the highways team for this area so there is now a full complement of inspectors and technicians.