

## WHISSONSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Whissonsett Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in the Village Hall.

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

County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris (arrived late)  
Mr James Heaton – Breckland Council Housing Enabling Officer  
Five Members of the Public  
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from Cllr Pollard were approved.

### **2. To receive any declarations of interest.**

Cllr Ireson declared an interest in item 8b – 3PL/2021/1600/LB.

### **3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

Cllr Ireson proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Holloway and unanimously agreed by Council.

### **4. To note the resignation of Cllr Bruce Andrews and to elect a Vice-Chairman.**

Council noted the resignation of Cllr Andrews and were grateful for everything he had done during his time on the Council.

Cllr Dye proposed that Cllr Holloway be elected as Vice-Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Edge and unanimously agreed by Council.

### **5. To receive a Breckland presentation – Housing for Local People.**

Mr Heaton, from Breckland Council gave a presentation: Housing for Local People.

Mr Heaton said there was likely to be a need for social housing in the village to enable local people to stay near friends and families and this scheme was an opportunity to provide that housing.

Under the Rural Exception Site scheme, an assessment is carried out to determine the need in the village and then a site is identified, normally a small patch of agricultural land which would not usually get permission for housing, with four to six homes being built on it but no large-scale executive developments. Any site should be adjacent to the village and is sold to the housing association at a slightly higher price than normal agricultural land. No developers are involved in

the scheme, there are no profits to be made and all housing is built by the housing associations. The properties are then either rented or offered as shared ownership (up to 80% and sold at full market value). There is a clear allocation policy giving local people the first opportunity, and this policy remains in-perpetuity.

Mr Heaton then outlined the Community Led scheme whereby a community group becomes the landlord, examples include schemes for older people to reduce loneliness, to support well-being, for families or young people. Again, this scheme is not for profit and will provide affordable housing. This option does give the parish council more control over what is built and who can live there. Access to suitable experts is available for any council wishing to go down this route.

Both schemes are backed by Government grants. Once a scheme is identified it must go through the normal planning process.

The advantage of both schemes is that they offer local people an affordable way to remain in the village.

Questions regarding the existing social housing stock and Broadland land were raised and these will be clarified before the next meeting in March.

The Chairman thanked Mr Heaton for the presentation and Council will consider the way forward at the next meeting. Mr Heaton then left the meeting.

## **6. Open Forum for Public Participation.**

In response to a question, Council confirmed that thanks had been sent to ex-District Cllr Trevor Carter on his retirement.

Representatives of the Village Hall outlined the plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and informed Council that funding was an issue as the grant from Breckland was now unlikely to be available. Cllr Edge proposed a donation of £500 towards the celebrations, this was seconded by Cllr Holloway and unanimously agreed by Council. Council thanked the Village Hall Committee for their efforts.

Fly-tipping along Back Lane at Stanfield was raised and the member of public was advised to report it to Breckland. The matter will also be notified to the new District Councillor.

The flooding on London Road was raised and Council confirmed that the works were now included in the NCC budget and being programmed.

The poor road surface on Dereham/Brisley Road was also raised and the member of public was advised to report it to Highways.

A query was raised regarding the SAM II Speed Sign and Cllr Ireson informed the meeting that he had not yet had time to have the training required. A member of the public volunteered to assist and this was gratefully received. The Chairman confirmed that the locations of the sign had been agreed with the Highways Department at NCC.

## 7. County & District Councillors Reports.

The County Cllr's report is attached and in the absence of the District Cllr, there was no report.

## 8. Planning Issues

### a) Decisions to note.

Council noted that the following applications remained undecided:

- 3PL/2021/0274/CU – Caravan, Back Lane, Stanfield - change of use of agricultural and brown field land to residential caravan use for an extended Traveller family. A maximum of two static caravans and three touring caravans to be stationed on the land, on either a temporary or permanent basis (Retrospective).
- 3PL/2021/1457/VAR – Land adj The Cottage, New Road - variation of Condition No 2 on 3PL/2020/0004/D - Minor design changes to dwelling.
- 3PL/2021/1465/F – Lower Farm, New Road - creation of Wellness retreat facility with the erection of 3no.lodge cabin and studio.

Council noted the following application had been refused:

- 3PL/2021/0981/O – land adjacent to West End, Rayner Lane – three self build detached dwellings including site layout amended to take account of tree officer comments.
- Council noted the following applications had been approved:
- 3PL/2021/1327/F – Church Farm, School Road - conversion and extension of workshop/garage to a holiday let/annexe, wet room/plant room and carport including re-instatement of separate access opposite Wash Lane.
- 3PL/2021/1394/VAR – Lower Farm, New Road - variation of Condition No 2 on 3PL/2021/0492/VAR -Changes to cart shed/garage block.

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### b) Applications to consider.

Council had no comments in respect of the following application:

- 3PL/2021/1600/LB – Church Farm, School Road - remove internal chimney breast, strengthen, replace unsympathetic repairs and reface eroded sections of Church Farm Annex North Wall - Church Farm, School Road.

### c) To receive an update regarding planning enforcement issues.

There was no update in respect of any outstanding enforcement issues and no further action is anticipated by Breckland.

## 9. Highways matters.

### a) To receive an update re matters previously reported.

Council noted the following updates:

- Mill Lane – Open Reach vehicles parking on road and the request for land reinstatement – the Boundaries Team had established the site boundaries and confirmed the Highway land which will now be reinstated to allow for the resumption of parking by Open Reach vehicles.

- New Road – flooding – solutions being investigated by Highways – no further update available.
- Faded Street Signs – Rectory Road/School Road – this will be reported to Breckland again.
- Footpath 3 – Bridge – reported to Highways and works programmed.

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

This had been dealt with at item 6.

**c) To note that new highway matters should be reported immediately to Clerk/Highways.**

Council was reminded that new highway matters should be reported immediately to either the Clerk or Highways so they can be dealt with promptly.

**10. To consider any issues arising in respect of the Play Area.**

Cllr Edge reported mole activity on the playing field and Council approved removal.

**11. To receive a report regarding the grass and hedge cutting works.**

Council agreed the new contractor had been reliable and had carried out excellent work during the year.

**12. To consider the following Tree related issues.**

**a) To receive an update regarding the application to the NCC Free Trees Scheme.**

The Chairman informed Council that the application had been successful and the trees had been received and were awaiting planting. Cllrs' Edge and Ireson volunteered to carry out the works.

**b) To receive an update regarding the annual tree inspection.**

Cllr Ireson proposed that the quote for £255 for the annual tree inspection be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Holloway and unanimously agreed by Council.

**13. To consider any maintenance or other issues relating to village areas.**

Cllr Daniels reported a broken downpipe on the bus shelter and will make repairs.

**14. Correspondence**

Council agreed that no response was necessary in respect of the public consultation regarding regional Transport Strategy.

**15. Finance & Governance Matters**

**a) To receive a financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2022.**

The financial report (attached) was noted.

**b) To approve the following payments:**

Cllr Dye proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Holloway and unanimously agreed by Council.

• Clerk (Salary/Allowance – Dec/Jan)	£378.86
• HMRC – PAYE	£3.40
• Clerk (Salary Arrears – Nov)	£51.75
• Norfolk PTS (Cllr Induction Training)	£40.00
• Grass Contractor	£699.29
• Village Hall Committee – Jubilee Celebrations	£500.00

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

There were no new matters raised for the next agenda.

**17. To note the meeting dates for 2022.**

Council noted the meeting dates for 2022.

- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May (Annual Meetings)
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November

**18. To note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 in the Village Hall.**

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the meeting then closed at 8.45pm.

Signed:

Date:

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## **County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Division Report January 2022**

### **Budget:**

The Council will set its budget for financial year 22/23 at a meeting to be held on 21st February. The Council consulted on a proposed council tax increase of 1.99% in the general rate and an increase of 1%, the consultation ended on the 30th December 2021. Cost pressure in the major demand led services of Adult Social Care and Children's Services is the main reason for having to increase the council tax. There are still some works which the government has not carried out (fairer funding review, NDR review, financing of adult social care etc) which will affect the Councils finances in future years.

### **Covid – Omicron:**

We know that the Omicron variant of the Covid virus generally leads to milder illness. However, it still poses a significant risk to the unvaccinated or those who haven't had a booster or those with underlying conditions such as being immunosuppressed. The variant is also much more infectious and thus easily spread. The government has told NCC to expect unprecedented sickness rates over the coming weeks with an estimated 25% of staff being absent. Given the high infection rates our prime objective is to minimise staff infection and isolation to ensure we can deliver our critical services. We are doing this by avoiding bringing staff together unnecessarily (ie work from home) and concentrating our face to face presence on service delivery. If over the coming weeks you or any resident has difficulty accessing NCC services, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### **Attendance at Meetings:**

As your County councillor for Necton and Launditch I represent the 3rd largest area in Norfolk with 23 parishes of which 18 have regular parish council (PC) meetings. Some meetings are held monthly and some, the majority, are held bi-monthly. In the months where the bimonthly meetings are held there are 18 PC meetings, this inevitably means that on several nights in that month there will be 2 or even 3 meetings scheduled on the same night. I have recently changed my schedule to ensure that every PC meeting is visited at least every 2 months, this will mean that I will only attend those PCs that hold regular monthly meetings (there are 5) every other month. If there are serious concerns about any matter on the agendas for those PCs who hold monthly meetings, I will of course attend those meetings. I am always available on the telephone or via email (almost) 24/7!! Please let me know if you have any problems with this arrangement.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.

Member for Necton and Launditch.

Norfolk County Council. [mark.kiddle-morris.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:mark.kiddle-morris.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk)

WHISSONETT PARISH COUNCIL  
 YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022  
 FINANCIAL REPORT - JANUARY 2022

<b>BUDGET UPDATE</b>	<b>Budget 2021/22</b>	<b>To date</b>	<b>% Spend</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Admin	1,145.00	890.08	78%
Salary	1,600.00	1468.81	92%
Grass Cutting	5,200.00	4195.74	81%
Play Area	250.00	842.49	337%
Open Spaces/Maintenance*	7,675.00	5680.95	
Donations**	100.00	200.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,970.00</b>	<b>13,278.07</b>	<b>83%</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
			<b>Received</b>
Precept	13,000.00	13,000.00	100%
Allotments	170.00	130.00	76%
Open Spaces	-	-	
Grants	-	1,000.00	
Misc - HMRC Refund	-	42.80	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,170.00</b>	<b>14,172.80</b>	<b>108%</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>(2,800.00)</b>	<b>894.73</b>	

\*Updated to include Beech Tree Reserve of £5,675.00

\*\*Spend includes £200 in respect of TOMMY, RBLI.

<b>Bank Reconciliation</b>	
<b>Community Account at 01.04.2021</b>	<b>11,659.33</b>
Plus Receipts at 31.12.2021	14,429.68
Less Payments at 31.12.2021	<u>13,980.36</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,108.65</b>
<b>Bank Balance at 31.12.2021</b>	12,098.65
Less any outstanding payments	
Plus any outstanding receipts	<u>10.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,108.65</b>
including £100 Allotment deposit	