

MARSHLAND ST JAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 12th February 2018

Present

Councillors: Askew (Chair), Boyce, Gathercole, Hallett, Long, Norman & Wilkinson

No members of the public

Clerk – S Thorpe

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Chapman, Coleman and Humphrey (County Councillor)

2. Confirm Minutes of Meetings Held on 8th and 22nd January 2018

Having been circulated before the meeting the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record by all present at the meetings.

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Public Speaking

No members of the public were present

5. Matters Arising

An email had been received from Andy Stephens OBE (Chair of MDCSC), thanking the PC for their generous support and assistance for the Community and Sports Centre. Contact had been made with the owners of the land in front of the telephone exchange on Smeeth Rd. They had arranged for the area to be cleared and hoped this work would be completed before Easter.

Confirmation had been received that the 40mph signs had been moved on School Rd. Highways had advised that permission had been obtained for the work on the footpath on Walton Rd.

6. Correspondence

Circulated prior to meeting: BC – new property address at 156-158 Smeeth Rd (Marshland Hall); Police – rural crime newsletters, parish newsletters, police connect newsletters; NALC – letter from Chairman of Castle Acre PC, newsletters, funding/grant bulletins; NCF – grant news; CAN – newsletter, funding news; NPFA - newsletter; NCC – info on planned spring meeting to advise on services available to residents, info on Norwich western link member working group, temporary road closure on Smeeth Rd (12th – 16th February), Early Help Bulletin and Service Directory; Elizabeth Truss MP – invite to meeting on Broadband and mobile phone connectivity. Circulated after meeting: Clerks and Councils Direct newsletter.

An email had been received from the Primary School to ask for the PC to help with complaints from parents about mud on the road and the state of the verges due the commencement of the work on the plots next door to the school. The Clerk advised that she had taken a look a few days after receipt of the email and replied to say that she thought the condition of the road was okay but noted that the verges were quite messy. She had advised the school that she had contact details for the land owner and could speak to them if the school still felt there was a problem; no reply had been received at this point. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the owner if the school responded and it could be useful to mention the lack of flow for the watercourse.

7. Community Building Project update from MDCSC

Cllr Gathercole advised that the open day was taking place today and so far over 150 people had attended, and everybody was impressed with the building. The two containers were now in place. The sewerage would not be connected for several weeks but MDCSC would pay to empty the septic tank until it was connected. The new fence around the bowls green would be installed when the pavilion building had been removed. An additional gate would be needed in the fence.

To find out the cost of the additional gate.

Prop: Cllr Norman

2nd: Cllr Boyce

Agreed.

It was agreed that the PC would write to MDCSC to ask for the contractors to carry out repairs to the "in" gateway as this had been damaged during construction of the new building. CCTV was installed and may be able to cover containers but an additional camera could be needed if the play area was to be covered.

To find out the cost of covering the containers and play area with the CCTV cameras

Prop: Cllr Norman

2nd: Cllr Hallett

Agreed.

Cllr Norman advised that he was surprised to see reported in the local press that the

new community building had been completed with “no help from the Borough Council or PC;” this was incorrect and disappointing to see reported.

8. Playing Field Management Partnership (PFMP)

A height restriction barrier was needed for the “in” gate at the playing field.

To try to obtain 2 or 3 quotations for the barrier, which must be able to be opened at the top. Prop: Cllr Gathercole 2nd: Cllr Wilkinson Agreed.

The gate to the main field would need to be moved plus an additional piece of fencing and fencing from the new hall to the play area.

To arrange for installation of the above fencing and moving of gates.

Prop: Cllr Wilkinson 2nd: Cllr Hallett Agreed.

The contractor who carried out the annual inspection had advised that the current price could be held for next year if the inspection was booked now.

To book the next inspection with the same contractor.

Prop: Cllr Gathercole 2nd: Cllr Long Agreed.

9. Removal of Pavilion building

The electricity meter was to be removed on 13th February and the electricity supply would be disconnected on 19th February. Cllr Norman would advise the Clerk when all equipment had been removed and then the building could be dismantled and removed.

10. Water box at the Cemetery

Mintlynn had advised that they would not consider installing a water box as the current structure was only recently installed and this was what was present in other BC cemeteries. Cllr Long agreed to speak to them to see if there was any compromise as the water supply was so close to the listed war memorial; if this was not fruitful then the PC should seek permission from the BC for the PC to construct and install a box to our specifications.

Cllr Norman to construct and install new box if necessary and to be reimbursed for the cost of this. Prop: Cllr Gathercole 2nd: Cllr Askew Agreed.

11. Venue for future Parish Council meetings

The Chairman of MDCSC had confirmed that the PC could have use of the new hall for its meetings at no cost for at least the next 12 months. PC meetings to take place in the new hall from the next meeting.

12. Additional safety measures at junctions with Smeeth Road

The Clerk had met with the Highways Engineer to discuss safety at the junction with School Road/Walton Road and also Walsoken Road. He did not feel that street lighting was the answer at either junction; for Walsoken Road junction he said that this was appropriate as it was outside the main boundary of the village and there was no reduced speed limit at this point. He agreed that the white lines at the junction could be repainted in the spring. With regard to School Road/Walton Road junction he felt that additional street lighting would not help the situation and may be a nuisance to residents in the area, as the junction would need to be very well lit to make any kind of impact and this could have an adverse effect on visibility of the road markings. He agreed that white lines at the junction would be repainted and a ‘slow’ could be painted on the road on School Road, as you approach the junction; again, this work to be done in the spring. He also agreed to re-position the ‘give way’ sign close to the junction on Walton Road to make it clearer to spot. The PC agreed that Highways should be allowed to carry out this work and then the situation could be reviewed.

13. Street name sign for Walsoken Road

The BC had advised that there was a discrepancy between different authorities on the name of this stretch of road. The PC discussed the situation and the Clerk advised that she had spoken with the resident who originally asked for the sign to be installed; all were in agreement that this road was known as Walsoken Road. BC to be advised of situation and asked to install street name sign.

14. Dykes off Bonnetts Lane

A letter had been received from one of the allotment tenants to complain about a dyke off Bonnetts Lane, on land belonging to ADC (East Anglia) Ltd, the problem was that it was blocked up with debris and needed to be cleared.

That a letter should be sent to ADC Ltd from the PC asking for them to clear the dyke. Prop: Cllr Gathercole 2nd: Cllr Norman Agreed.

Cllr Gathercole explained that there was also a problem with the dyke which ran from the front of the bowls green to the back of ADC Ltd and along the side of the allotments. The water was currently being held up and it appeared that the

underground pipe was at the wrong level. ADC Ltd had offered to use a camera to investigate the situation. Cllr Gathercole would speak to them about this and item to remain on agenda for next meeting.

There was old vehicle tyres and other items of debris at the roadside of the dyke at the front of the playing field. Clerk to contract BC clean-up team to ask for them to remove.

15. Dog waste bins

A quotation had been obtained for dog waste bins. A 35-litre plastic bin was £138 plus carriage and VAT; it would also cost about £60-£70 per annum to have each bin emptied. It was felt that installing dog waste bins would not resolve the issue of dog fouling and as new dog fouling signs had recently been installed by Cllr Hallett it was agreed that the situation should be monitored.

16. Memorial seat at the Playing Field

The PC had been approached by a resident who wished to install a memorial seat at the playing field. A quotation had been obtained and it had been suggested that the seat could be placed on the edge of the bowls green.

That the PC should accept the donation of the memorial seat and assume liability for the seat (but not the plaque) when it was installed.

Prop: Cllr Boyce

2nd: Cllr Askew

Agreed.

17. Condition of trod

The Clerk had met with the Highways Engineer, Andy Wallace, to discuss damage which had occurred to the trod by contractors building new properties. He felt that the PC should write to the contractors to ask them to repair any damage they have caused. The PC felt that we should allow the building work to be completed to give the contractors chance to repair any damage before letters were sent. The area of the trod in front of Askew & Barrett Ltd had practically disappeared due to vehicles running over the verge; the Highways Engineer felt that a letter should be sent to them from the PC. The PC agreed that Cllrs Askew and Gathercole would take a look at the situation before any action was taken. There was also a couple of areas where vehicles driving on the verge, between the road and the trod, had caused mud to be deposited on the trod and Highway Rangers would be asked to remove this surplus soil; this is between No 90 and No 100 and also between No 70 and No 80.

18. Highways issues

New issues to report to Highways:

Moyses Bank (outside Poplar Farm) – pot hole.

Issues that had previously been reported to be followed up as appropriate:

Smeeth Road (near Emneth Hungate) – overhanging dead tree.

Cllrs Gathercole and Askew had met with Martin Edmunds from Highways and he had advised that Middle Drove (from Herberts Engineering and over the bridge) was to be resurfaced. He had also asked for a list of residents, who had been sent letters asking them to trim trees and bushes, to be passed to him if no action had been taken.

Cllr Hallett expressed concern about damage and blocking of the footpath on Walton Road by construction vehicles who were working on the new development site across the road from the footpath.

Cllr Norman and Cllr Wilkinson left the meeting at this point giving their apologies for having to leave early.

19. Finance

a. *Accept accounts to 31st January 2018*

Prop: Cllr Boyce

2nd: Cllr Askew

Agreed.

b. The list of payments due as follows was read out:

Viking Direct – printer toner and paper £84.53

Mr D Gathercole – refund of emptying of septic tank and key cutting £171.35

CGM Ltd – grounds maintenance £543.60

The Play Inspection Co Ltd – play area inspection £114.00

Upwell Parish Council – contribution to grit bin at health centre £3.60

Agree to sign cheques and approve payments.

Prop: Cllr Askew

2nd: Cllr Long

Agreed.

20. Planning Matters

a. Applications received since last meeting:

i **18/00014/RM Reserved matters: Construction of 8 new starter homes comprising 4 semi-detached units at Fenberry Farm Ltd, 84B Smeeth Rd.** The PC discussed the amendments to the above application, which were the addition of chimney pots as

requested by the BC Planning Officer and made a decision to SUPPORT the application but to add the comments that they did not believe that starter homes should have to fund the extra cost of this aesthetic addition of chimney pots.

b. Planning decisions from the BC. The following applications had been permitted:

i. **17/01823/F Conversion of Office/Commercial Space to residential at Old Chapel, Middle Drove.**

ii **17/02237/F Proposed storage containers and retention of associated groundworks to Marshland St James Community Centre, Smeeth Rd.**

iii **17/02316/RM Reserved matters: Erection of dwelling and garage at plot 3, land south of 26 Smeeth Rd.**

c. Information had been received from another PC regarding introduction of BC 'sifting committee' to consider which contested planning applications should be decided by the planning committee. This information had been passed to all members prior to the PC meeting. Cllr Long explained that the 'sifting committee' had been put in place to sift out some applications which did not have valid objections in order for the planning committee to be able to spend more time concentrating on the truly contentious applications. Cllr Long explained that this was in line with other planning authorities in Norfolk who did not have an automatic right of referral to the planning committee.

d. Information had been received from an agent regarding a possible development on land adjacent to the playing field. This information had been passed to members prior to the meeting. It was understood that a public meeting was to be held by the landowners to inform residents and see if there was sufficient support within the community for this development.

21. Public Speaking

No members of the public were present.

22. Councillors Concerns and Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

Items to remain on agenda as already agreed.

23. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

Monday 12th March 2018 at 7.15pm, for a Playing Field Management Partnership meeting followed by an Ordinary Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm; all meetings at Marshland Hall.

Cllrs Chapman and Coleman to check accounts before the March & April meetings.

Meeting closed at 9.03pm.