

# MARSHLAND ST JAMES PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

This meeting was held virtually in accordance with 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

Councillors: Askew (Chair), Coleman, Didwell, Redhead, Norman, Thorpe & Wilkinson  
Cllr Brian Long (Borough Councillor).

4 members of the public

Clerk – S Thorpe

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Gathercole.

**2. Confirm Minutes of Meeting Held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

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

**3. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**4. Public Speaking**

*Resolved that meeting be adjourned for public speaking,*

*Prop: Cllr Norman*

*2<sup>nd</sup>: Cllr Wilkinson*

*Agreed.*

*Meeting re-started.*

**5. Matters Arising**

a. Condition of footpath at Hickathrift Field. The Clerk had reported the overgrown footpath to Highways twice and been told that it did not warrant their action. It was reported that a hedge was also overhanging the footpath. Clerk to ask for meeting with Highways Technician to look at situation.

b. An email had been received from Elizabeth Truss MP regarding the nitrous oxide issue. It advised that she would take the matter up with the Home Secretary and get back to the PC when she received a response.

**6. Correspondence**

Items passed to members before the meeting: NCC – West Norfolk Early Help (Covid 19) updates, Consultation on Norwich Western Link Local Access, temporary road closures on School Road, Edge Bank and Middle Drove; Norfolk ALC – updates and updates from the Wellbeing initiative; Police – scam alerts, community updates, rural crime updates, newsletters and call for recruitment panel support volunteers; BC – Updates, information on change of name for Goose Lane (North and South), new property address at 33 Smeeth Road, change of name for part of Goose Lane to Garners Lane; Clerks and Councils direct newsletter.

Information had been received earlier that day about the public consultation on the Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power facility project. An event was taking place at Marshland Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> October; residents needed to book a place to attend.

**7. Playing Field Management Partnership (PFMP)**

a. The PFMP felt that the skate ramp, which was currently closed, was not fit for purpose and unfortunately despite it being taped off, was still being used; the tape had been removed and the signs were being ignored. The PFMP felt the only option was to remove the bulk of the panels so that the ramp could not be used. A discussion took place with the view being expressed that the ramp did have some value, even if only for the scrap value of the metal. Generally, it was felt the majority of the ramp was beyond repair and had no value, other than the scrap value of the metal.

*That Cllr Norman should remove the bulk of the panels and dispose of them*

*Prop: Cllr Askew*

*2<sup>nd</sup>: Cllr Wilkinson*

*Agreed.*

b. Application for permission to take out a loan – the application had been submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government. A response had been received which raised a significant number of queries which would take the Clerk considerable time to answer. The first query was that the resolution passed at the last meeting did not meet their requirements. A template of appropriate wording had been provided and this would need to be approved.

*At the Marshland St James Parish Council meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, it was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing,*

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more than the original quote. She had advised that the old sign was in a poorer condition that she had expected and therefore had spent an additional 20 hours on the project than she had quoted for, despite this she had only charged for 10 additional hours. Material costs had also increased in the 12 months since the quote had been received. She had not charged for installing the sign, which would normally have been extra. The invoice had been submitted to the insurance company for their consideration. It was agreed that the PC was very pleased with the new sign.

*To pay the invoice in full, including the increased costs.*

*Prop: Cllr Norman*

*2<sup>nd</sup>: Cllr Askew*

*Agreed.*

## 15. Finance

- a. Clerks National Pay Award – the Clerk was employed on a national pay scale as per her contract. A pay award of 2.75% had been agreed from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

*To approve the award.*

*Prop: Cllr Wilkinson*

*2<sup>nd</sup>: Cllr Askew*

*Agreed.*

- b. *Accept accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.*

*Prop: Cllr Wilkinson*

*2<sup>nd</sup>: Cllr Thorpe*

*Agreed.*

- c. The list of payments due for August and September:

A list had been provided to members before the meeting, payments totalling as follows:

PWLB – loan repayment	£654.59
Miss S J Thorpe – Clerks expenses, admin & arrears	£164.02
Viking Direct – Printer toner and paper	£91.46
Miss S J Thorpe – Clerks salary August & September	£1122.40
Haven Power – street lighting electric for August & September	£146.48
CGM Group Ltd – grounds maintenance for August & September	£499.20
Anglian Water – water rates	£122.16
Fiona Davies – new village sign (CIL expenditure)	£2505.00

*Agree to sign cheques and approve payments.*

*Prop: Cllr Wilkinson*

*2<sup>nd</sup>: Cllr Didwell*

*Agreed.*

## 16. Planning Matters

- a. Applications received since last meeting:

- i. **20/01013/F Permanent permission for existing dwelling on site at Wrenfield, Black Drove.** The application had been received since the last meeting. Members had been consulted via email and had agreed to SUPPORT the application but to ask for the agricultural restriction to remain on any approval.
- ii. **20/01084/F Single storey rear extension at Eastleigh, 298 Smeeth Road.** The application had been received since the last meeting. Members had been consulted via email and had agreed to SUPPORT the application.
- iii. **20/01019/F Garden room to replace existing conservatory at 184 Smeeth Road.** The application had been received since the last meeting. Members had been consulted via email and had agreed to SUPPORT the application.
- iv. **20/01143/F Proposed extension and alterations to existing dwelling including extension of residential curtilage at Rose Cottage, Rands Drove.** The application had been received since the last meeting. Members had been consulted via email and had agreed to SUPPORT the application by a majority with two members abstaining. Cllr Coleman had asked the Clerk to include in the minutes that she had abstained as the BC Planning Department had been asked to supply further information on the existing curtilage and current use of the land, but this had not been supplied in time to meet the deadline for the PC to submit it's reply to the consultation.
- v. **20/01256/O Outline application: residential development at Land NW of 47 School Road.** The application was considered at the meeting. Following a proposal by Cllr Coleman, seconded by Cllr Thorpe it was agreed to OBJECT to the application for the following reasons: the site is outside the development boundary for the village; School Road is a narrow unclassified road which is inadequate to serve this development. If this application was approved the PC would like the following conditions to be placed on any approval: a footpath along the front of the site; a full ecological survey to be done on the site; 40mph speed limit on School Road to be extended to beyond the development. Cllr Wilkinson abstained from voting as he declared an interest in the land as he was currently using it for grazing.
- vi. **20/01231/O Outline some matters reserved: Proposed residential development at Land N of 36 School Road.** The application was considered at the meeting. Following

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a proposal by Cllr Coleman, seconded by Cllr Thorpe it was agreed to OBJECT to the application for the following reasons: the site is outside the development boundary for the village; School Road is a narrow unclassified road which is inadequate to serve this development. If this application was approved the PC would like the following conditions to be placed on any approval: a footpath along the front of the site; a full ecological survey to be done on the site; 40mph speed limit on School Road to be extended to beyond the development.

b. Planning decisions from the BC. None

**17. Public Speaking**

*Resolved that meeting be adjourned for public speaking.*

*Prop: Cllr Askew*

*2<sup>nd</sup>: Cllr Norman*

*Agreed.*

*Meeting re-started.*

**18. Councillors Concerns and Agenda Items for the Next Meeting**

Item to be added to the next agenda: to consider approaching Highways regarding a 30mph speed limit for Smeeth Road.

**19. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.00pm, for a Playing Field Management Partnership meeting followed by an Ordinary Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm; all meetings will be held virtually.

**20. Confidential item (public and press excluded) Legal advice regarding possible change to the lease with MDCSC**

Still no information available at this stage. Clerk to ask for meeting between solicitor and Chairman to discuss.

Meeting closed at 8.47pm.