MARSHLAND ST JAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14th 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 13th 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 2nd: 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 13th 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 2nd: 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 14th September 2020, it was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing.

Chairman Date	>
---------------	-------------

Communities & Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £40,000 over the borrowing term of 10 years for a new skate ramp, refurbishment of the MUGA and repairs to the playing field car park. The annual loan repayments will come to around £4419.84. It is not intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments.

Prop: Cllr Coleman 2nd: Cllr Norman Agreed.

8. Sale of strip of land at the side of the bowls green and purchase of approximately 4 acres at the rear of the playing field

The PC had been approached by the owners of the road frontage land next to the Bowls Green to ask if the PC was interested in selling a small strip to square off their plot of land. A field to the rear of the playing field had the same owners and they had advised that they would consider an offer to purchase this field if the PC wanted to extend the playing field. Members had been given the opportunity to view the areas of land concerned prior to the meeting. A discussion took place on the situation and it was generally agreed that members were interested in selling the strip at the front and purchasing the field at the back. It was felt that the two transactions should be undertaken at the same time.

That the PC should obtain a valuation from Barry Hawkins on both pieces of land and then consider the matter further.

Prop: Cllr Wilkinson 2nd: Cllr Coleman Agreed.

9. Possible new community projects

The Clerk advised that she had been approached by the agent for the landowner who was considering submitting a planning application for a development on Walton Road to ask if the PC had any community projects it was currently considering. The Clerk advised that she had currently received two suggestions from residents which were electric car charging points and outdoor gym equipment at the playing field site. Residents should contact the Clerk if they had any further ideas to put forward.

10. Repairs and repainting of bench at the Church

The son of the member of the public who had originally made the bench had contacted the PC to offer to repaint the bench if the PC provided the materials. A resident had advised that it also need repairs as well as restaining. Cllr Norman had agreed to carry out the repairs previously but had not had the time to do it.

To ask the member of the public if he was willing to carry out the repairs as well as the restaining. Prop: Cllr Askew 2nd: Cllr Norman Agreed.

11. Frequency of power cuts in the village

Cllr Didwell advised that there had been an increase in the number of power cuts in her part of the village in recent months. She had been informed that this was due to UKPN not being allowed access to cut back trees by a landowner. A discussion took place and it was felt that the issue was also that UKPN were not carrying out trimming of trees in a timely manner. Request to keep a note of date and time of cuts from now.

To send a letter to UKPN asking for the reason for the increased power cuts and to contact Liz Truss MP asking for her help in this matter.

Prop: Cllr Didwell 2nd: Cllr Askew Agreed.

12. Confirmation of full postal address for Trinity Road

The BC had advised the PC that there was an anomaly with Trinity Road in that when the address of all the other roads at that end of the village had been changed from "St Johns Fen End" to "Marshland St James" this was not done for Trinity Road. It had been the intention at the time that Trinity Road should also be changed but this had not been done. The BC asked for the PC to send a letter confirming that Trinity Road should have the postal address of Marshland St James.

To send a letter to the BC as requested.

Prop: Cllr Askew 2nd Cllr Wilkinson Agreed.

13. Highways issues

St Johns Fen End (S bend near the hairdressers) – overgrown hedges. Cllr Wilkinson advised of another overgrown hedge, he would advise the Clerk of the exact address.

Action: Clerk to report new issues to Terrington St John PC and Highways.

14. Increased cost for the new village sign

The new sign had now been completed and installed with the help of Cllr Redhead, thanks was expressed to him. The contractor had provided an invoice which was £225

Chairman	Date

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 2nd: 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 1st April 2020.

To approve the award.

Prop: Cllr Wilkinson 2nd: Cllr Askew Agreed.

b. Accept accounts to 31st August 2020.

Prop: Cllr Wilkinson 2nd: 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 2nd: Cllr Didwell Agreed.

16. Planning Matters

- a. <u>Applications received since last meeting:</u>
- 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

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^{nd} :

2nd: 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 12th 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.

Chairman	Date
OHUH HUH HUH 1	