

Annual Parish Council Meeting held at Hardwick on 25th May 2021

Present: David Alexander (Chairman), Andrew Penn, Jeremy Styles, Mark Cann, Miles Moseley and Josephine Murgatroyd (Clerk).

Alison Thomas (County Councillor) and Michael Edney (District Councillor)

Apologies: there were none

There was one Parishioner present.

1. Election of Chairman

The election of David Alexander was proposed by the Clerk, seconded by Jeremy Styles and confirmed by the PC. The PC thanked the Chairman for his work during the last 2 years.

2. Election of Clerk

The election of Josephine Murgatroyd was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Miles Moseley and confirmed by the PC. The PC thanked the Clerk for her work during the last 2 years.

3 Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30th September 2020 were read, confirmed and signed.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Defibrillator

The defibrillator and cabinet were duly delivered and the telephone kiosk moved to outside the village hall, although due to the very wet winter, this had not been possible until the spring. Arrangements were then made for an electrician to install the defibrillator, but when the cabinet was removed from the box, a crack on the outside was seen. The supplier has been contacted and the initial response indicated that the cabinet would be replaced. Due to supply issues, the cabinet took several months to be delivered and it is possible that there will be a similar delay with the replacement. The Chairman confirmed that he had repaired the self-closing mechanism on the kiosk. The electrics had been installed in the kiosk and only had to be fitted to the cabinet.

Shelton School

There had been no developments about the future of the building.

Highways

During the December floods, Low Road, Shelton had flooded to such a degree that the verge between the road and the adjoining ditch was under water. A number of vehicles got stuck in the water by the ford. Mark Cann and Gordon Cann assisted with the recovery of these vehicles. Two vehicles left the road going partially into the ditch. The hazard warning markers indicating the location of the ditch by the road have been missing for some time. Temporary marker posts were erected by Mark Cann. The Highways Department was immediately informed of what had happened and the need to install new hazard marker posts. This had not yet been done. Alison Thomas said she would speak to the Highways Department to ascertain when they would be installed. If necessary, she would utilise part of her County Council budget towards the cost. The PC thanked her for this offer.

No properties in the Parish had been flooded, but one house would have been but for some emergency action.

However, a number of properties in Long Stratton had being flooded within a matter of hours. A Flood Investigation Report is due to be published in the next few weeks by the District Council. The importance in the future of checking and keeping clear culverts and ditches was highlighted. The

District Council is intending to ensure also that an 'out of hours' service is always available to provide assistance in such emergencies. With Covid resulting in a substantial increase in home working, providing such cover is more feasible. During the pandemic, the District Council had dealt with a substantial increase in calls from residents and businesses seeking help over many issues.

FP4 Shelton

The damaged bridge and gate had been reported to the Countryside Access Officer and the footpath was subsequently closed pending repair of the bridge. The gate had been replaced by landowner. Confirmation had been received that the design for the bridge had now been completed but no date has yet been fixed for the work to be done. Alison Thomas said she would speak to the Officer for an update.

Miscellaneous

Donations had been made to Shelton and Hardwick Parochial Church Council, East Anglian Air Ambulance and Norfolk Accident Rescue Service and all were acknowledged with thanks. The Clerk confirmed that the PC had responded to the Government consultation re changes to the planning legislation as per the concerns of CPRE.

5. Correspondence

Regular updates are received from SNDC, NCC, NALC, the Police Commissioner and Norfolk Constabulary including the Operation Randall newsletter. Relevant items were placed on the PC website by Miles Mosley. The PC thanked him for the work he does in managing the website.

County Broadband: An opportunity for fibre broadband to be provided to every house was being made by County Broadband. Miles Mosley was the PC contact and a letter had been sent to all parishioners. Before the project could be taken further, an initial interest from 25% of the Parish would be required. The level of interest was not yet known.

6. Planning

a) Erection of 25metre Lattice Mast, Hardwick

Andrew Penn informed the PC that changes in the legislation would enable the mast to be increased in height from 25 to 30 metres. The work to erect the mast has not yet started.

b) Morningthorpe – Construction of Boar Stud

The application for a boar stud was refused by the District Council stating that Wood Lane was inadequate to be used as access for the development.

c) Ivy Cottage, Primrose Lane, Shelton –

An application for a two storey extension was approved by the PC and granted by the District Council

d) Barn behind Street Farm Barn, Hardwick

1. Notification for prior approval for the conversion of an agricultural barn to residential use was made. Andrew Penn has a financial interest in the barn and took no part in the PC decision. There were a number of objections from parishioners. The PC expressed opposition to the development as it was outside the village development boundary, would have a negative impact on neighbouring properties and there was already a building plot close by. The application with amended plans for a single storey development was granted.

2. A further application was then made to extend the size of the development making it two storey with a balcony, carport and a different vehicular access. Again there were a number of objections from Parishioners. Andrew Penn took no part in the PC decision as he has a financial interest in the barn. The PC opposed the application as it was outside the development boundary for Hardwick and the previous application was only granted as it met the Class Q requirements for planning permission. Also, the development would be much larger and there was a building plot that could be

utilised if the barn was deemed to be too small. Concern was also expressed that the location of the carport was not sensitive to the neighbouring property. The decision of the District Council was awaited.

e) Grange Farm

An application to replace an existing building with a new agricultural barn was not opposed by the PC and granted by SNDC.

f) Alteration to PROW no 26

An application to reroute a footpath due to the Long Stratton bypass was not objected to by the PC

g) Storage Pad, Anson's Lane

An application to build a storage pad for agricultural use was approved by the PC. The decision of SNDC was awaited.

h) The Firs, Shelton

An application for a new agricultural barn was considered. There was concern over the size of the barn which was considered to be out of proportion to the few acres that it was required for. It was going to be twice the height of the adjoining chicken sheds, would have an insulated roof, walls and door and there was concern about possible future uses. The PC decision was to oppose the application citing these concerns.

7. Accounts

The current balance was £958.80 which included the first precept payment of £515. The subscription for NALC (£138.86) and the insurance premium (£257.60) had been paid and the first payment of the precept (£515) had been credited to the account. VAT had yet to be reclaimed re the cost of the defibrillator and cabinet.

The PC had received a CIL payment of £175.46 and this needed to be allocated. The Chairman said that there was still an electrician's invoice to be paid re the installation of the electrics in the defibrillator cabinet once this was completed. The PC agreed that the CIL should be retained for this expenditure.

8. Meeting Suspended for Public Participation

The village sign had been removed last year and an enquiry was made about its location. The Clerk confirmed that the sign had come loose from the post and was in danger of being damaged and had been removed for safekeeping by Jeremy Alexander who had stored it safely. Now that the weather had improved, enquiries would be made about it being placed back on the post.

9. Any Other Business

Michael Edney informed the Meeting that South Norfolk Council was moving into the Covid recovery stage. He gave an update about possible changes to the collection of general rubbish, garden waste and recycling.

A discussion was held about the village well. Due to work commitments, Andrew Penn could no longer commit to doing the necessary work to renovate the village well. Alternatives were considered and Michael Edney said that he would be able to use his District Councillor's budget to utilise £1,000 towards the cost of restoration. The PC thanked him and this would enable enquiries to be made about employing a builder.

Alison Thomas told the Meeting that there should soon be the revised planning application for the Long Stratton bypass. The public enquiry should take place next year and building should commence in 2023 with completion by the end of 2024.

10. Date of Next Meeting

This was fixed for 21st September at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chairman

2021

Payments:- NALC £138.86
Zurich Insurance £257.60
Cardiac Science - £1,050 (cabinet only)
Village Hall Hire - £15.00