

WHISSONSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Whissonsett Parish Council held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on Monday 9th March 2020.

Present: Cllr Sally Dye (Chair)
Cllr Bruce Andrews (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Charles Holloway
Cllr James Daniels
Cllr Caroline Edge
Cllr John Newton

District Cllr Trevor Carter
County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
Four Members of the Public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr McGee. C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris and D/Cllr Carter would be arriving later in the meeting.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

Cllr Daniels declared an interest in item 6a) 3PL/2020/0022/VAR, however, as this item was 'to note' there was no need for Cllr Daniels to leave the meeting when it was discussed.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2020.

Cllr Edge proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Holloway and agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. Open Forum for Public Participation.

A member of the public informed Council of the good work being carried out by two local residents in scrubbing the railings, mowing and raking grass near the Village Sign. In addition, another resident had planted flowers near to the bus shelter and is keeping the shelter clean. Council agreed that letters of thanks should be sent.

The poor condition of the footpath map was raised and the Chairman will investigate.

The condition of the seat in the church garden was raised and Cllr Edge volunteered to clean it.

The large amount of litter was raised, particularly on the road from the B1146 to the Raynham Road. D/Cllr Carter will be informed.

The flooding on London Street was raised again and it was confirmed that this was not an Anglian Water leak but surface water drainage. C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will be requested to deal.

Council noted that the verge at Mill Lane has been built back up in an effort to stop the destruction of the hedge.

Finally, a tribute was made to Mrs Vivien Daniels who had recently passed. Mrs Daniels had been a loyal servant to the village for many years, both in assisting her husband whilst he had been the Chair of the Parish Council and in many other ways. All that Mrs Daniels had achieved had been very much appreciated and she will be greatly missed.

5. County & District Councillors Reports.

This matter was deferred until later in the meeting when both Councillors had arrived.

6. Planning Issues

a) Decisions to note.

Council noted the following decisions:

Application	Parish Council Comments	Current Breckland Status
3PL/2019/0940/F – Field between London Street & New Road. Self build four bedroomed dwelling.	Council objected in that approval would result in the intrusion of built development into open countryside, detracting from the rural character of the area, inadequate roads serving the site and no evidence of demand for 4-bedroom properties.	PERMISSION
3PL/2019/1479/VAR - The Old Bell Annexe, High Street. Variation of Condition No4 on 3PL/2015/0834/F - Change of use from residential annexe to holiday let	Council did not submit any comments as application was approved prior to any being submitted, despite an extension being granted to do so.	PERMISSION.
3PL/2020/0004/D – Land south of the Cottage, New Road. Erection of a dwelling following outline planning permission 3PL/2018/0303/O	Council did not have any comment.	PERMISSION.
3PL/2020/0022/VAR – Meadow House, Mill Lane. Variation of Condition 2 to 3PL/2018/1415/D	Council raised no objections.	PERMISSION.
3PL/2020/0004/D – Land south of The Cottage, New Road. Erection of a dwelling following OPP: 3PL/2018/0303/O - Amended scheme - porch infilled and highways plan amended	Council raised no objections.	PERMISSION

b) Applications to consider.

Council considered the following application - 3PL/2020/0107/F – 1 & 2 Sunnyside, London Street – two new three-bedroom dwellings. Cllr Dye proposed the following response:

Whissonsett Parish Council object to this planning application. Policy HOU5 of the Breckland Local Plan states that: 2. Development must be of an appropriate scale and design to the settlement. The Parish Council consider this proposed development of two large dwellings to be too large in their scale in comparison to the current settlement. However, support would be given to an application for one, appropriately scaled dwelling.

In addition, the Parish Council does not consider the access road to be adequate for the development in that the access road is too narrow, as vehicles moving to and from the two properties, and the existing property, could not pass one another in the narrow section once off the highway.

This was seconded by Cllr Edge and agreed by Council.

7. To consider any Highways matters.

a) To receive an update re matters previously discussed.

Council agreed to defer this item until the arrival of the County and District Councillors.

8. To receive a report re the grass cutting.

To date, the Chairman had not been able to speak to the contractor regarding the conservation area.

9. To consider maintenance required for Spring Well, the Campingland railings & turnstiles.

Due to the difficulties in obtaining any further quotes, Cllr Holloway proposed acceptance of the quote for £940, this was seconded by Cllr Newton and agreed by Council.

10. To consider any renovation required to the Village Sign.

The sign has been recently cleaned and is looking much better but Cllr Edge will carry out an inspection to see if any further works are required.

11. To consider any issues relating to the Play Area.

a) To consider any actions resulting from the Play Area Inspection Report.

Cllr Edge had been unable to progress this issue but a full report will be available at the May meeting.

b) To consider any actions in respect of dog use at the Play Area.

Council agreed to display 'no dogs allowed' signs at the play area section so members of the public are aware that dogs are not allowed in the section where the play equipment is sited. The situation will be monitored to see if any further action will be required. Cllr Newton volunteered to mount and display the signs, which had been purchased some time ago.

c) To consider any other issues relating to regular checks and other matters.

There were no other issues raised.

At this point in the meeting D/Cllr Trevor Carter arrived.

12. To consider any issues relating to regular checks and other matters:

a) The Allotments.

The new tenant had commenced work on their plot.

b) Tree Maintenance.

A quote for works on the trees on the Playing Field was awaited from the contractor.

c) All other Village Areas

Cllr Edge reported that she would remove a large tree limb which had fallen into the Church Lanes.

Council agreed to now consider item **5 – County & District Councillors reports.**

D/Cllr Trevor Carter gave the following update.

Breckland are investing £1M over the next three years to support vulnerable people in the district, focusing on county lines drugs and child exploitation by funding ANPR cameras on minor roads, which are used by criminals to avoid detection. In addition, domestic violence will also be one of the targets. A further £750,000 will be used to support towns to thrive.

The Breckland budget has been increased by 2% with a Band D property now at £93 per annum.

Breckland are also targeting fly-tipping and littering offences and cameras are being installed in some car parks with fines already being issued to offenders. Cllr Carter advised that the parish council report the littering along the road from the B1146 to the Raynham Road to Breckland Council. However, in respect of the litter under the Holly tree on the Raynham Road, Cllr Carter confirmed that he had inspected the site and agreed with Breckland that the tree was not on the verge and therefore the responsibility of the landowner.

At this point in the meeting, C/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris arrived and gave the following report.

The County Council budget has been set and includes a 2% rise in the Adult Social Care precept and a 1.99% increase in the general council tax.

Highways England has commenced consultation on the proposed dualling of the A47 between Tuddenham and Easton and the proposed route plans are available to view until the 8th April at Dereham Library.

A review of the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan has commenced but there is nothing proposed which is likely to effect Whissonsett.

In respect of pothole repairs being made, with smaller potholes ignored on the same stretch of road, this issue will be addressed at a committee meeting in March.

The Chairman requested that the C/Cllr take forward the flooding issue on London Street which had been confirmed as a Highways issue. In addition, Cllr Daniels reported that he continued to wait confirmation of a meeting with a Highways Engineer in respect of the Mill Lane verge issue.

Council then agreed to consider item **7 – Any Highway Matters.**

- Fly tipping on Raynham Road – Cllr Carter had confirmed at item 5 that this was the responsibility of the landowner.
- Verge/Ditch adjacent to the Telephone Exchange, Mill Lane – Cllr Daniels continues to wait for a meeting with the Highway Engineer (see item 5 above).
- Pear Tree Corner flooding – this issue had been resolved by landowner.
- Water Leaks, London Road – reported and C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will take this matter forward.
- Pot Holes – New Road/London Street junction – these have been reported to Highways.
- Speed Camera – Council noted that Cllr McGee will give a report at the May meeting in respect of data being collected by the camera.

D/Cllr Carter confirmed that he continued to investigate the ownership of the land where the Village Sign stands and will report back in due course.

The Chairman thanked the District and County Councillors, who then both left the meeting.

13. To receive an update re the publication of a parish newsletter.

In the absence of Cllr McGee, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

14. To consider the way forward in respect of the Village Website, including the new Public Sector Accessibility Regulations.

Cllr Edge proposed that Council bring the parish council website in-house, with a new site being built to replace the current one, which remained in contract until 1st July 2020. This would be at an initial set-up cost of up to £369.50, with an annual ongoing cost of £82, at current prices. This was seconded by Cllr Holloway and agreed by Council.

15. Correspondence

Council noted the following correspondence and had no comments.

- Boundary Commission Review.
- Great British Spring Clean.

16. Finance & Governance Matters

a) To receive financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2020.

Council noted the financial statement.

b) To receive an update regarding Operation London Bridge.

A report received from Cllr McGee informed Council that she had liaised with the Whissonsett PCC and confirmed that any actions required will be carried out by the PCC, hence there was no requirement for any action by the Parish Council.

c) To review the following Council policies:

- **Financial Regulations**
- **Risk Assessment and Management Policy**

- **Asset Register**

Council noted that the bench near to the Village Sign may need to be included on the Asset Register and, other than that one amendment, Cllr Dye proposed approval of the three documents. This was seconded by Cllr Holloway and agreed by Council.

d) To consider donation requests:

- **Norfolk Citizens Advice**
- **Priscilla Bacon Lodge**

Council noted that two £50 donations had been made to other charitable organisations during the year and agreed no further donations should be made. However, Cllr Dye proposed that a donation of £125 be made to the Village Hall Committee in respect of the children’s entertainer being hired for the 75th commemoration of VE Day. This was seconded by Cllr Newton and agreed by Council.

e) To approve the following payments:

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

• Clerk (Salary/Allowance– Feb/Mar)	£257.84
• SAM II Data Lead	£72.00
• Grass Contractor	£2,000.00
• Clerk (PAYE Refund)	£3.60
• Website Renewal	£100.00

17. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

There were no new items received for the next agenda.

18. To note the Annual Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 14th May 2020 in the Village Hall, following the Annual Parish Meeting which commences at 7.00pm.

Council noted the date of the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm.

Signed:

Date:
