

Pre-Meeting Business: None

Public Participation: Chris Reeve from North Elmham Football Club, accompanied by the Club Manager, Luke, gave a summary of the Club's formation two years ago and the current position. The progress made over a relatively short period of time has been spectacular and they have men's and ladies teams, a walking football side and a large, thriving junior section. Games in the current season have been played at Billingford but there is a strong desire to return to North Elmham. An ambition exists to improve facilities in general with proposed work to be done on the changing rooms (e.g. redecorating). It was mentioned that 80% of the junior players live in North Elmham. The members will discuss the situation at the next meeting but there is a positive intent to support the Club's growth and improvement aims.

Mr. Howell stated that he wished to talk about the Stewardship Scheme and that he was proud to be a farmer. He said that Scheme rules were not being met by the Parish Council and, as a result, he had lodged a complaint with DEFRA. Mr. Fitzalan Howard stressed to Mr. Howell, and attempted to reassure him, that all rules had been followed to the letter. Mr. Howell also questioned why he had heard nothing regarding his offer to provide a land under the affordable housing call for sites process. Mr. Rayner explained that this was being handled by Broadland Housing and, as such, all submissions have to be made to them. To date, the Parish Council has not received a report from the Housing Association.

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 6th April, 2022

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555 Those Councillors Present Were:

Mrs. J. Borgnis (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips, Miss A. Ferris, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. B. Gee, Mr. P. Grainger, Mrs. A. Keeble, Mr. J. Labouchere, Mr. N. Markwell, Mr. M. Rayner and Mr. C. Smith

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), P. C. Benton (Dereham Police), two representatives from North Elmham F.C. and two parishioners.

556 Apologies for absence: None

557 To Receive Declarations of Interest:

The Chairman reminded the meeting that, should the occasion arise, interests should be declared by Councillors as soon as this was realised, and the interest should be minuted.

558 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 2nd March, 2022:

Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. Agreed by all. (Proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Labouchere).

559 Police Visit

The members were pleased to welcome P.C. Roger Benton, Beat Manager from Dereham who stressed the importance of reporting all incidents to the police. There is a team providing high visibility policing. SNAP meetings take place every three months at the Breckland Offices with the next one on 13th April. Key area issues at the moment include anti-social cycling and speeding on Norwich Road, Dereham. Mention was also made of the Streetsafe scheme where particular places or locations of concern can be reported on the police website.

In the period from 1/1/22 to 3/4/22, North Elmham has had a total of eighteen crimes which have been reported. When compared to other villages of a similar size, this figure is considered, in the main, to be on the low side. The importance of reporting all incidents in person, on line or by telephone was emphasised however. Mr. Fitzalan Howard asked about drug problems and P.C. Benton was unaware of any specific issues in the village although there have been major problems with county line gangs in Norwich.

Mr. Grainger stated that our SAM data shows 4,000 speeding incidents per month in the village and there has been a concern for some time that the police will not make any use of this information. P. C. Benton has asked for details to be forwarded to him. He will forward the data to the appropriate person (Safety Camera Team) and report back.

Mr. Labouchere expressed his concerns regarding e-scooters. Individuals have to have a driving licence (provisional or full) to rent the equipment through authorised companies. Personal e-scooters can only be used on private land. The equipment can be seized if conditions of use are not fulfilled.

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

560 Land Management Matters (item 526)

(a) Village Green The boundary fencing on the property bordering the village green has been replaced (item 547 from previous minutes refers) but Mr. Gee reported that a slope has resulted which could be dangerous. He has, therefore, partially filled it in to reduce the risk. A bicycle and chair appeared next to the bin on the green. The bicycle eventually disappeared but the chair remained, only to be broken up at a later date.

(b) Cathedral Ruins Nothing to report.

(c) Cathedral Meadows Nothing to report.

- (d) Broom Green Nothing to report.
- (e) Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood) The Chairman has inspected the gate to Jubilee Wood and is of the opinion that no action is needed. Darren Brown is dealing with the installation of the new bench and Julian Duffield is to handle arrangements for the other seat.
- (f) Bridleway on disused railway line and other railway linked matters
The board of the Mid Norfolk Railway confirmed the agreement made at the meeting held at Breckland Council offices. Mr. Rayner is to chase a copy of the notes/minutes of the meeting from Breckland.
- (g) Prince William Wood Mr. Markwell confirmed that new springs for the gate to the road have been successfully fitted and the gate is working well. He has looked for gaps in the fence but has been unable to find any. Flagship Housing has said that the residents are responsible for maintaining the yellow cross hatching outside the gate although this is open to debate.

561 Allotments (item 527)

Nothing to report.

562 Street Lights (item 528)

Mr. Markwell reported that light 31, which is situated outside 29 Eastgate Street, has not yet been discussed as the letting agent has been unable to make contact with the owner of the property. A report on the position with the Pump Street light is awaited.

563 Highway Matters (item 529)

Mr. Grainger reported that there had been much recent activity in Holt Road. Work on dressing the surface will commence on 11th May with road markings to be done on 25th May. The only item still outstanding is the cycleway across the Village Green. It was noted that the road at Pump Street had started to break up near the telephone box. It had been reported as “done” by the County Council but the matter has not yet been resolved.

564 Pavilion and Playing Field (item 530)

All outstanding jobs have been completed. The Football Club plans to return to the village (please see “Public Participation” above). The Cricket Club has left a number of items behind but has taken the white line marker which is thought to be the property of the Parish Council. The Clerk is to write to the Chairman to ask for all equipment to be removed from the pavilion and behind the bus shelter. In addition, a request is to be made for the return of keys to the pavilion and the white line marker by the end of April. The tennis club has finished resurfacing. The large pothole in the car park has been filled in. The basketball hoop has been positioned at the top of the field. The kickwall has been repaired but improvements will need to be made to it next year. The Clerk is to send annual invoices to the Tennis Club and Bowls Club.

565 Youth Club facilities (item 531)

Please refer to item 581.

566 Eastgate Centre (item 532)

A broken window has been reported.

567 Brookside Development update (item 533)

Electric vehicle charging points will be installed.

568 Risk Management – considerations and updates (item 534)

Nothing to report.

569 Overview of Parish Council financial situation (item 535)

Please refer to the report included in item 584.

570 The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022 (item 536)

A meeting is to be held next week. It is the intention is to have two bands and there will be a fete.

571 Defibrillators (item 537)

Nothing to report.

572 Village Green board displaying names of contributors to the fund raising (item 538)

Nothing to report.

573 Affordable Housing (item 539)

An update has been requested from Broadland Housing.

574 Improvements to the frontage of North Elmham School (item 540)

Nothing to report.

575 Request for an additional bench in Millennium Wood (item 541)

This matter is proceeding as planned.

576 Suitable location for new plaque in respect of community response to the pandemic (item 542)

Nothing to report.

577 District and/or Council Councillors' Reports (item 543)

None

578 Mid Norfolk Railway – Transfer Deed, footpath and other matters (item 544)

Please see item 560 (f)

579 Eastgate Street drains (item 545)

The suction team from the County Council had visited and eight blocked gullies had been tackled. Unfortunately, two were not done correctly and a return trip was needed. The position is to be monitored over the next six months. The decision on whether to cut down trees or reducing the height of them will be considered at that time.

580 Storm damage to property bordering the Village Green (item 547)

This matter has been completed.

581 Update on village facilities (item 548)

Mr. Fitzalan Howard detailed the key items which included a BMX track (not enough land), basketball hoop, skate park, outdoor gym and outdoor tennis table. Decisions will be made on whether or not funds are to be spent to provide any of these facilities. Mr. Grainger mentioned that he had had a conversation with Active Norfolk. Breckland Council are due to appoint someone who will have specific responsibility for Breckland villages. In particular, they will be looking to concentrate on particular locations where there are gaps in facilities. There is a basketball hoop on the playing field (please see item 564).

582 The situation in Ukraine

The Chairman wondered if there was something that could be done on a community basis. Mr. Gee mentioned that Brisley were planning to hold a fund raising function. On balance, it was agreed not to take any action at the current time.

583 Breckland Mobile Store Project

A communication had been received from Sophie Soto, Early Intervention Officer at Breckland Council. They are preparing to launch a new project, the Breckland Mobile Food Store and the village has been identified as a location on the proposed route. The project has been developed in response to rising household costs and the need for more affordable and healthy food options, plus access to wider support services to help address issues residents are experiencing. It was felt that the Church larder (free) and the local shop were already doing good jobs and, as such, this new service was not needed at present.

584 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income

a)	Resolved to approve the following Accounts for payment:-	
20/3/22	Biffa (wheelie bin service from 19/2/22 to 25/3/22) - (d/d)	£47.22
6/4/22	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for March)	£678.00
6/4/22	HMRC (tax and N.I. on Clerk's pay)	£184.86
6/4/22	Mandrake (payroll service for February)	£26.40
6/4/22	B. Darby (fit rising hinges to field gates)	£60.00
6/4/22	B. Gee (wood for new notice boards)	£63.65
6/4/22	D. Brown (work to skate ramp, kick wall and pavilion)	£225.42
6/4/22	J. Labouchere (adjustable hinges to PW Wood gates)	£21.08
6/4/22	E-on (supply to Pavilion to 28/2/22)	£28.39 (i)
6/4/22	L. Simkins (50% cost of replacement of damaged fencing)	£210.00 (ii)
31/3/22	K. Webb (Clerk's travel expenses from 1/4/21 to 31/3/22)	£107.10
6/4/22	J. Duffield (work in Cathedral Ruins)	£435.00
6/4/22	E-on (pavilion electricity from 1/3/22 to 1/4/22)	£125.35(iii)
6/4/22	D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning)	£106.92
31/3/22	J. Borgnis (Chairman's half yearly expenses)	£50.00
31/3/22	M. Phillips (Vice Chairman's half yearly expenses)	£50.00
31/3/22	J. R. Fletcher (key keeping – Jan, Feb and March)	£93.75

(Expenditure approved by all members)

b) Schedule of Income:		
7/3/22	Interest on Bank account	£0.90

Balances (as at 31/3/22):- Current a/c - £114,650.37 Business Premium a/c -£36,491.33

Mr. Phillips presented the Management Financial Report for the year ended 31/3/22 which showed income of £59.1K and expenditure of £39.5K. Allowing for the difficulties caused by the pandemic, particularly in respect of the delay to and cancellation of certain work and projects, these figures were broadly in line with expectations.

585 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-

a) Applications

None

b) Determinations

- (i) Mr. and Mrs. R. Allen – single storey extension to rear – 3PL/2022/0148/HOU – 46 Orchard Close - approved.
- (ii) Mrs. S. Gillespie – erection of shed and summerhouse - 3PL/2022/0129/HOU – Ash Tree Cottage, 43 Eastgate Street – approved.
- (iii) William Seaman (Yaxham) Ltd – proposed dwelling and the redevelopment of an existing dwelling – 3PL/2022/0079/O – 55 Eastgate Street - refused.
- (iv) Orchard Homes Ltd – discharge of planning obligations – 3OB/2021/0010/OB – land east of Brookside Farm – approved.
- (v) Mr. and Mrs. M. Blundell – proposed roof extension – 3PL/2022/0060/HOU – 2 Mill Cottage, Billingford Road – approved.

586 Correspondence

- 1) Letter from East Anglia's Children's Hospices asking for a donation and enclosing their Footprints booklet. (A donation of £50 was recommended and this will be ratified at the next meeting).
- 2) Letter from parishioner enclosing a quote for the cost of pruning a tree. (50% Parish Council contribution agreed in principle).
- 3) Breckland Local Plan: "call for sites" between 4th April and 20th May, 2022.
- 4) Letter of thanks from Priscilla Bacon Hospice re the donation of £100.00.
- 5) Criminal damage to the bench on the Village Green and the option of Restorative Justice (RJ) – all agreed to proceed with discussing the RJ option with the police.
- 6) Brochure from Elan City giving details of new traffic management products

587 Any Other Matters (for information only)

None

588 Agenda items for next meeting:

- a) North Elmham Football Club proposals
- b) Jubilee update

589 Next Meetings:

Wednesday, 27th April 2022 at 7.30 p.m. (Annual Parish Meeting)

Wednesday, 18th May 2022 at 7.30 p.m. (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.08 p.m.

Chairman

Date