

WHISSONSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Whissonsett Parish Council held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on Monday 13th January 2020.

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

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

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2019.

Cllr McGee 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.

No matters were raised by members of the public.

5. County & District Councillors Reports.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris gave the following update:

The Boundary Commission review will close on the 11th February and full details are available on their website.

The county budget will be set on the 17th February and, although the government has agreed a one-off grant towards adult and children's social care, this will not be sufficient to cover the increased costs projected for 2020/21. A decision from government is awaited in respect of business rate retention as a funding stream for local government and to implement the fairer funding formula which would see Norfolk receive a larger slice of national funding. Unfortunately, any decision is not expected prior to the budget being set.

A query was raised re the verge adjacent to the Telephone Exchange, which had been confirmed as Highways land, and a site meeting was requested as the ditch needed reinstating and the soil pile removed. D/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will take this matter forward.

D/Cllr Carter gave the following update:

The Breckland Local Plan has been adopted and Council now has a five year land supply.

Breckland are consulting on a scheme which will change the way Council Tax is calculated for anyone claiming Universal Credit with the proposed scheme not recalculating Council Tax unless their income varies by more than £15 per week. Any change at present generates a recalculation.

Match funding grants of up to £5,000 are available from the Norfolk Community Foundation to help fund locally identified projects.

Electric car charging points have been installed at both Dereham and Swaffham.

A query was again raised re the criteria in respect of self-build dwellings and planning regulations and D/Cllr Carter will take this forward.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors for their inputs and they both left the meeting.

6. Planning Issues

a) Decisions to note.

Council noted the following decisions:

Application	Parish Council Comments	Current Breckland Status
3PL/2019/1275/O - Land east of New Road - Erection of two new dwellings and garages.	Whissonsett Parish Council objected on grounds of inappropriate scale and design, inadequate roads and no evidence of demand for four-bedroom properties.	REFUSED
3PL/2019/1314/VAR – Queensforth, London Street Variation of Condition 2 of 3PL/2018/0235/F - revised eaves height & dormer window to bedroom 1	Whissonsett Parish Council objected on the grounds of inappropriate scale and design.	PERMISSION
3PL/2019/0940/F – Field between London Street & New Road. Self build four bedroomed dwelling.	Whissonsett Parish Council objected on the grounds that approval would result in the intrusion of built development into the open countryside, detracting from the rural character of the area generally. The roads serving the site are also inadequate and there is no evidence of demand for four-bedroom properties.	Undecided.
3PL/2019/1416/D – London Street - Reserved matters for submission of 5 dwellings following outline permission PL/2018/0032/O	Whissonsett Parish Council objected on the grounds of inappropriate scale and design and there is no evidence of demand for four-bedroom properties.	PERMISSION

b) Applications to consider.

Council considered the following applications:

- i. 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.

Despite having been granted an extension of time to permit the parish council to comment, Breckland had approved this application. Accordingly, there was no comment.

- ii. 3PL/2020/0004/D – Lane south of the Cottage, New Road – erection of a dwelling following outline planning permission 3PL/2018/0303/0.

Council had no comment in respect of this application.

c) To receive an update regarding a Neighbourhood Plan for Whissonsett.

The Chairman reported that a Neighbourhood Plan would require a lot of time and money from the parish council and it was hoped that the newly adopted Breckland Local Plan would now offer more protection against development. Accordingly, Cllr Dye proposed not to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan, 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 noted the following matters:

- Footpath 4 blocked – this has been cleared by NCC.
- Fly tipping on Raynham Road – despite a report to the contrary, it was believed this had not yet been cleared by Breckland.
- Ditch etc adjacent to Telephone Exchange, Mill Lane – reported to Highways three times but no action to date, C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will take this matter forward.

Potholes on Wash Lane, Mill Lane and Horningtoft Road were reported.

b) To receive an update re Community Speedwatch.

Cllr McGee reported a lack of volunteers and it was agreed not to proceed with a Community Speedwatch group.

Cllr Dye proposed approval for the purchase of a new battery for the SAM II sign, this was seconded by Cllr Daniels and agreed by Council.

Cllr McGee volunteered to collect data from the SAM II sign and review the results, using the parish council laptop which was not required by the Clerk.

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.

The Chairman thanked all the volunteers who had assisted in the recent clearance of the Church Lanes. The contractor had done an excellent job, which had been made much easier with the

assistance of the volunteers. Some clearance work was still required and this will be carried out in due course.

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

A further quotation is awaited, prior to any decision being made.

10. To consider a report regarding recommendations contained in the Play Area Inspection Report.

No update was available in respect of the report.

11. To consider any issues relating to regular checks:

a) The Allotments.

A new plot was to be marked out ready for one new tenant and Cllr Dye proposed a cost of up to £20 to purchase plastic marker poles, this was seconded by Cllr Daniels and agreed by Council. Cllr Andrews will donate a ball of string for the marking out.

b) Tree Maintenance.

A quote was awaited from the contractor.

c) Play Area.

There was nothing to report.

12. To consider information regarding maintenance responsibilities within the parish.

Council noted that no progress had been made and agreed to send the list to D/Cllr Carter for any information he may have.

13. To consider the publication of a Parish Newsletter and/or Website amendments.

Cllr McGee updated Council with an option for a one-off printed newsletter, with the information being taken from the updated website and distributed to households, with an option then to receive an email version in the future. Council approved this course of action.

In respect of any amendments to the website contract, in view of the new regulations in respect of public sector website accessibility, Council agreed to look at options as to the way forward at the next meeting.

14. To consider the purchase of a sign for the Village Hall to publicise meetings.

There had been no interest from local clubs and societies and it was agreed not to proceed with this issue.

15. Correspondence

Council noted the following correspondence:

- Breckland Parish Forum – 12th February 2020
- Bus Timetable Amendments – Norfolk
- Breckland – Adoption of Local Plan

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 public sector website accessibility regulations.

This matter had been dealt with at item 13.

c) To receive a report regarding Operation London Bridge.

Cllr McGee will liaise with Whissonsett PCC and report back to the next meeting.

d) To approve the following payments:

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

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Clerk (Salary/Allowance – Dec/Jan) | £257.84 |
| • Church Lane Clearance | £500.00 (paid 24.12.19) |

17. To note the meeting dates for 2020.

Council noted the meeting dates for 2020, as follows:

Monday 9th March
 Thursday 14th May (following the Annual Parish Meeting)
 Monday 13th July
 Monday 14th September
 Monday 9th November

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

Council agreed to include Renovation of the Village Sign on the next agenda.

19. To note the next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 9th March 2020 in the Village Hall.

Council noted the date of the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed:

Date: