

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF CORPUSTY AND SAXTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 29th JUNE 2021 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Cllr Waterson, Cllr Barnett, Cllr Fenny, Cllr Brown, Diane Oliver
County Cllr Aquarone
Kirsty Cotgrove (Clerk)
Members of the public - 1

21/46. To consider accepting apologies for absence.

Apologies were accepted for Tim Buddle, Marty Jacobs, Guy Hodgson & Sophia Hodgson.

21/47. To adjourn the meeting to allow public participation.

One Parishioner was in attendance. She queried the new designation of the Right of Way, and asked if there will be a new sign. County Cllr Aquarone will check with Highways. She also asked whether there has been any further movement regarding a litter pick and hedge cutting around the corner of the bypass / Norwich Road. A village litter pick took place, and the hedge in question is owned by Broadland Housing (BHA). The Clerk will ask them if they can clear. Cllr Barnett contacted Highways about the ditch, and it has been cleared, but it is looking untidy again already. This should be rectified when BHA begin their development. The ditch may be the responsibility of Highways or BHA. The Clerk will ask the Highways Rangers to look at the ditch.

21/48. To record declarations of interest from members in any item to be discussed.

None.

21/49. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2021.

The Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed.

21/50. To receive update from Steffan Aquarone, County Councillor.

County Cllr Aquarone thanked everyone for his re-election in May. He gave a brief verbal report, stating that he is going to prioritise climate change, public transport and growing the local economy. A contract has been awarded for the Western link, with an estimated cost of £200m. County Cllr Aquarone is unsure if the project will go ahead, as he feels the Secretary of State may not sign it off.

One Parishioner arr. 19:43

Footpaths will also be looked at, to see how he can obtain better and more accessible rights of way in the division. It is uncertain yet if there will be incentives for farmers to open more permissive paths. It was noted that when the NDR was built, there was no tree management plan to ensure the trees would be kept watered, planted at the right time of year, etc. Cllr Waterson noted that the Neighbourhood Plan had an increase of footpaths in the village as a priority. She will walk the village with County Cllr Aquarone to see if any areas can be identified.

To receive update from Andrew Brown, District Councillor.

A report was emailed prior to the meeting. District Cllr Brown also reported that he received an email from BHA, to apologise for the delay in submission of the planning application. They have started preparing an application, and hope it will be submitted in the next few months. Regarding a property in the village, the heras fencing has been removed and have also tidied up the vegetation on the corner. A lot of work has taken place over the last few months on the property, but resurfacing of the driveway has still not been done. The owners have told enforcement it will be done soon. There remain a large number of outbuildings, which are not built under permitted development rules. District Cllr Brown has reported this to Highways and Planning Enforcement, and the planning department are asking for the owners to apply for permission for the additional outbuildings, and are taking enforcement action regarding the development where the application was refused. District Cllr Brown has put in a complaint about the delays in enforcement action being taken. As enforcement has now been served, the owners have six months to appeal. Councillors raised concerns that there has been a wider issue of maladministration by the District Council, and asked what the process is for a formal complaint. District Cllr Brown stated that the most likely option would be a judicial review, but he is keeping the pressure on the District Council to ask why there have been so many delays. County Cllr Aquarone suggested contacting the Local Government Ombudsman. The District Council complaints procedure would need to be followed first. Cllr Barnett proposed that the Council make a complaint to the District Council. All agreed. Cllr Waterson will draft a complaint. Cllr Barnett advised that he has not heard from BHA regarding the hydrology of the chalk stream. The poultry farm application is ongoing, and District Cllr Brown has emailed environmental health to ask why the public health aspect hasn't been dealt with.

County Cllr Aquarone left at 20:15

29th June 2021

21/51. Matters arising from previous minutes for information only – Adams Lane obstruction to right of way / empty property in centre of village

Adams Lane right of way – Cllr Brown reported that the right of way was taken in front of the District Council enforcement board on 22nd June, and they are not going to take action regarding the fencing encroaching onto the right of way. He is going to put in a FOI request for the minutes of the enforcement board meeting to try and find why they will not take action. He will also ask for proof of the channels of communication between planning and the Highways Rights of Way department.

Empty property in centre of the village – There is a fence, but the window is still not in upstairs. Cllr Brown has spoken to the neighbours and the Enforcement Officer, who has said that contractors are pricing up for the necessary work to be done, with a subsequent land charge on the property. A Parishioner identified another empty property, where no work has been done. It is uncertain if this property is classed as uninhabitable. Whether the District Council will take any action would depend on if the property is having Council Tax paid on it. Cllr Brown will investigate for further information. The Parishioner is happy to lodge a formal complaint if necessary.

21/52. Finances

(a) To receive the current financial position

A bank reconciliation and budget considerations sheet had been emailed to Councillors prior to the meeting.

(b) To approve payments to be made and made between meetings

The list of payments made and to be made was attached to the agenda. The following payments were authorised / paid between meetings:

K Cotgrove – June salary and expenses (inc. HMRC)	£328.16
K Cotgrove – July salary and expenses (inc. HMRC)	£328.16
CGM – grass cutting June	£100.27
CGM – Grass cutting July	£100.27
E.on – June electricity	£59.41
Cozens – quarterly lighting maintenance	£216.00

(c) To note receipt:

HMRC – VAT rebate	£1265.69
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21/53. To update on windfarm projects.

Cllr Barnett reported that the Oulton Group have been working very hard, and have extended the consultation base into Essex. They have been in consultation with Equinor, and Cllr Barnett is in the process of compiling a report with discrepancies in Equinor's public health reports. Duncan Baker has been in consultation with Equinor and is keen to push for the pathfinder strategy.

21/54. To update on Highways issues, and to approve the Parish Council contribution to the feasibility study and village gateway of £5000, and to consider a dog waste bin on Irmingland Road.

Concern was raised at the cost of the feasibility study, and the potential issues of building another roundabout in the area. Cllr Waterson advised that the study should explore other options, one of which would be the roundabout. Cllr Fenny asked if terms of reference could be provided for the feasibility study, to ensure other options will be explored as well as a roundabout. The Clerk will contact Highways for Terms of Reference. It was agreed to proceed with the village gateway scheme.

Dog waste bin – There was discussion as to whether a dog waste bin is necessary, as waste bins can be used. However, there is no bin on Irmingland Road. The main issue is from holidaymakers at properties on Irmingland Road. The Clerk will write to the owners of the houses, to ask that they speak to tourists to ask that they ask their guests to clear up after their dogs, to see if this helps.

21/55. To approve a new Parish Council website, with associated costs

The Clerk has researched options and has received a quote. All agreed to go with the new provider.

21/56. To update on the village maps, and to approve any payments necessary

The church will allow the Parish Council to use half of their board for the map of the airfield, in exchange for a new directional sign to the church. The complete costs is £395. All agreed

21/57. To consider a request to fund the church newsletter

The Church newsletter has asked for a regularised contribution, based on the number of properties in each village. It was agreed that the newsletter is very valuable, however, concern was raised at the cost to the Parish of this. The Clerk advised that a neighbouring benefice produces a monthly newsletter free of charge to the Parishes.

29th June 2021

A Parishioner left at 20:45

The Parish Council currently pays £50 per year towards the newsletter. Cllr Barnett asked for a report on costs currently, and to ask what their advertising income is. Cllr Waterson will contact the newsletter to ask for this further information.

21/58. To discuss cutting Parish footpaths.

Many footpaths are overgrown. Highways are responsible for the floor, but the hedgerows are the responsibility of the landowner. There is nothing the Parish Council can do, but the Clerk will contact Highways to ask that they deal or contact the owners. Volunteers will be requested to help cut areas back.

21/59. Planning –

To agree responses to applications – None.

To record planning decisions made between meetings – (i) PF/21/0613. The PC had no objection / comment for this application

(ii) PF/21/1101. The PC had no objection / comment for this application

(iii) RV/21/1299. The PC had no objection / comment for this application, but had concerns regarding the commercial land adjacent to the property, which were passed to planning enforcement. They will not look into it further until a decision has been made on this application. Cllr Barnett asked if the Head of Planning could be asked to attend the next meeting. Cllr Brown will ask Phillip Rowson to attend.

To consider Late Planning applications- None

To receive decisions from North Norfolk District Council – None.

To update on planning breaches –.

21/60. Correspondence

(i) Parishioner’s concerns re grass cutting on the village green

A Parishioner is concerned that the bonfire area has not been reseeded, even though there was no bonfire in 2019, and the ruts are still there. The Parish Council advised that the weather was too bad in early 2020 to reseed, and there appears to be no volunteers to do it. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact the bonfire committee to suggest the Parish Council arranges for the work each year, and reclaim the cost from them. The owner of the property on the Green contacted the Clerk, as the area bordering her property wasn’t being cut. The Clerk contacted the contractors who have been out to cut it back properly.

(ii) PKF Littlejohn – notice of exemption

The notice of exemption has been returned by the external auditor.

(iii) Parishioner’s request for milestone renovation

A Parishioner has asked for the milestone near the shop to be cleaned and straightened. The milestone is maintained by Highways. Cllr Fenny will attempt to clean it, as he strims around it regularly anyway.

21/61. To receive items for information

Cllr Brown asked what is happening with the resurfacing of the car park. Cllr Oliver advised that quotes are being obtained. Cllr Waterson has written twice to Andy Bell to ask for an update on the action points raised approximately a year ago. Cllr Oliver will chase him for the information.

Cllr Barnett reported back on the report by Highways regarding safety issues on the bypass. They have suggested a Parish Partnership application to potentially slow traffic. There is an issue of vehicles overtaking on the wrong side of the island close to Irmingland Road. This will be put on the next agenda.

21/62. To receive items for the next agenda

Feasibility study. Response to bypass traffic report.

21/63. To close meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21:13.

The next meeting will be 21st September 2021, 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed

Dated