

WICKLEWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held via Zoom video conferencing as allowed by the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of local authority and police & crime panel meetings)(England & Wales) Regulations 2020 on

Monday 1st June 2020 at 7.45pm

Present: John Seville (JS) Chair, Nick Kemp (NK) Vice Chair, Joel Pailes (JP), Richard Goodings (RG), Louise Downton (LD)

In attendance: Margaret Dewsbury (MD) County Councillor, Richard Elliot (RE) District Councillor, Helen Frayer (HF) Parish Clerk

336. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Alan Goodings and John Hipperson. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

337. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest

PUBLIC FORUM

- 338.** One resident asked if there were any thoughts about the parish council holding a party or fete after the current situation was over to celebrate. JS said there had been no thoughts on this but it could be considered.
- 339.** A resident asked if there was any update re the financial gap caused by the loss of hire fees for the village hall. Update will be given with finance report
- 340.** A resident wanted to thank the Parish Council for the use of the village hall to organise the local volunteer support to be organised. JS thanked the resident for his work in organising this local support
- 341.** Robert Foster wanted to introduce himself as the Comms Lead for Spooner Row Council. This is a new council and he is attending other local council meetings to see how they operate.
- 342.** A resident said that there had been instances of local people being reprimanded for walking round some of the fields. Some of the landowners appeared to informally allow this whereas others didn't. With several new people now living here, they didn't know where they were allowed to walk. Could the council clarify. This is an agenda item and will be discussed during the meeting.
- 343.** MD said she had sent a report to the clerk. Will be posted with Minutes

344. RE updated on the work of the District Council and how they had been helping the local community. South Norfolk, Broadland and Breckland were combining to drive forward the economic recovery. Measures were being put in place in the local market towns to ensure social distancing. This will include closing some roads. The Shop with Confidence campaign has started. More info on this on the website. They have been distributing £28m in Business Grants. Working on a budget to try and meet the shortfall of income from the closure of leisure centres. There is a Covid 19 Heros award for people to be nominated in recognition of their work.

345. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2nd MARCH 2020**

Resolved: to agree and sign the minutes as correct. Proposed NK seconded RG all agreed.

UPDATE FROM CLERK ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

346. New company to be found for maintenance of playing field. Quotes were received from 3 companies and independent reviews sought on the 2 best quotes. Contract was awarded to TTSR as agreed by councillors via email consultation

347. Article was put in The Net reminding residents to keep hedges cut back and verges clear of obstructions

348. Re the speed limit on High Oaks Rd. Since the meeting, Councillor Margaret Dewsbury has offered to pay the TRO costs. An estimated cost for the signage has been received from Bob West for £3,000. Richard Goodings has offered to approach residents to raise the money.

349. Great Litter Pick was abandoned due to Covid situation

350. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None received

351. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

7.1	Salaries	Clerk & Booking Clerk - HMRC increased home working allowance to £26 pm	287.20
7.2	HMRC	Month 2	52.80
7.3	E Fire	Fire equipment service	108.00
7.4	J Plunkett	Internal audit costs	227.50
7.5	Tim Carver	Verge cutting - April	120.00
7.6	Norfolk Parish Training	Induction for Councillors training	50.00
7.7	GS Mann	Plumbing repairs in village hall	144.00
		TOTAL	£989.50

One additional invoice received from Tim Carver for cutting in May £120

Resolved: That all accounts as presented be paid. Proposed NK, seconded JP, all agreed

352. MONTHLY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS REPORT

	Current	Deposit	Hampshire Trust Bank	Total
Balance b/f from 24.4.20	6,811.29	5,158.39	5,000	16,969.68
Total receipts to	8,107.21	0	0	8,107.21
24.05.20	14,918.50	5,158.39	5,000	25,076.89
Total payments to	3,990.41	0	0	3,990.41
24.05.20	10,928.09	5,158.39	5,000	21,086.48
Inter Account Transfers	0	0	0	0
Closing Balance	10,928.09	5,158.39	5,000	21,086.48

Receipts include the half year precept payment and VAT reclaim.

Note: Barclays have notified that the interest on the premium account is reducing from 0.10% to 0.01% from 24th July

353. Loss of income from hall closure: The Clerk advised that she has applied for the Small Business Grant but has been advised that precepting authorities are exempt from applying. RE has also confirmed the same. The Clerk has written to the MP asking what support is available as the Government Minister said money was available for village halls via District Council, He has sent a stock reply. In view of the loss of income, the planned redecoration of the hall and replacement of the bar will have to be put on hold.

354. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 had previously been circulated to councillors and was read out to the meeting. **RG proposed to approve, seconded NK, all agreed**

355. THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENT 2019/20

The Accounting Statement had previously been circulated to councillors. **NK proposed their approval, Seconded RG, all agreed** JS commented that the internal audit report had made comment about Mike Gamble having retired. This is not technically correct as he decided not to stand for election again at the end of his term of office.

356. STANDING ORDERS

The amended Standing Orders with inclusion of provision for the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of local authority and police & crime panel meetings)(England & Wales) Regulations 2020 had previously been circulated to councillors. **JS proposed their adoption, LD seconded, all agreed.**

357. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Following a request from a resident to clarify which fields the public are allowed to walk. There are no public footpaths within Wicklewood parish. The nearest is in Kimberley. There is also a permissive footpath network on the nearby Hardingham estate. All the local fields are private land. It is not clear which farmers allow, or turn

a blind eye to, people walking and which farmers do not allow it. Some of the field margins are left for wildlife, not known if a grant is received by the farmer for this. This may prevent people walking there. It was raised that if the farmers are approached and asked to confirm their position, they may decide they don't wish to formally allow walking, in which case the village could be in a worse position than at present. **JS proposed initially approaching National England, who dealt with the permissive path at Hardingham, and seek their advice. Seconded LD, all agreed.** LD suggested that if farmers didn't want people on their land they could put up a private sign.

358. PLANNING

Responses to these were based on majority views via email consultation with councillors.

- Planning application 2020/0697
- Planning application 2020/0679

Majority view on both applications was no views or comments. 2020/0697 has been approved by planning

WICKLEWOOD VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

359. Village Hall:

Some minor plumbing faults have been repaired. It has been noted that the waste pipe cap at the front of the hall has been removed and a replacement is needed. Also the drain gullies need attention, cleaning and repair as the covers have broken. RG proposed getting quote and repair carried out, NK seconded, all agreed. There is also the outstanding issue of the manhole cover that needs replacing and gatepost that needs attention. Mat Nudds has already been asked to do this work. RG will follow up with Mat and also ask him to deal with the waste pipe and quote for the drain gullies.

360. Purchase of heating oil: As the cost of oil is at an all time low JS proposed a full tank fill. NK seconded, all agreed

361. Maintenance of the grounds:

JS reported that the recycling bins are full – HF to contact providers to empty. There is also a lot of litter on the field and with the cleaners not currently working, the bins are not being emptied. The Green Bin was full, and JS put this out today. Alan Coombe very kindly offered take Green Bin in and to do a litter pick.

362. NK said that as the play area is officially closed he hasn't been doing the regular checks and has removed the table tennis bats and balls. He will recommence checks. The new contractors have cut the grass but not lifted the nets. HF to contact (since meeting, contractors have cut under net, didn't the first time as the goal was in use). RG is putting up signs re No barbeques/fires and replacing the Play Area closed sign.

363. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

In view of the awkwardness of video meetings, HF proposed that we hold virtual meetings alternate months with the payments schedule being circulated the other months. Agreed. Next meeting 3rd August.