

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 at 7.30pm**

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

**In attendance: Richard Elliot (RE), Helen Frayer (HF) Parish Clerk**

**551. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies received from John Hipperson and Margaret Dewsbury. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting

**552. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** RG and AG for item 11.3

**553. PUBLIC FORUM:** Jamie Bird (JB) from Fleur Housing, the developers of the site on Hackford Road, gave a presentation on the development plans for 9 houses. He reported that most comments already received had been traffic concerns, mainly speeding, on Hackford Road. He said they will be liaising with Highways re possible solutions. Drainage has also been raised. He stated that the design had been done in conjunction with advice from the County Drainage Officer. Also concerns re the density which was increased from the original 6 to 9 dwellings.

Comments to JB from councillors:

AG said the entrance should be nearer the church which would move it away from the bend. JB said the entrance was in the centre of the development to make the largest visibility splay. Moving it nearer the church would reduce the visibility.

JS raised concerns re the impact on drainage. The number of premises in that area would double. Other, older, properties were reliant on septic tanks/soakaways and this development may cause more water going into the top layers of ground and cause problems as had happened elsewhere in the village with previous developments. JB said the foul drainage would be pumped into the main sewer. Anglia Water have confirmed there is sufficient capacity. In terms of surface water, the site is designed to be self contained. Roof water will go to an attenuation basin. Roadways will be permeable.

JP asked if properties could be designed with underground chambers to collect water for watering gardens. JB said he would look into this.

Comments to JB from local residents:

Mr Fisher of 80 Hackford Road raised concerns about drainage particularly in view of recent issues with heavy rain and septic tanks and also the 50% increase of properties from original plans with the resultant increase in traffic. Also unhappy about how close the buildings will be to his boundary and it would block his view of the church. JB offered to visit to discuss issues. He was unaware of the recent problems re drainage. He said that it was usual for the number of properties to increase from original outline plans and it would be of similar density to the surrounding area. He said they had looked closely at the levels and sight plans. JS did point out that planning only looks at public views, not private views.

Mr Botley raised the point about the road changes which meant more HGVs. JS reported that Highways have confirmed that there has been no upgrade of the road and it is still designated as a C road. Mr Botley was also concerned about what happens when the attenuation basin is full as his property lies about 4 ft lower than the basin. JB confirmed that he is happy to meet with any residents, along with an engineer to discuss issues.

Other public forum comments:

Alan Coombs thanked the clerk for the recent piece in The Net magazine giving an update on the work of the council and also said he welcomed the proposal to have a plaque in commemoration for the work of AG over 50 years in the parish council and also for his work with the bowls club

**554. REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:** Written report received from RE which has been circulated.

**555. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY:**  
Resolved: To agree these minutes as correct. **Proposed NK, seconded RG all agreed**

**UPDATE FROM CLERK ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**556.** HF reported that all actions from previous meeting had been completed. The fire alarm call point have now been renewed. The £15,000 for the footpath appears to have got lost in the post so the cheque has been stopped and a replacement sent for signing. The speed information has been sent to the police for them to assess with a view to having a police presence with a speed gun.

**CORRESPONDENCE: (all previously circulated to councillors)**

**557.** Emails received from Fleur housing re the development as discussed above

## FINANCE

### 558. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Salaries	Clerk & Booking Clerk	405.02
HMRC	Month 10	72.20
Clerk's expenses	Zoom fee, Annual Payroll site fee	107.99
E Fire	6 month inspection	155.11
John Roy	Final invoice for redecorating and minor repairs	1,234.98
GS Mann	Repair to toilet in gents	60.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,035.30</b>

HF reported that she was querying the amount due to EFire and would not pay the invoice until a satisfactory response was received.

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

### 559. MONTHLY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS REPORT

	Current	Premium	Total
Balance b/f	<b>24,212.11</b>	<b>15,000.80</b>	<b>39,212.91</b>
Total receipts to 26.1.21	6,605.57	0.35	6605.92
	<b>30,817.68</b>	<b>15,001.15</b>	<b>45,818.83</b>
Total payments to 26.1.21	2,442.57	0.00	2,442.57
	<b>28,375.11</b>	<b>15,001.15</b>	<b>43,376.26</b>
Inter Account Transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>28,375.11</b>	<b>15,001.15</b>	<b>43,376.26</b>

HF reported that income included a Closed business lockdown payment of £4,000 plus £2,477.43 Covid Business Support Grants for the ongoing hall closures.

## HIGHWAYS

- 560. Report from Highways Officer:** JP reported that the SAM2 is currently on Hackford Road. Will next be put facing opposite direction. **Data gathered will be sent to JB re the development planning**
- 561.** JS reported that the verge near the church appears to be eroding down the bank and encroaching onto the footpath. **HF to pass to Highways to deal**
- 562.** LD had raised the concerns of residents in Low Street regarding the ongoing flooding problem there. This had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and JS had circulated a paper outlining the issues. It is difficult to identify which house/land owners are responsible as the water is coming from various directions. Historic maps show an open ditch. Where new Properties have been built, original drains may have been diverted or replaced with pipework of insufficient size to cope. Residents need to come together to sort the problem. The land drainage department at NCC could be called to investigate.
- 563.** Highways maintenance – JS reported that various issues had been reported at the end of the summer and also raised with the County Councillor. Highways had attended today to clear some of the grubs. The one reported as blocked has been

cleared but the other issues are still outstanding. JS proposed that Highways be contacted to request these problem points are maintained on a regular basis prior to winter conditions. RG seconded, all agreed. **HF to contact Highways**

## **PLANNING**

- 564.** 2021/0077 Plot 2, land west of High St. Variation of condition 2 of 2019/1018. **The council had no views or comments.**

## **VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS**

- 565. Report from Booking Clerk:** HF reported that the booking clerk is still furloughed. The hall is still closed due to covid restrictions.
- 566. Hall Maintenance:** Quote to replace the extractor fan including rewiring, speed control and timer and labour £620. JS proposed spending some of the covid grant as this will benefit our covid precautions. JP said he didn't agree while the income is uncertain. The other councillors also agreed not to commit to this expenditure at this time. **LD proposed to defer decision until September, NK seconded, all agreed.** JP suggested getting a second quote
- 567.** JS reported that the decorator has mentioned about how much Sellotape, drawing pins and blue tac he had to remove from the walls and doorframes. Suggested installing some cup hooks in relevant places for people to use for their decorations etc. A door holder was also needed to hold the chair store door open when removing chairs/tables. Quote of £25 for this received from John Roy. Replacement safety/fire signs also required. HF had found online costs for this of £30.80. **RG proposed to go ahead with this work, NK seconded, all agreed**
- 568. To agree details of commemorative plaque for 50 years service to Councillor Alan Goodings:** Best quote received wq £44.82 from Clements in Wymondham. **NK proposed to go ahead, JP seconded, all agreed.** Aim to install for annual meeting in May. RG will order
- 569. Playing Field Inspection:** NK reported all ok but ground is sodden. The football posts are well used but the net pegs keep coming out. Some are now missing and more will be needed. Will replace when weather improves
- 570. Update re tree planting:** It has been too wet for the tractor to get on the field to plough the lines.
- 571. TO CONSIDER DEVELOPING A PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH AROUND PARISH COUNCIL LAND:** JS had previously circulated a plan of the large field owned by the parish council that is let to a local farmer. The lease is up for renewal in October. JS proposed having a permissive footpath around the perimeter of the field which would make a circular walk for the benefit of the local community. It is proposed to have two entrances, one at the hospital end and one at the allotment end. If there is grant availability, or the free trees previously mentioned by the county councillor, then the partial hedge could be extended around the field. **JS requested the council authorise the chair and clerk to negotiate with the lease-holding farmer to incorporate this in the new tenancy agreement when the lease is renewed. NK proposed accepting this, JP seconded, all agreed.** JP offered to measure the

length of the walk. JP asked if an additional dog bin could be placed there. HF suggested the 'stick and flick' system.

**572. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** HF reported that the rules allowing virtual meetings expires on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Suggested writing to our MP and NALC to encourage them to pressure for this to be extended. **RG proposed writing, LD seconded, all agreed**

**573. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING**

The next meeting will be 1<sup>st</sup> March via Zoom. Items for the agenda to be sent to the clerk by 19<sup>th</sup> February.