

ROYDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 27th January 2022 at 7.00pm at Pott Row Village Hall

In Attendance: Councillors: Suzi Pimlott (Chair), Neville Fletcher, Colin Manning, Colin Nichols, Michael Rae, Marc Starling, Tim Tilbrook, Borough Councillor: Michael DeWhalley & 3 members of public. Clerk: Pippa Winson

73/21 To consider apologies for absence.

None

74/21 To consider Requests for Dispensations from the restriction on participating in the discussion or voting on a matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

None.

75/21 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 4th November 2021

Having been circulated prior to the meeting, the minutes were agreed and signed.

76/21 To record Councillors' declarations of interest on Agenda Items.

None.

77/21 Public Speaking.

- (a) Cllr Manning had emailed his report: 'Firstly I think its good that the borough has embraced virtual meetings wherever possible using Teams and/or Zoom for training and information purposes. Recently we held a Regeneration and Development panel meeting via Zoom that was live streamed to the public on YouTube. This meant we could have an update from officers re the Nar Ouse area development, could ask questions regarding new buildings , infrastructure etc , but it didn't require a vote ,which was why we were able to hold the meeting virtually. This saved travel time and expenses , meant less pollution from vehicle use and might even have helped stop spread of colds, coughs and flu etc. Personally, don't really understand why some meetings where uncontentious issues are discussed and voting is required, can't be held virtually as they seemed generally to work ok ,when they were mandatory during lockdown restrictions. Having said that , myself and most folk I've asked ,would probably prefer a "real" meeting if safe and given the choice .

Recently I took part in a virtual meeting with borough colleagues and NCC officers regarding the possible use of the old Argos building as a Multi Use Community Hub (MUCH) and the transfer of library service from the current Carnegie library building near top of Millfleet to this town centre location , where it should encourage more footfall. I am content with the categorical assurance that reports about the old Carnegie building being sold off to become flats etc isn't true and that IF the library moves into the MUCH , then the old library building will be available for some other community use. The MUCH will incorporate a variety of services to the public . At this time it's unknown if the Argos building would need refurbishment or a rebuild .

Was pleased that at our January Planning committee we voted in favour of the application to make use of the old Post Office building in Lynn that has been disused for many years . It will provide new jobs in the proposed retail units as well as some more town centre homes etc. This building has been empty far too long and needed a new purposeful use. On the 2nd December 2021 , I attended county hall for a confirmation hearing of the NPCP when we endorsed the PCC's choice of Mr Paul Sanford as the new Chief Constable to replace Mr Simon Bailey who had retired in the summer. Mr Sanford was previously the county's Deputy Chief and had been appointed Temporary CC since Mr Bailey's departure. On the 28 January the Norfolk Police and Crime Panel (NPCP) of which I am the member representing our borough council ,will meet virtually using Teams ,for a briefing session

about the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Police Precept proposal for 2022-23 and on the 1st February we will have to meet in person at County Hall Norwich to consider whether to support the precept proposal, as this requires a vote we have to be physically present. The public consultation on the police precept closed on the 14 January, so hopefully those residents who so wished would have taken part and expressed their views. The PCC will have noted all the comments made by the public and also from the new Chief Constable, before making his precept proposal as will the NPCP, as we need to weigh up all the pros and cons of the likely effects to the service that Norfolk Constabulary can offer our residents, if we lower or maintain the present level or increase the police precept. As we all have to pay Council tax in its various parts, panel members are aware of the effect on family finances (seems that the county council could look for increase of 2.9% and the police might ask the max of 3.59% and then there is the borough and parishes ...)

The borough council tax support scheme is set to increase for residents on lowest incomes, this should help almost 2000 households. Currently the borough will meet up to 75% of the resident's council tax bill but the cabinet has agreed it should rise to 84% from April. This proposal was due to be sent to Full Council meeting to be ratified on 25 January. Some residents on low incomes are in "protected" groups and do receive a higher level of support determined by national schemes.

The first 3, of year 2022 Full Council meetings for Jan/Feb/ Apr are scheduled to be held in the Corn Exchange starting at 1630 hours and are having to be on different days than the normal Thursday due to other bookings at this venue. The reason we are not using the Town Hall is that due to COVID ventilation requirements, (there have been up to 55 councillors plus a democratic services officer, the chief executive, the monitoring officer and the mayor's chaplain = 59 people all seated in the Assembly Room, with the public sitting in the Stone Hall) the town hall has been uncomfortably cold at these panel and council meetings, as the only current way to ventilate it, has been by open windows and doors, which has not been pleasant for those present. The Corn Exchange being a theatre has a mechanical ventilation system and hopefully should provide a better experience for all those councillors and public who attend.

I understand that a Grimston resident has asked Grimston PC to look at trying to get the Sunday bus service number 48 reinstated. I have already emailed my fellow Parish councillors of this and no doubt it will be discussed at our meeting. At present it's difficult to know if it's worth pursuing this as we haven't yet received any data from Lynx re passenger numbers prior to the COVID lockdowns, this was when understandably it was deemed not viable by Lynx the bus operator as when many shops had to close naturally there was a subsequent loss of passengers. We had I think about 5 years without any Sunday service, before it was then reintroduced a few years prior to COVID, albeit due to unforeseen Covid-19 circumstances of course it didn't last long, so whilst I'm anxious that those without their own transport aren't neglected, without knowing the likely bus usage in normal times, I find it difficult to know whether parish precept money would be wisely spent on bus sponsorship, although £205 isn't an unreasonable amount suggested by Lynx for providing three return trips to Lynn. However if there is support from say 5 or 6 of the 6 parish councils in this ward it may prove possible to sponsor a bus perhaps on one Sunday a month, maybe too expensive for every Sunday, maybe just in the Summer months, but obviously it needs real discussion with input from all parties, and support from all concerned. Realistically I admit, living in my part of Roydon I've never bothered to get a bus pass because the nearest bus is at the crossroads and there isn't an evening service during the week so getting to and from Council isn't an option (certainly if we resume the 6 or 6.30pm start times for panels and council instead of 4.30pm starts) Finally, a reminder that any volunteer type group that is planning something to benefit the community should look at the borough website - the Councillor Community Grant scheme - to ascertain if their project might be able to get a grant of between £50-£1000. Obviously,

there are conditions as it's public money but if in doubt have a look and if it complies ,then apply ! The reality is that grants of £50- £few hundred , are the most likely as each ward member can allocate £1000 per year ,so it would need to be exceptional to get the full £1000!'

Cllr De Whalley apologised as he has family health commitments taking up his time. At Full Council it was agreed that a survey is to be carried out on the Borough Council owned dog bins and they will be replaced where necessary. He has that a number of the regions MP's had been to see the Secretary of State to express their concerns and support the QEH bid. There are currently 130 props supporting the building and the BC, CC and the regional NHS are pushing the bid. There has also been wide community support. The most financially viable option is to to re-build on site.

Cllr De Whalley left the meeting.

Cllr Nichols added that they are losing members of the planning department.

- (b) Members of the Public: Mary is retiring as Treasurer of Hudson Fen Leisure and Shona Greig is taking over.

78/21 Matters arising.

None.

79/21 Correspondence received (for info only).

Letter from PCC asking if the PC can consider giving a donation towards grasscutting in the 20-21 year as they had no meetings due to Covid. C Nichols confirmed that a donation was made in March 2021 for that year and they need to submit a request for this year.

Email from Sam Adkin, Treasurer of Grimston Cricket Club. They have applied for funding for pavilion renovations from the KLWNBC CIL Funding scheme and they are asking for a letter of support from the Parish Council. All agreed to support this application and to send a letter of support.

Various – via email.

80/21 Highways- note any issues and matters to be reported to highways.

- (a) Station Road flooding issues, NCC highways have advised that they have had the jetting contractor visit site on several occasions working to clean and investigate the system here. They have confirmed that the system has been assessed and cleaned and the system has been left working well. They will closely monitor this location to ensure that this has sorted the problem. It was mentioned that there is litter on Station Road to the A148, S Pimlott will identify where and report to Cleanup team at the BC if required. There are potholes at the Roydon Lodge end of Low Road, between Roydon Lodge and the end of the road. S Pimlott mentioned that letters had previously been sent to properties on Station Road regarding their hedges overhanging the highway. One property still needs further work to the hedge. S Pimlott will check the house number and a further letter will be sent offering a meeting.

Parish Partnership Scheme application was submitted in December for the speed gates and it expected a decision will be given in March.

81/21 Bus Shelter

S Pimlott has contacted King's Lynn Glass but had not heard when works are to be done. She will provide contact details so that clerk can chase.

82/21 Hudson Fen Leisure

Mary has resigned as Treasurer as previously advised, and new Treasurer in place. They will be involved in the Jubilee event.

83/21 Neighbourhood Plan

One meeting has been held this month. They continue to discuss the pre-submission draft. Once the issues are resolved they can move forward.

84/21 Roydon Common

Colin Grimes had left a message on the clerks ansaphone to say that he was hoping to attend the meeting, but wanted to advise that he wouldn't be able to take on the grass-cutting. Clerk had been held up due to an accident on the way home, so didn't have time

to call him back to discuss. Concerns were raised about travellers camping on the Common. It was advised that the PC had unsuccessfully tried to establish ownership of the small section where the encampments usually are. It was felt that re-wilding should be done in the correct way. As the site is a County Wildlife Site, their Officer has advised on the best way to manage the site and information was put into the Village Link. Those that responded advised that they are happy with the proposals suggested. Clerk will contact NWT to ask for their advice regarding contractors. On proposal from M Rae and seconded by C Nichols, all agreed to CGM continuing the grounds maintenance for this year with a view to getting a contractor in place for next year, to explore other options in line with the NWT Officers advice. Options to be considered to prevent vehicles accessing the land.

85/21 C.I.L – Potential Applications

Nothing to discuss at this time.

86/21 Queen’s Platinum Jubilee 2nd June 2022

Nothing to discuss at this time.

87/21 Finance

- (a) Cheque agreed for CGM Grounds Maintenance - £432.00.
- (b) All agreed to precept being set at £5750.00 for 2022-23.
- (c) On proposal from T Tilbrook and seconded by C Manning, all agreed to SLCC subscription contribution of £32.00.

88/21 Planning

Planning Application Reference 21/02454/F for Single storey side extension including solar panels at Westbury 20 Stoney Road Roydon, all agreed no objections to this proposal, however, there are concerns in respect of the visibility of the solar panels and wonder if a less obtrusive option could be considered.

Planning Application Reference 21/02498/F for REMOVAL OR VARIATION OF CONDITIONS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 (to regularise the planning permission to reflect what has been constructed on site) of planning permission 20/00660/F which sought REMOVAL OR VARIATION OF CONDITIONS 2 and 4 OF PLANNING PERMISSION 19/01866/F: To replace the existing farmhouse with a 2 storey detached property at The Whins 25 Low Road Roydon. All agreed that there was no objection to this proposal, however, it was commented that once again an application has been submitted retrospectively to remedy unauthorised works.

89/21 To receive Councillors Concerns and items for next meeting agenda.

None.

90/21 Date of next Parish Council meeting to be Thursday 3rd March 2022 at 7pm at Pott Row Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.19 pm

Chairman

Date