

Great Ellingham Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday 15 July 2020 at 7.30pm

In Attendance: Cllr T Betts (Chairman), Cllr S Mellor, Cllr A Partridge, Cllr M Hadley, Cllr P Ewin, Cllr H Mellor, Cllr N Wilkins

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner
District Councillor Sarah Suggitt
County Councillor Ed Connolly
5 members of the public

- 1. Open Forum – An opportunity for any parishioner to speak on parish matters and to hear reports from District and County Councillors, if applicable** – A member of the public asked if the Flagship development is going to be split into two phases, leading to a concern that a situation could arise whereby the Phase 2 development could be dependent on the completion and sale of Phase 1. The Chairman confirmed that he is in correspondence with the project director regarding this matter and has been assured he will receive a response within 10 days.

County Councillor Ed Connolly confirmed that updated Covid-19 information will still be circulated weekly, for the time being. Andrew Proctor, Leader of the County Council has provided further information regarding increased financial support. The County Council are working in conjunction with the Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership to support businesses through the crisis. Advice from the County Council is that it is most important to continue with hand washing, social distancing and to wear face masks where appropriate (compulsory in shops from 24 July). Councillor S Mellor asked what the County Council are doing to prepare for a possible second wave of infections in the Autumn / Winter. Councillor Connolly confirmed that Councillors and officers are working hard to ensure the necessary help and support are in place in the event of a second wave.

District Councillor Sarah Suggitt confirmed that the recently adopted Local Plan for Breckland needs almost immediate review. This is due to the need to review the Plan against the 2019 NPPF and not the 2012 NPPF. Breckland have established a working group to ensure that this plan is prepared and approved quicker than the last one. There will be another call for land. The Chairman asked if Breckland currently have a 5 year housing land supply. District Councillor Suggitt confirmed she will ask for the current figure and confirm details at the next meeting.

- 2. To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Smith.
- 3. To receive any declarations of interest in any item on the agenda** – Cllrs H and S Mellor declared a pecuniary interest in item 8a on the agenda.
- 4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of 17 June 2020** – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman.
- 5. To report matters arising not on the agenda and hear the Chairman's report** – The clerk reported that the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn, have accepted and confirmed the parish council's exemption status.

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The Chairman confirmed that he continues to liaise with Norfolk County Council regarding the roundabout, including issues such as the school crossing and oil tank filling points.

The resident who undertakes maintenance at the Deopham Memorial site has reported damage to two of the trees. The Chairman confirmed he is dealing with this matter and is currently awaiting a second quote for works. **Action TB.**

The Chairman has also been corresponding with leaders from the Scout Group. This has highlighted the need for the board of trustees for the recreation centre to include a representative from the Parish Council. The Chairman asked Councillors to consider if they would be prepared to undertake this role and asked for an agenda item to be included at the meeting next month.
Action all.

The Chairman reported that the local policing team have agreed to accept data from the SAM2, which should help establish where and when to attend in the village in order to be most effective against speeding. Thanks go to a resident for their persistence in this matter. Councillor Mellor asked if there is a way to share a summary of the data from the SAM2 and the Chairman confirmed this could be done. **Action TB.**

Finally, the Great Ellingham Covid-19 support telephone line will close on 19 July, as the need for this seems to have ceased. Thanks to Gail Dorrington for her work setting the scheme up and helping to run it. The support line can start up again, in the event of need later in the year.

6. Planning applications considered between meetings: None

7. To hear of planning decisions and other information:

- a) **3PL/2020/0361/EU – Serendipity, Bow St – Certificate of lawfulness – approved**

8. To consider planning applications:

Councillors H and S Mellor left the meeting.

- a) **3PL/2018/0386/O – Mellor Metals, Attleborough Rd – Development of up to 75 dwellings – amendment due to time since last consultation was issued** – The Chairman gave a brief history of this application and confirmed that none of the basic details have changed, this is simply a requirement due to the time elapsed since the last application was approved. Councillors agreed they did **not object** to the application. Councillor S Mellor re-joined the meeting at this point but Councillor H Mellor could not re-establish a connection, so left the meeting.

- b) **3PL/2020/0022/OB – Land at Hingham Rd / Attleborough Rd – S106 agreement submission of open space scheme alongside ecological strip – timetable of works** – Following a summary of the application and further discussion, the parish council agreed there were **no objections** to this application.

- 9. To discuss and adopt a plan for highways incident and accident reporting** – The Chairman gave a summary of the situation, the main problem being that, due to reporting methods, Highways improvements are not looked upon favourably for the village as there do not appear to be hardly any recorded accidents. Although accidents do occur, they do not meet the criteria for recording by the Police. Following discussion, it was agreed that a Councillor should take responsibility for collating the accident / incident information. The Chairman will put forward a proposal at the next meeting as to what information will be asked for and how it will be recorded. Councillor Hadley agreed to maintain and record the information. **Action TB.**
- 10. To consider and adopt the ‘website accessibility statement’** – The draft statement was circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors approved the statement. The clerk will ensure this is displayed on the website. **Action AR.**
- 11. To hear information regarding the NCC Parish Partnership Scheme** – The Parish Partnership Scheme will be running again in 2021/22, on a 50/50 basis between the County Council and parish councils. Projects which will be considered are: small lengths of formal footway, trod paths, improved crossing facilities, improvements to public rights of way, flashing speeding signs, keep clear carriageway markings outside schools and new bus shelters. The parish council agreed that possible projects will be discussed at the meeting next month, to enable a potential bid to be submitted by the deadline of 4 December 2020.

County Councillor Ed Connolly reminded Councillors that he can make a contribution towards a suitable project from his members’ fund. The Chairman confirmed he will be asking Highways if the 20mph speed limit near the school can be made mandatory. **Action TB.**

12. To receive the financial report and consider the following payments:

The financial statement, circulated in advance of the meeting, was approved. The following payment was unanimously approved:

| Chq no | Amount | Payee | Notes |
|--------|---------|----------|-------------|
| 100641 | £257.21 | A Rayner | July salary |

13. To consider items from Councillors – None to report

14. To consider correspondence received:

- a) **Letter from resident re the Pyghtle**– A resident has written to the parish council highlighting the poor condition of the Pyghtle. The Chairman was pleased to receive the letter, which was from a young person in the village, and was impressed by their enthusiasm for the wildlife, flora and fauna around the Pyghtle. Unfortunately, previous works related to the Pyghtle has shown that it is not actually a pond but is a water attenuation area, receiving run off water from the highway and nearby land. The water is not oxygenated and cannot support a healthy living environment for wildlife. Various options have been investigated in the past but they would be hugely expensive and not

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supported by Highways. It seems there is little the parish council can do to improve the area. **Action TB.**

A member of the public present thought the Pyghtle discussion was in respect of the triangle development and, as it appeared this was not the case, asked what was happening to this piece of land, which is currently looking unkempt. The Chairman summarised the situation with regard to the developer and the S106 agreement relating to this land, which is currently with the enforcement officer at Breckland. Councillor Mellor asked why developers are allowed to leave sites without meeting their obligations, particularly as a S106 agreement is a legally binding document. District Councillor Suggitt gave some background into the current pressures on the enforcement officer at Breckland but agreed that she will look into the matter. Councillor Mellor thanked her for the support.

- b) **Letter from NCC re street lighting requirement for Hingham Rd** – NCC have asked for the parish council's view on street lighting, in relation to the development. They have confirmed this is not necessary from a Highways viewpoint. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that street lighting is not required. The Chairman will return the form to the County Council. **Action TB.**
- c) **Letter from Little Ellingham PC re dog fouling** – Little Ellingham PC have asked that Great Ellingham residents, if walking in the neighbouring parish, ensure that they clean up after their dogs.

15. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 19 August 2020, commencing at 7.30pm, to be held remotely via Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.