

Great Ellingham Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held remotely on Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 7.30pm

In Attendance: Cllr T Betts (Chairman), Cllr S Mellor, Cllr M Hadley, Cllr W Smith, Cllr P Ewin, Cllr N Wilkins

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner
District Councillor Sarah Suggitt
3 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** – District Councillor Sarah Suggitt reported from Breckland Council that, with regard to the coronavirus pandemic, we are still considered to be in the ‘response’ phase and the next stage will be the ‘recovery’ phase. Norfolk has not been affected as badly as many other parts of the country. Breckland Council has undertaken 3,500 welfare checks as part of their response to the pandemic, as well as continuing with statutory duties. Thanks are passed on from the District Council to all community and support groups who have provided a vital service during this time. A cabinet meeting was held on 1 June and the first planning committee meeting held since lockdown is on 22 June and this will be streamed live on You Tube.
- 2. To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Partridge and H Mellor. District Councillor Ed Connolly also sent his apologies.
- 3. To receive any declarations of interest in any item on the agenda** – None to report.
- 4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of 20 May 2020** – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed by the Chairman.
- 5. To report matters arising not on the agenda and hear the Chairman’s report** – The Chairman gave updated information regarding the air rifle range at the Recreation Ground. There has been ongoing correspondence between neighbours, recreation ground trustees and the Scout group. The Chairman has left the matter to be dealt with by the Recreation Centre Chairman. The footpaths leading from Attleborough Road have become very overgrown. A local landowner has agreed to cut the verges and the parish council acknowledged this work, with thanks. Further obstructions on other footpaths have been reported to Norfolk County Council and low hanging branches over the footpath on Chequers Lane will be cut back by the Chairman. More letters have been issued to local hauliers and businesses regarding speeding and these have been generally well received. The ‘At Home Exercise’ kits obtained from Active Norfolk recently have been delivered to the village shop and the details have been publicised on the village Facebook page. The Chairman spoke to NCC Highways regarding a tree on Attleborough Road, the details of which were raised by a member of the public at the last meeting. Highways are of the opinion that the tree will need to be felled and this will be undertaken in due course.

Due to some technical difficulties early in the meeting, the Chairman took comments from members of the public at this point in the meeting:

A member of the public reported a tractor and trailer which seems to be driving through the village regularly, too quickly and subsequently also drifting onto the wrong side of the road. It was agreed that it would be useful if the registration plate could be noted and / or photographs taken.

A resident asked about the roundabout planned for the junction of Hingham Rd / Attleborough Rd and whether there was any likelihood of the project being withdrawn given the recent apparent preference of redistributing highways money towards cycle lanes. Councillor Smith suggested this would be very unlikely as NCC would have to refund the money paid by the developer towards the project.

6. **Planning applications considered between meetings: None**
7. **To hear of planning decisions and other information:**
 - a) **3PL/2020/0232/F – Greenpiece, Attleborough Rd – Change of use of building from light engineering to dwelling – Approved**
8. **To consider planning applications:**
 - a) **3PL/2020/0520/HOU – 9 Chequers Lane – Proposed rear, side extension, front porch & alterations** – Following discussion, the parish council **objected** to this application on the grounds that the scale of the planned extension is disproportionate in relating to both the size of the existing house and the plot. Also, there would be loss of amenity and loss of light for neighbours on both sides. Councillors also felt that some of the detail on the plans was not sufficient for the application to be given full consideration.
 - b) **3PL/2020/0482/VAR – Misty Dawn, Deopham Rd – Variation of conditions 2 & 7 revised layout, garaging & amended offsite highway drawing and removal of conditions 9 & 11** – The parish council raised **no objections** to this application.
9. **To discuss the idea of requesting residents to report all road traffic accidents to the parish council** – Following recent discussions regarding speeding in the village it has been noted that Highways are only likely to take action at a dangerous section of road if it becomes highlighted via the ‘crash map’ that multiple accidents are taking place. However, the police will only attend the site of an accident, or even take the details of it if ‘Personal injury has been caused or there is damage to roadside furniture. If for example two vehicles collide and there is only damage to the vehicles and nobody is injured then we would not normally attend as people would exchange details and make relevant claims through their insurance companies etc. and there would be no requirement for Police to complete a report.’
Councillor Smith confirmed that he has details of accidents going back over several years and he believes that most take place between Broadmarsh Farm and 66 Long Street. It was agreed that collating evidence would be a good idea and this could be submitted with data from the SAM2, to back up findings. A petition was suggested but Councillors agreed that individual letters have a much better impact than a petition, which often seems to be dismissed by the recipient. It was agreed to place an item on the agenda for next month with regard to a proposal for suggestions of how this could be further progressed

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10. To consider pension provision for the clerk – The Chairman reported a request from the clerk as to whether the parish council would consider making a contribution to her pension arrangement. Due to the level of salary paid to the clerk, the parish council is obliged to provide a pension scheme but not to contribute to it. The Chairman proposed a level of 10% of the clerk’s pay, which would equate to approximately £25 per month, or £300 per annum. Following discussion, Councillors agreed they would like further information on the matter. It was agreed that the clerk will provide this prior to the next meeting. **Action AR.**

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

Chq no	Amount	Payee	Notes
100639	£257.21	A Rayner	June salary
100640	£ 60.00	B Cobb	Clock winding
Bank transfer	£ 2.20	HMRC	Clerk tax Q1

Due to the very small amount of tax due to HMRC, combined with the current difficulty in making payments, it was agreed that the clerk would pay the tax bill of £2.20 via an online payment and would claim the amount back via expenses.

The financial report and all payments were unanimously authorised.

The Chairman also reported that a grant of £1000 has been received from Norfolk Community Foundation to support the community group in the village with their work relating to the coronavirus pandemic. The work continues but if anyone can think of additional ideas for the funds to be spent on, please get in touch with the Chairman.

12. To consider items from Councillors – Councillor Hadley suggested another business who may benefit from receiving one of the ‘please drive carefully through our village’ letters. The Chairman will send the appropriate letter. **Action TB.**

13. To consider correspondence received: None to report

14. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 15 July, arrangements to be confirmed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.