

Great Ellingham Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held remotely on Wednesday 17 March 2021 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, Cllr M Barron

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** – A member of the public reported that, although the B1077 is being cleaned quite regularly to rid it of the mud and debris caused by the building works, the footpath is not receiving the same attention and is subsequently in a bad condition and is possibly unsafe. The Chairman confirmed he would speak to the developers regarding this matter. **Action TB.**
District Councillor Sarah Suggitt reported from the last full Council meeting at Breckland, where it was reported that the ten-year partnership with South Holland District Council is coming to an end. Breckland District Council have also agreed their Sustainability Strategy and £500k has been set aside for green grants, tree planting and re-wilding projects. £60k has also been allocated to a food hardship fund, this is funding agreed over and above the support of the school dinner extension project. District Councillor Suggitt also confirmed that the County Council elections will be going ahead on 6 May, together with the Police Crime Commissioner elections, postponed from last year.
- 2. To consider apologies for absence** – County Councillor Ed Connolly 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 17 February 2021** – 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 confirmed that, as a result of a query raised at the last meeting, the parish council’s insurers have confirmed that, should a volunteer for the parish council suffer an accident or injury whilst carrying out tasks on behalf of the parish council (e.g footpath warden and SAM2 team) they would be covered by the parish council’s insurance. Current restrictions also mean that volunteers must be following the latest Covid guidelines.

Councillor S Mellor asked about the roundabout work and the possibility of making the current area which is 20mph during school drop off and pick up, a permanent limit. Following discussion, it was agreed to put this item on the agenda for the April meeting.

The Chairman mentioned the complaints received regarding lack of social distancing when dropping children off before and after school. The Headteacher did call in the Breckland Covid Marshals but feedback as a result of this was that the marshals did attend and were visible but did

not actually seem to speak to any of the people present. The Chairman confirmed he will speak to Paula Gilluley, Community Engagement Officer, for further advice. **Action TB.**

The Chairman confirmed that discussions are ongoing regarding the roundabout project. Kerry Foods will probably be impacted during the construction process but are positive about being included in the discussions at an early stage.

The issue of bonfires was raised and at what point they become a statutory nuisance. The Chairman will publish some information on the village Facebook page, the parish council website and the Pump parish magazine. **Action TB.**

The new committee of the Pump has been in touch and discussions around what to include in the magazine from the parish council and how best to include it, given that minutes aren't approved until the month after, are ongoing.

The Chairman confirmed that the Speedwatch team can resume their activities from 29 March.

Some new residents in the village have received the 'welcome' letter sent on behalf of the parish council. If you know of new people moving to the village, please let the Chairman know.

The Chairman is in discussion with the Environment Agency regarding proposals by residents to backfill some of the ditches along Long Street.

6. Planning applications considered between meetings:

a) **3PL/2021/0238/VAR – Mill Farm Fisheries – Fire hydrants – No objections**

7. To hear of planning decisions and other information:

a) **3PL/2021/0060/VAR – Land west of Deopham Rd – Variation of design to allow bespoke house – Approved**

b) **3PL/2021/0016/VAR – Mill Farm Fisheries – Change in design to plot 2 – Approved**

c) **3PL/2021/0070/HOU – Orchard End, Town Green – Single storey, rear & side extensions – Approved**

d) **3PL/2021/0019/HOU – 4 Watton Rd – Two storey extension - Approved**

e) **3PL/2021/0324/EA – Land off Church St – Application for Environmental Approval to extend time of permission to 1/5/21 for application 3PL/2018/0713/VAR – For information only, not consultation.**

8. To consider planning applications:

a) **3PL/2021/0239/F – Celina, Mill Lane – Change of use of land to domestic garden – The parish council had no objections to this application.**

b) **3PL/2021/0251/HOU – 9 Long Street – demolition of single storey buildings & front porch. Erection of new 2 storey extension and new porch – The parish council had no objections to this application.**

c) **3PL/2021/0114/HOU – High Elms Farm, Bow St – Construction of oak framed cart lodge – The parish council had no objections to this application.**

d) **3PL/2020/0780/F – Land at Chalk Lane – Construction of Agricultural Feed Mill – Environmental Impact Assessment Development – This application was discussed again at some length, although it was noted this is consultation relating to Environmental Impact Assessment Development only. Councillors agreed they would continue to object to this application and agreed that negative**

environmental issues included; the visual impact and also increased noise and environmental pollution from the additional traffic,

- e) **3PL/2020/0741/VAR – Land between Watton Rd & Hingham Rd – Application relates to house types and site layout** – This application was discussed at some length. Whilst the parish council do not object to the plans in principle, concerns were noted regarding the possible negative impact as a result of the retail units being moved closer to existing residential dwellings. Whilst the parish council understood the reasons for it, they felt the developer could mitigate the possible impact of noise by offering screening / double glazing etc to the affected properties.
9. **To consider the parish councillor vacancy** - Neill Wishart, present at the meeting, gave a brief summary of his interest in the village and the parish councillor role. Councillors supported his co-option to the vacant role but also felt that, after waiting to fill the vacancy for so long, it was a great shame to turn away the other interested party. It was agreed that, due to the expansion of both the population and the village boundary to the South, the clerk would write to Breckland District Council to ask if steps could be taken to increase the number of Councillors to 10. **Action AR.**
10. **To consider the new waiting restrictions – Hingham Road** – Norfolk County Council have issued consultation details relating to the proposed new waiting restrictions on Hingham Rd. This relates to three spaces created to replace those lost from the school car park. Councillors discussed the proposal and agreed that, as the letter only required a response if the parish council objected to anything within the proposals, no response was required.
11. **To review the following policies: Financial regulations and statement of internal review** – The parish council felt the Financial Regulations were still accurate, with just one query relating to point 4.1 in the Financial Regulations, which the clerk will look into. The statement of internal review was approved. **Action AR.**
12. **To review the asset register** – Councillor Hadley confirmed he had undertaken a visual inspection of the items on the parish council's asset register and the following were noted:
The bin in the first layby in Attleborough Road is missing. The bin at the Pyghtle is rusting and is in poor condition. The picnic table at the Pyghtle and the Jubilee bench in Chequers Lane need cleaning (possibly with a pressure washer) and the Perspex on the Chequers Lane noticeboard is very cloudy. Councillors agreed to purchase two replacement bins, one for the layby and one for the Pyghtle but that the noticeboard should be left until after the development works are complete. **Action AR.**
13. **To confirm Councillor duties for the forthcoming year** – It was agreed that the vacant responsibility of 'Education' will be shared between Councillors Wilkins and Barron. The clerk will update the website. **Action AR.**
14. **To receive the financial report and consider the following payments:**

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Chq no	Amount	Payee	Notes
100656	£263.70	A Rayner	March salary
100657	£536.84	Came & Co	Annual Insurance
100658	£216.00	Mellor Metals	Grass cutting 2020

The financial report, circulated prior to the meeting, was approved, as were all listed payments.

- 15. To consider items from Councillors –** The issue of grass cutting for the forthcoming season was raised. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should continue with the current arrangement but perhaps be more specific about the terms. It was agreed to request that the grass be cut every three weeks throughout the growing season for £30 per cut. Councillor S Mellor agreed to relay this information.

Councillor Hadley mentioned that a resident has undertaken some work at the triangle next to Melton Meadows which is currently subject to an S106 agreement dispute. The area looks much tidier and the work is appreciated but Councillors expressed disappointment that this was needed as the developer should be made to uphold the terms of the S106 agreement. Councillor S Mellor pointed out that this is a legally binding document and he felt that the terms should be enforced, with which Councillors agreed. The Chairman explained that the department in Breckland Council has been much depleted, whilst they are inundated with complaints about developers reneging on the terms of S106 agreements. This situation has led to such complaints being resolved through the issue being 'regularised' rather than the conditions of the planning application or S106 being enforced.

- 16. To consider correspondence received:** There has been correspondence with a resident regarding boundary issues relating to the Flagship development. The Chairman has written to Breckland Council regarding this and has received a response.
- 17. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 21 April 2021 to be held remotely via Zoom, commencing immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting, expected 7.30 – 8pm approx.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.