

GISSING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

On Tuesday, 8th September 2020 7.30pm Via Zoom

Councillors Present: Cllr J Cromley (Chair), Cllr D Eddington, Cllr Mike Harrowven and Cllr S Sell

In attendance: Marianne Purdy (Clerk), 5 members of the public

For the benefit of the public attending the meeting, all votes taken were by both a show of hands and a verbal response from each individual councillor.

The meeting commenced at 7:50pm due to technical issues.

1. Welcome the public

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies for absence

None.

3. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None, but as a matter of record, it is to be noted that the Parish Council applied for Planning Application of Village Hall in item 10.

4. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2020, previously circulated to all Members of the Council, were unanimously agreed. The Clerk will arrange for minutes to be passed to Chair for signing.

5. Public participation

None.

6. Reports from District Cllr J Easter and County Cllr B Spratt:

County Councillor Spratt: The Chair read out the report from County Councillor Spratt:

I have managed to open up Wymondham Market Town after the chaos of the Officers focussing on closing the main streets in market towns.

I do not know what is happening at Diss and I know Harleston people are up in arms regarding their town. Please inform me if your parish council is concerned about these 2.

NCC have taken on children from the refugee camps. Up to 50 children from the troubled areas in Syria have been taken into our care.

Covid 19 is still on many of the councillor's minds. Restrictions and guidance are changing every day and it is our responsibility to try to stay on top of it. Test and trace is proving successful with nearby testing points at Attleborough and Trowse park and ride.

District Councillor Easter: The Chair read out the report from District Councillor Easter:

SNC continues to be busy supporting businesses to get back on their feet following lock down. Calls to the help hub are now reducing as things get back to some normality.

Staff at SNC are working a hybrid system, most work from home and attend the offices on a rota. Councillors are still not allowed to go in with all our business being conducted by phone or zoom, hopefully we will also be allowed to start a hybrid system soon with some of the smaller meetings being in person but suitable distanced.

As you are no doubt aware following the Banham Poultry COVID outbreak Norfolk is now on the Government watch list. The numbers are rising although not locally at present.

Planning

There is a new white paper from the Government, which appears to be a big shake up of planning regulations which have not change dramatically since 1947. On the face of it, it could make planning applications a bit quicker with a better quality of buildings. As this progresses I will keep you informed of any new developments and information that could potentially affects us all.

Devolved Councils

There is another white paper coming out from Westminster later this year that could change the face of local councils. There is the possibility of doing away with the 7 district councils, county council and replacing them with 2 councils and a mayor. It seems to me that the idea behind this is to primarily save money with no regard to the excellent service that district councils and their councillors give to their residents. The carrot to force this through is to offer vast amounts of cash to pay for large schemes, such as the Long Stratton by pass.

We will wait to see what transpires.

7. Clerk's Report

The Clerk stated that she had completed the VAT return, and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) report and submitted both of those. The SAM2 had been ordered - awaiting an update on delivery.

8. Clerk's Training

It was agreed by the Parish Council for the Clerk to attend a Practical Budgeting Course at a cost of £44.00. Proposed by Cllr Cromley; Seconded by Cllr Eddington

9. Parish Councillor vacancy

Following the resignation of Cllr Matthew Harrowven, there is now a vacancy on the Parish Council. Two people have submitted their interest in this vacancy. The Council will meet them both for an informal chat – to be arranged. Cllr Cromley thanked Cllr Matthew Harrowven for his hard work and commitment during his time with the Council.

10. Planning Applications

Planning Application received for old Village Hall. The Parish Council made this application – no further comments were made.

11. Village Hall planning application

A new planning application had been made by the Parish Council for the old Village Hall. This had been received by South Norfolk Council and was being processed.

12. Millennium Wood

A survey had taken place. Two quotes had been received for the work required. Clerk to send Councillors both quotes for consideration and decision. Cllr Cromley proposed going ahead with the most suitable quote after viewing them tomorrow; Cllr Sell seconded.

13. Parish Orchard

The two signboards will be sorted out by Heart of Gissing. Cllr Sell reported that the Woodland Trust would be sending four packs of mixed hedging in March 2021 to go as far as the old gate post. Cllr Sell will measure the amount of fencing required.

14. Footpaths

Cllr Sell reported that he hadn't received any communication from the new access officer. Cllr Sell will contact them again.

15. Covid19 Action Group

Cllr Harrowven reported the group was meeting fortnightly (Zoom). The next event is Dementia Awareness Training provided by South Norfolk Council.

16. B4RN

Cllr Harrowven reported that good daily progress is being made; Cllr Sell was sorting the Wayleave situation. The base for the cabinet is in position at Burston.

17. Car Park – Action Plan

Deferred to November meeting.

18. Grass cutting contract

Deferred to November meeting.

19. Parish Partnership Scheme

Deferred to November meeting.

20. FINANCE

a. Approve payments:

PAY TYPE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL AMOUNT	VAT
100691	Browns Timber	Gate & posts for Orchard	352.08	58.68
100692	South Norfolk Council	Planning fees Village Hall	231.00	
100693	Unity Trust Bank	Opening account fee	500.00	
100694	Miss M Purdy	Clerk's wages x 1.5 months	186.14	

PAY TYPE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL AMOUNT	VAT
100695	Broadland Tree Services	Tree Safety Report	120.00	20.00
100696	Bartlett Signs	Sign for Community Orchard	45.60	7.60
TOTAL £			£1434.82	£86.28

Proposed Cllr Mike Harrowven, seconded Cllr D Eddington and unanimously agreed.

Receipts: None

Date	Account	Received From	Amount
TOTAL £			£

Details	CR	DR	
Cash Book Balance Brought Forward (Community Account 00473138) A	10,648.80		
Receipts this month (Community Account) listed above): B	0.00		
Payments this month (listed above): C		1434.82	
Cash Book Balance Carried Forward (=A+B-C) Community Account Balance			9213.98
Reserve account (Business Premium 50340898) Opening Balance 1/4/20 - £363.63			363.63
Allocated Funds (Listed Below) =			(5,230.72)
Community Account + Reserve Account - Allocated Funds = AVAILABLE TO SPEND			£4346.89

Allocated Funds

Details	Balance 1/4/2020	CR/DR	Balance
Dr J B Philip Memorial Fund	1,610.00		1,610.00
CIL	3,620.72		3,620.72
TOTAL £	9,651.51		9,651.51

Parish Land Accounts

PARISH LAND ACCOUNTS	Balance 1/4/2020	CR/DR	Balance
Business Premium 50573639	1,503.02		1,503.02
COIF Account 45216001T (460 units held)	7,165.24		7,165.24

Proposed Cllr Mike Harrowven, seconded Cllr D Eddington and unanimously agreed.

b. Responsible Finance Officer's report:

Unity Bank set up but were unable to 'switch' accounts with Barclays as the correspondence address with Barclays is not the same as the current clerk's address. Cllr Harrowven had tried to contact Barclays via telephone to remedy this, however was unable to get through. Cllr Harrowven will visit the branch in Diss to further this.

21. Community Building

Cllr Eddington reported that a few groups had now re-started using the Community Building under Covid rules and regulations.

22. General Correspondence

All correspondence had been circulated to all Councillors. No action required.

23. Items for next Agenda

Highways – bridge over beck.

24. Time and Date of next Parish Council meeting

10th November 2020 at 7:30pm venue to be advised.

25. Future meetings venue

Plan to meet in Community Building in November – the Parish Council will monitor the Covid situation and make a final decision the last week of October.

Meeting closed at: 8.55pm