



## **GELDESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Meeting of the Parish Council**

#### **Minutes**

**Held in the Village Hall  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 7.30PM**

**Parish Councillors present:** Cllr I. Ansell (chairman), Cllr P. Cracknell, Cllr R. Fogerty (vice chair), Cllr J. Hayward, Cllr T. Morton and Cllr A. Wade.

**Also present:** Tina Newby and District Councillor B. Bernard.

**1. Welcome**

**2. To receive and accept apologies for absence.**

- To record the number of public present: 4 members of the public were recorded.
- Cllr Ashfield apologies were accepted. County Councillor Stone and District Councillor Bernard also sent their apologies.

**3. To receive declarations of interest and dispensations.**

- To receive declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other interests for councillors on items on the agenda.
- To receive and consider written requests for dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and those previously granted.

No declarations were declared.

**4. To approve the minutes of the previous meetings: 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023, as being an accurate record of the meetings.**

It was noted that there were some typos. However, the content was a true reflection of the proceeds of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Hayward and seconded by Cllr Wade.

**5. Parish 10, The meeting will be adjourned for public participation (maximum of 10 minutes) for items to be discussed on the agenda only.**

- There are still issues with the footpath from Heath Road to the Church, still overgrown. **Action Clerk** to chase this again. **Action Fogerty** to send the Clerk photos.
- When is the salt bin being installed? Cllr Ansell has purchased the paving slabs and will install soon and load some salt.
- Snowy will change the speed sign that is the wrong way around at Kells Way.

**6. Reports from the County Councillor and District Councillors.**

SNC had an Extra Ordinary meeting to discuss the old council offices at Long Stratton. Long Stratton had sent an email requesting to purchase the offices for their office and Town Hall. This was not really considered. The final agreement was that SNC would demolish the building and build 54 houses in its place. The proposal also included that SNC would contribute £50,000 to Long Stratton Town Council to form a group for finding land to build their council offices and Town Hall.

**7. Parish Council concerns to discuss and agree:**

- a. Changing to a gov.uk email or other email suppliers: The Clerk reported that she had received information on the fact that the 'Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance Practitioners guide, may put their preference to move the .gov.uk in the 2024 edition. Therefore, there would be no point spending money to move to gmail.com individual email accounts.
- b. Councillor training dates: **Action Clerk** to send these out again.
- c. Visit from Flood rep and latest flooding – All the drains are blocked. Highways/Rangers no longer do this on a regular basis. It seems it is every 2 years now. They also need to sweep all the leaves up. The riverbank has dropped over the years. They are thinking about putting an earth bund by the yard. **Action Cllr Ansell** to contact them and ask for an update.
- d. EA Dredging. The riverbank was dredged two years ago, only on the bends. **Action Clerk** to found out then there plan to do this again.

- e. Future planning for emergencies ie floods – perhaps consider a emergency plan?
- f. Millenium milepost – correspondence. **Action Clerk** to contact them and welcome them to come and repaint the milepost.
- g. Update on the installation of the new bins - posts need to be purchased. Cllr Ansell does have some help but would welcome more volunteers.

**8. Finance:**

- a. To note the Bank Balances. Noted in the statement of accounts.
- b. Issues with Barclays Bank. Cllr Ansell is the only online signatory and he has had problems with his own mandate change and Barclays has closed all the accounts. This means that we have to revert back to cheques.
- c. Update from Unity Trust Bank. The Clerk is waiting for the Unity Trust forms to be signed. These were signed at the meeting.
- d. To review and agree payments for the month. There was a request for a donation from Bungay 1<sup>st</sup> responders. This was considered and will be put on the agenda for next meeting.

The cheque for the churchyard was discussed. The original agreement was for £350.00. There was a vote to keep it at £350.00, even though the invoice received was for £450.00

The NJC Pay scales have reported a £1 per hour pay raise back backed from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. This equates to £150.50.

**Geldeston Parish Council**

**Statement of Account @ 08/11/23**

GPC Community Account	£14,236.51	*
Village Park	£9,258.53	**
	<u>£23,495.04</u>	

Running total £23,495.04

**Statement of Account 31st October 2023**

Bank Balance @ 30/9/23	£14,236.51	*
	£9,258.53	**
	<b>£23,495.04</b>	

**Payments to be approved**

Churchyard cutting	£450.00	
Back dated pay review	£150.50	
		To be approved
		<u>£600.50</u>

Lottery fund available	£9,462.42
GVP Total available	£18,720.95

Total payments approved were £500.50 unanimous agreement.

The Clerk reported that she had provided a budget summary in the councillor's packs and requested that they look at this before Christmas and the next meeting. We need to set the budget in the January 2024 meeting.

**9. Planning:**

- a. To discuss planning applications received from SNC: None
- b. To discuss planning applications received from BA: None
- c. To discuss any additional planning applications, received before the meeting: None.
- d. To receive an update on the Village Clusters: No update.
- e. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan: JH a member of the public reported on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan. The maps of the boundaries will not change for the time being. Catherine Bickmore was appointed chair. The Clerk remained the Secretary as no one wanted to do it. The Terms of Reference was looked at, but could not agree whether it should be a steering group or committee. Geldeston is low in numbers of the group. Looking at professional organisations to help, the group would like to interview them. Although there were no volunteers, the parish council asked to be kept updated.

**10. To receive an up on the Geldeston Village Park, what is needed and agree any action.**

There is a working party meeting on 14/11/23. The working party is just Emma, Jodie, Cllr Wade and Cllr Ashfield. The Clerk reported that Joe from the National Lottery would like their funds completed by end of financial year. Cllr Wade thought this was a realistic goal.

**11. To receive an update on the Grass Cutting Contract and agree any action.**

The Council decided to obtain more quotes for next years grass cutting. Kings Dam project was suggested, School grass cutting company was suggested and one email

that was received from Top Garden Services. **Action Clerk** to obtain quotes for the above and the existing contract, Norse.

## 12. To discuss the situation regarding Trees:

- a. Tree Warden roles and responsibilities. The Clerk had previously sent the parish roles and responsibilities of a Tree Warden. This was rejected last year. The Clerk had a conversation with the Tree Council, they do not appoint a Tree Warden, it is the Parish Council's responsibility to do so and parish council's public liability they use. There are concerns that the current tree wardens do not act within the parish council's remit. Therefore, it would be up to the Parish Council to decide who would be the most suitable. The Clerk mentioned again that there is a Lantra tree course that you can attend if you are interested in being the Parish Council's tree warden.
- b. Tree Survey health and safety inspection quotes. The Clerk used the contact information received via Bungay Town Council. The quotes were very different. It was decided to appoint Norfolk Tree Services, as these have been recommended by other Clerks. There was a discussion as to how far we survey the trees, the whole parish? The trees in the parish councils land? and the trees bordering on the highway? Proposed by Cllr Ansell and seconded by Cllr Fogerty to appoint Norfolk Trees.

Cllr Cracknell offered to show Norfolk Trees around the village and our parish land.

It was agreed that we would get the survey completed before we recruited a Tree Warden.

## 13. To discuss and agree any village issues:

- a. Kells Way Footpath – the repair was worked well and stood the test of all the rain and flooding. There will an invoice shortly, for payment.
- b. Passing places on Stockton Road. There are only 2 official spaces, the others have been made by cars. **Action Clerk** to ask highways for additional passing spaces as two is considered not enough.
- c. River footpath, two breaks in the wall, causing problems with walkers. These are between the boat yard and 3 Rivers.
- d. Road marking at junction to Stockton Road. Request has been logged.
- e. To receive an update on the outstanding highways issues ongoing. **Action Clerk** to send the councillors an updated list.

#### **14. Updates from Village Committees and Groups:**

- a. The GREEN Project – ML had asked for some money for manure, but she was not at the meeting to find out how much. It was noted by Cllr Morton, that if she wanted manure for the fruit trees, this would not help the fruit trees. It could be that they are planted in a field that can be waterlogged.
- b. Village Hall Management Trustees – The Village Hall will not be renewing the wedding licence. The Village Hall will be having internet as the County Broadband will be free to use – forever! They have received the quotes for re-pointing the brick work, this is extremely expensive, so will hold off. The New Years Eve event is free. On 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024 there will be a Speedwatch meeting with PC James King. The Clerk pointed out that he would have left by then.
- c. The Locks Inn Management Committee – interesting time with the flooding. It will be partially open this weekend. They hope to bounce back as soon as they can.

#### **15. To discuss any issues from the Councillors, for information only.**

- National speed limit was mentioned between Dunburgh and Kings Dam.
- All hedges want cutting down Dunburgh, owners need to be responsible to cut their hedges.
- The Clerk mentioned that she had been informed by SNC sandbag person that the sandbags are placed in Geldeston for the neighbouring villages too.

#### **16. Date of next parish meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 7.30pm**

There was no more business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 09.10pm

Signed by Chairman:

Dated: