



## GELDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council

**10<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Virtual Meeting 7.30PM**

Parish Councillors present: I. Ansell (chairman), J. Ashfield, J. Hayward, L. Keep, L. Rowntree and D. Shave.

- 1. Chairman's Welcome:** The Chairman welcome everyone to the meeting.
  - a. To receive apologies for absence – Cllr Crowfoot was absent.
  - b. To receive declarations of interest other than those registered with South Norfolk District Council. Cllrs Keep and Rowntree declared an interest in item 6d
  - c. Five members of the public were present, and 2 District Councillors.
- 2. Chairman's report:** It was noted that although this is a virtual meeting, the usual orders apply like a face-to-face meeting. No alcohol to be consumed at the meeting.
- 3. Minutes of last meetings:** The minutes of the previous meetings for January and February were approved as being accurate records. (Prop: JA; Sec: JH) all in agreement.
- 4. Matters arising from January meeting:**
  - 4a - To receive an update on the new dog bin in the Church Yard – The dog bin has been installed and the Clerk has informed SNC to add to their route for emptying.
  - 4b - To receive an update on the street library and agree any action. It was considered to start this project. **Action IA** to source the material specification for the shelves. Obtain three quotes. Cllr Keep stated that she has over 100 books stored. Cllr Hayward stated that it was a good idea to provide jigsaw puzzles. Shelving to be done now, and the books will be put in when it is a little warmer.
  - 4e - Cllr Ansell to provide an update regarding Stockton Road mirror installation and to forward invoice for paying. The mirror has been installed, Clerk is still waiting for the invoice for reimbursement.

4f - To discuss the upgrading of Zoom, for virtual meetings and forward the amounts for paying – Cllr Ansell will only claim for the months that we held virtual meetings. Still waiting invoices.

4g – Barclays mandate has been received. Clerk has added Cllr Hayward on the mandate form. Cllrs Ashfield, Hayward and Shave need to sign and then pass to Cllr Ansell.

4h - To receive an update on the Mutual Aid, Cllr Rowntree to provide costings for free meals for the children. Mutual Aid had offered to pay for the free school meals, Mandy's Pickles was happy to donate them. **Action Clerk** to write a letter to Mandy's Pickles thanking her. Cllr Rowntree may have another mutual aid person, this is work in progress.

6d - To receive an update on the erection of the shed near the village hall – Planning department has reported back and there is not an issue with the shed. Cllr Ansell stated that the shed height has been lowered. More light coming into the village hall kitchen, which is good.

5b – Clerk to send a letter to the owner of the abandoned car - done. The car has been moved.

5d – Clerk to send out the list of training dates again to the Councillors – done.

5f – Clerk to write to McDonalds regarding the litter being dumped in Geldeston – The Clerk has written to them but have not had a reply.

## 5. Matters arising from February meeting:

1a – Obtain a letter of intent from SNC - SNC will be providing a 99-year lease, this will be more secure. The Clerk recommended a Solicitor that her other parish council uses. This was considered a good idea, as they know how parish council works. (Prop: LK; Sec: IA) all in agreement.

1b – Working Party terms of reference, this is not need for the old working party. There will be one issued for the new Let's Play 2021.

1c – Resolution on Delegated Authority for Working Party – The Clerk confirmed that you cannot delegated authority to a working party.

1e – Request grant for one or two waste bins from District – The District Councillors stated that this is something that can be purchased under the parish council precept so therefore cannot help funding one. Clerk is sourcing the cost of emptying them.

1g – Obtain history of the playground and to update the asset register - Cllr Ansell is working on the history of the playground. The Clerk reported that she will update the asset register when the equipment is removed.

1j – Inspections required for new equipment – this is not needed to be changed. The new equipment will be guaranteed and inspected prior to opening the playground.

1k - Ownership and maintenance of the playground and insurance – as always, the parish council will own, maintain, and insure the play equipment. District Cllr Bernard

mentioned that the council needs to build in reserves for the repair and replacement of the playground. However, the new equipment will be guaranteed for numerous of years.

2e – To book Cllr Keep on the Crowdfunding Course – booked for 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

## 6. New issues

- a. Reports from the County Councillors and District Councillors – District Cllr Bernard had already sent the report which has been distributed to the parish councillors. SNC has increased their budget by 3.5% from last increase to cover COVID and restrictions. District Cllr Brown stated that the budget increase was 3.2%! Leisure Centres are still closed. COVID business grants still being sent out. The Local Development Scheme will provide 1200 new homes through village clusters over 400 sites. With the elections in May, postal votes are encouraged.
- b. **The meeting will be adjourned for public participation (maximum 10 minutes).**  
Nothing was discussed in this item.
- c. To discuss the playground and agree any action –
  - New Project Name Let's Play 2021 – Parish Council considered this a good idea.
  - New logo – There was a discussion on the logo, the colour and size of the font. There is an addition of a boat which relates to the village being by the river. The red font is quite difficult to read. Cllr Ansell suggested dark blue. (Prop: LK; Sec: LR) all in agreement.
  - Flyer – A flyer has been designed to deliver to all the houses in the village. This is to update everyone what is happening and that there is a new focus. This was agreed. Originally there was a proposal to have 1000 printed for £40.00, this was changed to 500. (Prop: LK; Sec: LR) all in agreement.
  - Sponsorship – We have received sponsorship from British Sugar. They would like to give us 20 tonnes of topsoil. They are prepared to deliver in April. Travis Perkins has been contacted and hopefully they will help with some wood for the fence.
  - Update on sold items – Sold the Ladybug for £80, and the metal gate for £80.
  - Clearing of existing play equipment – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Councillors and volunteers will help to remove the dangerous and unwanted equipment. Close the playground off to the public.
  - Raffle license – The small lotteries license costs for the first year £40 and after that £20. (Prop: LK; Sec: IA) all in agreement. **Action Clerk** to obtain license.
  - Fundraising – Cllrs Rowntree and Keep have received one to one grant funding training. There is Crowdfunding and Lottery training to go.
  - Play equipment - Quotes have been received from PlayForce, Action Play and Leisure and Caloo. PlayForce has come out on top. PlayForce has come up with a phased plan – go with what we can afford at £16,500 + VAT then increasing over two more phases. (Prop: LK; Sec: LR) all in agreement. This quote includes a swing, pirate, woodland tower (Slide and bridge). PlayForce can help with funding

applications.

- Easyfundraising.co.uk – The account has been given to EG and there have been funds raised up to £20 so far.
- Dorothy Crowfoot project – Amazing woman lived in Geldeston, first female noble prize winner. Virtual presentation. Within the play field Let's Play 2021 would like a sensory garden and call it Dorothy Crowfoot.
- Table Tennis – Ping England hopefully will provide the community with a tennis table, without a cost.
- Benches – We have someone that would like to pay for a friendship bench. Some of the good wood that will be removed from the playground boundary fence will be taken away. Cllr Ansell will make some picnic benches from the wood. Local people may want to sponsor a bench. Recycled Plastics benches are really heavy and have no maintenance. Guaranteed for 25 years. At the moment there is a deal buy 5 for the price of 4.
- Quotes/estimates outstanding that need action – Red Maple has quoted for the ground levelling and the fence. Ground level quote was agreed at a cost of £575 (Prop: LK; Sec: JH) all in agreement. However, we cannot do the groundwork until the lease has been completed. This quote will change depending on the amount of work completed on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The quote for the fence needs to be revised, as we are now keeping the fence posts.
- 'Friends off' group – The benefits with one formed is that it opens us up to wider funding grants. PlayForce states an extra 75% funding grants. The group will be Parish Council constitution approved and chaired by a councillor. Carried over to next parish council meeting for discussion.

Parents with children are finding it really hard to keep their children home schooled. The only exercise has been in the back garden. There is a real need for this project. The village has been waiting a really long time.

- d. To discuss the repair of the Church Driveway and agree any action – Cllrs Rowntree and Keep reported that they are still waiting for the quotes. The vicar would like the repair work to be more in-depth work than just filling in potholes.
- e. To discuss the future of face-to-face meeting and the dates for the Annual meetings - The village hall is not set to open until 19<sup>th</sup> May. We need to plan for future face to face meetings. District Cllr Bernard mentioned that the zoom meeting and restrictions will be put back in place for the winter.
- f. To discuss the recent flooding and consultations with associated parties – Cllr Ashfield attended the first zoom meeting. There are too many bodies in charge of the river systems. The problem with the flooding on Christmas Day was flood water coming down from Diss and meeting high tides. There was an issue with Ellingham Flood Gates on that day. Some of the members of the public are meeting the Environment and Highways on Friday in Station Road. Anglia Water have been out and have made some improvements with the drainage.
- g. Issues from Councillors (for information only) – no issues to mention.

- h. Clerk's report (for information only) – reported that she had logged all the sign issues, that were compiled by Cllr Hayward.

## 7. Finance

- a. To approve invoices for payments as per payment schedule and to note the payments between meetings.

<b>Norfolk PTS</b>	Councillor training	£40.00
<b>Norfolk PTS</b>	Subscription 21/22	£71.83
<b>Tina Page</b>	Training, stamps, mileage GPC037	£120.25
<b>Ian Ansell</b>	Zoom meetings	TBC
<b>Ian Ansell</b>	Mirror road sign	TBC
		<u>£232.08</u>

Payments totally £232.08 per approved for payment. (Prop: JA; Sec: LR) all in agreement.

Bank Balance as @ 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

Community Account: £2,266.45

Business Premium: £37,777.26

*of which Let's Play 2021 = £20,059.83*

- b. To receive an update on the budget summary – Budget is going well, we have not spent that much. There is still £350 in the budget for the church driveway.
- c. To receive approval of the outstanding bank reconciliations this year – all reconciliations have been approved by Cllr Keep.

## 8. Updates from village committees & groups

- a. Village Hall Management Trustees – Planning to open with coffee mornings on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021. All future dates are published on the village hall website. These are all subject to COVID regulations.
- b. GREEN project – There has been some issues with allotment holders. The Green project and the allotments are a wonderful peaceful place. The Green project would like permission to replant some of the snowdrops from the Stone Pit to the Green Project. This was agreed.
- c. Conservation Area – no update.
- d. Planning applications and other planning matters - none

South Norfolk District Council.

Broads Authority

- e. Update on previous applications. SNC and BA applications.

## 9. Correspondence

- a. All correspondence has been sent to you by email in between meetings.

**10. To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:**

- a. To discuss the letter from the Clerk – The Clerk was placed in the waiting room whilst this subject was discussed. Cllr Ansell read out the letter regarding the number of additional hours the Clerk has done this year. It was agreed by the Council to pay her overtime until the play project has been completed. The Clerk returned to the meeting and it was decided that this would start from 1<sup>st</sup> March. The Clerk to invoice the councillors with the overtime each month.

**Date of next parish meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> May Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.** Due to the legal issue with face-to-face meeting starting from 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021, and the village hall not being open. It was agreed that the above meetings would be held on 4<sup>th</sup> May. Annual Parish Meeting 6pm and then the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed.9.30pm

Signed:

(Chairman)

Dated: