



GELDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council

Minutes

Held in the Village Hall

Wednesday 11th January 2023 7.30PM

Parish Councillors present: I. Ansell (Chairman), J. Ashfield, J. Hayward, D. Shave and A. Wade.

Also present: Clerk, Tina Newby, and District Councillor Bernard.

1 Chairman's Welcome

- a. Apologies – Cllr Rowntree sent her apologies. District Councillor Brown and County Cllr Stone sent their apologies. It was noted that Cllr Crowfoot was not in attendance.
- b. No additional interests were declared.
- c. Six members of the public attended the meeting.

2 Minutes of last meeting

- d. The minutes of 23rd November 2022 were approved as being an accurate record. (Prop: AW; Sec: DS) all in agreement.

3 Matters arising from last meeting and outstanding actions:

- e. Discuss the update on the Station Road fence, a resident of the village had managed to get a hold of Environment Agency. They do not plan to take down the existing posts or replace the fence. The fence was only cosmetic.
- f. **Action Clerk** to ask for an additional no give way sign in Kells Way. The Clerk reported that according to Highways, this work has been completed. The give way sign has now been turned around and is facing the wrong direction. **Action Cllr Wade** to action this. Clerk to provide the fault reference numbers.

- g. Bus Stop no waiting, Village Hall, (County Councillor Stone to update) County Councillor Stone is currently on sick leave. Closed agenda item.
- h. Holly Hedge overgrown on The Street – Clerk has resourced the address and written to them, requesting the hedge to be cut back.
- i. Clearing ditches out Big Row (Action IA). Cllr Ansell has been ill. This will be done this month.
- j. Clerk to provide IA contact details of the ‘shooting’ person. Cllr Ansell has spoken to the gentleman. Cllr Ansell says this is all that the Parish Council can do. Perhaps the resident would like to contact the noise pollution department, South Norfolk Council in the first instance and then maybe Norfolk County Council. The shooting is causing a nuisance to the resident’s way of life.
- k. Clerk to liaise with IA regarding the storm drains being blocked, Stockton to Leytons Lane. This meeting is yet to happen, therefore ongoing.
- l. Kells Way footpath to West End flooding issues. Clerk to write to FW Properties – DS to provide the evidence in photos. The photo evidence was received today. **Action Clerk to report the issue.**
- m. Fallen Oak Tree, Clerk to inform Gillingham Parish Council, to get it removed. This is in Geldeston Parish. The Clerk has contacted the owner of the fields either side of the footpath and he has chopped the tree, so that people can now walk around. He will remove once the ground is dryer.
- n. IA to inform the landowners of the trespassing issue from the village green that the work will be done. Cllr Ansell has informed the landowners; they are very happy.
- o. Clerk to report to BA enforcement the issues with building without permission in Dunburgh Road. The Clerk reported this, but the enforcement officers already knew about it.

4 Chairperson’s report – Nothing to report.

5 New issues

- p. Reports from the County Councillors and District Councillors. Cllr Bernard mentioned about the Village Clusters. He had already sent his report.
- q. **Parish 10** - The meeting will be adjourned for public participation (maximum 10 minutes) for items to be discussed on the agenda only.
 - Two concerned members of the public were concerned over the tree survey that had been undertaken by Locks Inn. However, some of the trees reported do not belong to them and the owners were not consulted about the survey being done. The report appears to read that all the trees along the lane will be pollard. The Oak tree at the top of the lane, reported needing to be trimmed, this is not their tree!
There is a question as to owns the lane?

G. Elliott has spoken to the landowner, after the report. The members of the public are concerned that some removing of trees are being done to help with the new sewage system, that is being installed. Cllr Wade mentioned that the track is a floating track, and the trees form the body of the track. There is no reason why the trees should be removed. The tree survey appears to be giving the wrong impression. Cllr Wade will relate the concerns to Locks Inn Management Committee.

There was a suggestion that Locks Inn Management Committee should open communication and that it would be a good idea to add an item on the agenda, for regular updates. **Action Clerk** to add Locks Inn - updates to the agenda and invite the Locks Inn Management Committee to attend.

- The River Waveney Trust has put up a sign and it has been vandalised already, which is a shame!
- New Allotment renter. If there becomes a need for more allotment plots, we will need to decide where they will go.
The hedge is going to be cut again by Mr Chapman.
The footpath along a field has just been ploughed. **Action Clerk** to contact Mr Bramley to make the footpath visible to the walkers and strangers.
- Footpath from Heath Road to the Church, the owner has been contacted and will do the trimming.

r. To receive an update on the Geldeston Village Park

Final Play equipment will be installed end of January/early February 2023.

Area for the Sensory Garden pathways will be laid with type 1. The topsoil that will be removed will be used for the playground, to cover trip hazards etc.

Sensory Garden – there will be a discussion with the lady about the designs and plants etc. As soon as we can plant in the plant season we will.

Saffron Housing has a degree of responsibilities, suitable access to the rear of properties for deliveries.

Personal level, once the equipment has been installed Cllr Wade will step away from running project.

s. To discuss grass cutting contract for the village for 2023, this was agreed. (Prop: JA; Sec: IA). All in agreement. The contract was awarded to Norse at a cost of £2,232.10.

It was noted that this was the only quote received. The Clerk had advertised this in the agreed communication platforms.

t. To discuss and agree the budget/precept for 2023/2024. The budget was explained by the Clerk. The total budget for 23/24 is £11,763 payments, income is £2,919.34, giving a precept total of £8,844. This is calculated at 3% an increase on Band D properties and above of £1.50 per year or 0.13p a month. Increasing the tax base to £51.50. (Prop: IA; Sec: DS) all in agreement

- u. To discuss the Parliamentary boundary review: The Parish Council has not heard anything more on this. District Councillor Bernard has reported that he has told the District Council, that Geldeston did not want to move to Mid Suffolk, therefore, this is not happening. **Action Clerk** to write to the Boundaries email contact and state this too!
- v. To discuss the Neighbourhood Planning meeting. The Clerk reported that she had not heard from anyone regarding the article in the Tidings. She will place it in the next Tidings and see if there is any response. **Action Clerk** to put an article in the Tidings.
- w. To note that the 4 yearly parish and town council elections will be held in May 2023. The Clerk has some training on this in January and can provide updates in March meeting. The Clerk will update everyone when she has some information from the Training she has on 19th January 2023.
- x. Issues from Councillors (for information only).

Cllr Wade has mentioned that the Parish Council has come to the point at which the Parish Council has done their bit and the Geldeston Village Park needs to be self-financing. The PC will maintain the field and the equipment, and the insurance. Everything else will need to be funded by the Geldeston Village Park.

There was a mention of the need of a grit bin, at the junction of Stockton Road and Old Yarmouth Road. The Clerk mentioned that she had already sourced some prices for grit bins from Glasdon, for another Parish Council and some of the grit bins are on offer now. The Parish Council agreed to spend a maximum of £150 for the bin. **Action Clerk** to look at the procedure for installing grit bins.

The Parish Council needs to pay for the bin, but County will re-fill free of charge. The Clerk believes that Norfolk County Council re-fills the grit bins twice through the winter and both these slots have been done already. This would mean filling the grit bin at the Parish Council's cost!

The Easter Egg hunt was mentioned and the request for £300 for expenses was discussed at length. Since the Geldeston Village Park needs to be self-funding the Parish Council agreed to loan them £250. This will need to be repaid back after the event.

Cllr Hayward the Ivy on the Oak tree near the fallen oak, needs to be removed. **Action Clerk** to contact the owners.

Cllr Shave mentioned the meeting and the Community Walkabout around the village with PC James King. This was agreed for 18th January. **Action Cllr Shave** to organise.

- y. Clerk's report: The Clerk mentioned the licence that has been approved Premise Licence. The Village Hall Committee stated that this was for Committee Run events only and would be wine and beer. For example, film nights. The Clerk also mentioned the receiving a short version of the SNC Village Clusters, this was in the Councillors packs. This document would be uploaded to the website.

The Clerk would like to express her thanks to District Cllr James Knight for providing this document for Gillingham and including Geldeston in his report.

6 Finance

z. To approve invoices for payment – There were no payments to approve. However, it was noted that the Village Green fence invoice would be ready soon for payment. This was previously agreed at the previous meeting.

aa. To note Bank balances. Statement of account was in the Councillors packs.

7 Updates from village committees & groups

bb. Village Hall Management Trustees. A TV licence has been funded. The Village Hall Committee plan on showing the King Charles III Coronation in the village hall. There will be broadband installed.

cc. GREEN project. Nothing more to discuss.

dd. Conservation Area and the Churchyard Conservation Area. Nothing to report.

8 Planning applications and other planning matters

ee. South Norfolk District Council. None

ff. Broads Authority. None

gg. Update on previous applications. none

9 Correspondence:

Date of next parish meeting: 15th March 2023

There was no more business to discuss the Meeting closed

8:53 pm

Signed:

(Chairman)

Dated: