



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR
10th October 2022,
7.00pm, Dickleburgh & Rushall Village Centre

PRESENT: Cllrs. Andrew Goodman (Chair), John Adlam, Les Bragg, David Leyserman, Jim Kerr, Tony Perkins and Pam Reekie, Robert Theobald

In Attendance: Ann Baker (Clerk), Matthew Hill (Responsible Finance Officer)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Co. Cllr. B. Duffin, Dist. Cllr. M. Wilby, Residents 13

79. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES - Dist. Cllr. C. Hudson, Cllr. S. Johnson - accepted.

80. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS ON ANY ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED – none

81. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, COUNTY & DISTRICT - COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Co. Cllr. B. Duffin – reminded all of the increase in Covid cases and receiving a booster; he reported that Highways England will be making changes to the Thickthorn interchange; a new transformation programme relating to schools is to commence; the Fire and Rescue teams have simulated a series of exercises in recent months; Co. Cllr. Duffin thanked those at County Hall for their hard work

Dist. Cllr. M. Wilby - had sent a brief report that will be included in the paper file, he referred to - the 'Warm Spaces' grant, available during winter time for groups providing support and warmth through the winter months; of energy support payments for eligible households; a prosperity fund to address challenges the communities are facing; The Octagon in Diss, will open from the 17th October, offering face to face interaction with Council staff and from the 7th Nov. Customer services will be on hand; the Long Stratton Offices will be closed up on the 7th November, with staff working from home or in the Broadland Offices; Harleston town improvements are ahead of schedule and the Long Stratton by-pass has archaeological surveys on-going

Questions raised: Dist. Cllr. Wilby replied that there was public transport connections to the new offices – residents would be able to talk on-line at the Octagon; he suggested 'Warm Hub' spaces would be found in libraries, communities centres, churches, rather than at the offices in Long Stratton; regarding the 'Levelling Up' grant from Government - where we are now? – the County Council are in talks about this now, Cllr. Duffin will investigate progress - if and how Parish Councils can gain access to levelling up funding and report back to the PC.

However SNC Leader, John Fuller has not spoken to Dist. Cllrs. as yet – despite the duty to respond within 5 working days. Once Dist. Cllr. Wilby receives a reply he will forward the response to DRPC

Residents were invited to speak with reference to **Planning Application 2022/1824 Land West of Ipswich Road, Dickleburgh** - outline permission for demolition of existing building and erection of 24 homes (7 affordable) including layout and new access.

As there are various issues and concerns raised by individual residents:

1. It is understood that there is a need for housing, however there were too many properties for this piece of land; the street will become a car park, as there is insufficient parking spaces, eight for seven houses; fewer properties - 15/16 would be more suitable;
2. The infrastructure is poor, there is a need for a well-designed environment of friendly houses that are sustainable and people will be proud of; what of the polluted land – how will this be resolved – if it is dug-out this will be similar to the development on Millers Drive. A road calming scheme, a chicane for example would slow traffic down as it comes into village;
3. Burston Road – this development will immediately overlook and overshadow the properties on the road, as the gardens are so short; this is contaminated land – it will need a great deal of work to clean the site to a high standard; the number of cars turning onto this section of the road will create a very dangerous junction for all concerned; this is the third application, with a road splay to close to the junction; the character of The Street will be compromised, there is a need to protect the area; with reference to the Developers Heritage Plan – not once have they consulted with The Village Society, nor the SN Local Plan Policy, or the JCR Policy – all of which seek to minimise the adverse impact on the environment; the Conservation Area runs through part of area – these houses will abut onto it, which will impact on it. Flooding - all surface will be permeable, every householder will need to maintain surfaces, the attenuation pond will need maintenance - who will manage this??? The site sits in a slight dip, it is higher than Burston Road, and the problem will be further compounded with this building work. Heritage buildings are irreplaceable, a source to be preserved for existing and future generations;
4. Burston Rd. – the flooding risk level of permeable surfaces will double, if these homes are built – the site is lower in the South West corner - properties such as ‘Wayside’ during the last floods water was inch off the doorstep, Rose Cottage needed to be sandbagged - there will be more water coming off the site and a need for protecting those on Burston Road. There is no objection to the land being developed, it needs to be better arranged, a lower quantity, and information gathered about the wildlife found on site – data was only gathered in December 2022, summer wildlife has not been recorded;
5. Resident endorsed all that had been said – crowding, parking, the environmental aspects, the need for affordable homes - many aspects have been steam-rolled to gain profit – all aspects are important and the need to work sensibly is the key.

Cllr. A. Goodman referred to the Neighbourhood Plan – this site is not part of that plan. The Parish Council had been in touch with the previous developer, when the seventeen sites came forward and were reduced to four, a further three sites then came forward under the village clusters call for sites. The NP Team and Parish Council felt that the development on the Brown Field, offering space for up to ten houses was declined. Going forward there are two documents that the NP are producing, as required by Government – the Habitat and Strategic Housing Surveys. Contained within the NP are some very specific details regarding garden space, the edges of properties, parking places etc. Once the whole of the NP has been agreed with by SNC it will be put out to the Public for consultation.

6. This resident was in agreement with all that had been said - issues of the speed limit off a round-about were raised, safety - the lack of turning areas on drives thus reversing onto a main road; visitors would need to park on the road, which is one of the busiest areas in the village both day and night; it was inappropriate to replicate the properties built further up The Street during the Victorian era with small gardens bringing them closer to the road; the photograph included in the Design statement was not current, whereas it should be relevant to present day; why put the children’s play area near to water?

7. This resident had moved from an area to this rural existence to escape larger development of villages, the number of properties needs to be smaller on the Brown field site and environmentally friendly; it was noted that the current developer didn’t own the site until 21 days before submission of the application; Contamination of the soil is still preventing gardens built on Burston Road (which was part of the current site) from growing properly - the plants regularly die, raised beds with new soil will support growth, the grass still doesn’t grow, nor border plants which die due to soil contamination.

Dist. Cllr. M. Wilby stated that it was important to remember that individual objections carried more weight than a petition.

The Chair requested they maintain contact with the Parish Council and thanked them for their valuable information and attendance.

The meeting resumed at 8.25pm

82. THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE RFO, including notification of payments made over the last month:

- a. **PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS** – a list of payments and receipts had been circulated to all Councillors. The RFO indicated that he had been involved in lengthy communications with British Gas who are still indicating a nil balance for street lighting, this is classed as an unmetered supply, since December 2021. A full resume of this conversation has been recorded in the Clerk's files. It was resolved to approve the payments and receipts, proposed Cllr. J. Kerr, seconded Cllr. J. Adlam, all approved;
- b. **Approval of a DONATION TO THE RBL FOR THE REMEMBRANCE WREATHS** - A question was raised about the cleaning programme of the war memorial. The Clerk reminded Councillors that the War Memorial had been cleaned last year for the annual service and there is an ongoing cleaning programme.
- c. **Conclusion of the External Audit**
- d. **Meeting of the Finance Committee** - the RFO will circulate some dates for this budget preparation meeting

83. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 2022 - the minutes were adopted as a true and accurate record, proposed by Cllr. D. Leyserman, seconded by Cllr. T. Perkins, all approved

84. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY INCL.:

- a. **Receipt of the order from TT Jones (min. 61c)** - renewal of seven lamp posts; new tall silver post on Rectory Road, which has narrowed the pavement, near to entrance of Beech Way, left hand on side – Clerk confirmed that this may well be one of the new lamp-posts
- b. **Update on emails to the leader of SNC and R. Bacon MP (min. 36b & 63c)** - a further mail has been received regarding Levelling Up grants to Richard Bacon MP informing the PC that currently he is away on vacation, once he returns his PA will provide a response
- c. **Norwich Western Link Road consultation (min. 76b)** - a response was circulated the reflecting views of meeting at the meeting. This has been sent to NCC
- d. **Road Closure (min. 77)** - The Street, Rushall - concerns were raised that this road block marked as closed, with no diversion signs for a hole in the road. People have driven around the roadworks regardless, The Half Moon have sent a complaint requesting compensation. The signage has been removed and cones mark problem area.

85. An update on the repair/refurbishment of the Village Centre - it has been suggested that repairs are required to external areas of the Village Centre, the ceiling in the Main Hall, lighting require attention, the options to create a Coffee Bar facility either by knocking through the changing rooms or as an extension to the current Bar area are being considered. An architect has been, taken measurements etc. and will send suggestions/costs relating to the project.

86. THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - currently this is delayed whilst awaiting the Strategic Environmental Assessment document. Cllr. A. Goodman will cross reference the three documents before bringing the completed copy to the Parish Council, it will then go to SNC for the team to check it through before public consultation

87. THE NORFOLK BAT SURVEY - this project has closed due to lack of funding. Previously surveys were submitted on a memory card and analysed. A recent survey indicated that the rare species of the Hazel Dormouse, along with the miniature mouse had been found in the north of the Parish. It was suggested that the Parish Council approach Alan and Jackie Patching to ask them to carry out a parish wide survey

over the course of a year to provide a clearer understanding of the local environment whilst supporting the Norfolk Bat Group. Cllr. A. Goodman suggested that such a survey be embarked on with a limit of £50.00 (to buy credits) for the data to be submitted and analysed, proposed Cllr. L. Bragg, seconded Cllr. D. Leyserman, all agreed. **ACTION** - Cllr. A. Goodman to ask Alan and Jackie Patching to outline a project for the next meeting.

88. THE COMMONS COMMITTEE - a meeting was held on 28th September. The Caretaker is to be linked to management of Common. A full report will be circulated before the next meeting - **Agenda item** for November

89. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AS RECEIVED FROM SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL:

- a. **Planning Application 2022/1571 – Furze Green Meadow, Harleston Rd., Rushall** – a Certificate of Lawfulness - for existing use of a mobile home for residential use. Clerk to enquire as to length of time on site. It is important that the presence does not obstruct or impinge on the neighbours, nor their visibility to neighbours. The Parish Council were prepared to support this application, with a condition that it could not be sold separately to the house.
- b. **Planning Application 2021/1824 – Land West of Ipswich Road, Dickleburgh** - outline permission for demolition of existing building and erection of 24 homes (7 affordable) including layout and new access - see the Public Session at the start of the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Reekie that the current Planning Application for development on Ipswich Rd is rejected as it does not fit with the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan would be prepared to consider a development (of the brown field site only) which reflects the Neighbourhood Plan, whilst reflecting the concerns of local residents, seconded Cllr. T. Perkins and unanimously agreed.

90. RECEIPT OF CONSULTEE REPORTS OF PLANNING DECISIONS MADE BY SNC:

- a. **Planning Application 2022/1425 Airfield Works Pulham Road Rushall Norfolk IP21 4QH** - Removal of de-commissioned water tank and erection of a warehouse (Use Classes B2, B8) – Approved 3rd October 2022
- b. **Planning Application 2022/1514 School House The Street Rushall Norfolk IP21 4QD** - Single storey side extension – Approved 7th October 2022

91. HIGHWAYS & PROW:

- a. **An update on the progress with Bomford’s and Smurfit Kappa** - Bomford’s the haulage pressed an interest in finding an alternative route, viable route, without weight restrictions. Vehicles are often directed by Satnav to Rectory Road, alternate routes. Upper Harmans Lane was suggested - a number of passing places would be required, along with a one-way system for the lorries. A further meeting was agreed with Adam Mayo
It has been noted that several articulated lorries recently have been travelling along Vaunces Lane through to Harleston Road – Cllr. A. Goodman will raise the matter with Adam Mayo
- b. **Update on the dog bin replacements** - new bins have been installed at the Bottle Bank on Rectory Road and on the verge at St. Clements
- c. **PROW - a short report from the meeting with F. Salway** - the Chair and Abigail Watson met with Frances Salway a number of PROW were discussed - FP 1 the work on a raised causeway should be completed by mid-December, the ground will be seeded to protect the bank. The bridle path from FP1 across Duncan West’s land – the wooded area is responsibility of D. West, he will be requested to clear the blockages on the bridleway. There are two entries to FP1 off Rectory Road – there is no sign on the edge of field, showing where people should be walking, NCC will put a sign in place; Frances Salway has indicated that she is aware where FP3 does cross the A140 bypass, she will contact LaRonde Wright (developers of the land). It will be cleared from both ends;

The PROW in Rushall that ends at Church - there is a locked gate at St. Clements Barn and an electric fence on other side - a rubber clip is required to enable people to enter/exit the path and a sign to indicate whether the electricity is on or off, there is an on-going conversation;

Pack Lane is to designate it as a bridleway, currently it is a PROW. Rushall has bridle ways that connect to it and on 18th and 19th century maps it is shown as a bridleway. The desire is to raise the status of the footpath and re designate it as bridleway. Cllr. Goodman and a resident will double check the maps to raise its status. It is unlawful to drive motorised vehicles on PROW be they footpaths or bridleways.

92. PLAYING FIELD:

- a. **WEEKLY PLAY INSPECTION REPORTS** - the new forms are easier and simpler to complete – the BMX track now appears on the sheet. The BMX track requires attention
- b. **A SHORT REPORT FROM THE PERSONNEL WORKING PARTY RE THE CARETAKER'S ROLE** - the new job description and timesheet have been a success. The redesigned Play Inspection sheets - the Caretaker carries these out for three weeks and the fourth week is a more detailed inspection when the Caretaker will be accompanied by a member of the Parish Council
- c. **REPLACEMENT OF THE BASKET SWING AND REPAIR TO THE ZIP-WIRE** - the repair is still awaited. Cllr. J. Kerr has removed the seat on the zip-wire
- d. **A SHORT REPORT ON A BOULES OR PETANQUE COURT** - Monday 24th October at 3.00pm, at Withersdale Village Centre, Cllr. D. Leyserman will be confirm by email at Withersdale Street.

93. USE OF THE PLAYING FIELD BY DICKLEBURGH PRIMARY ACADEMY FOR A CIRCUS EVENT IN MAY 2024 - a request from Friends of School to use the Playing Field for a Big Top event. The idea was supported in principle – electricity and water to be supplied via the School, an audience of 600, along with ten vehicles and trailers. The issue of car parking was raised - It was suggested that the FODS contact the Townland Trust via Cllr. Theobald to see if the field behind the church could be used as an overspill carpark for the event. Cllr. J. Adlam was concerned the field may be too wet and offered a field off Ipswich Road as either the location of the big top or the overspill car park – details to be sent to Louise Hobbs and Vickie Jordan. It was agreed that in principle the Circus be approved, proposed Cllr. J. Kerr, seconded Cllr. P. Reekie

94. THE CIVILITY & RESPECT PLEDGE - information has been received by the Clerk from SLCC/NALC/NPTS - inviting members of the Parish Council to review the statements and sign the pledge which demonstrates standing up to poor behaviour, harassment, bullying and intimidation of those involved, to support the well-being of the sector and the local community - during the discussion it was agreed that DRPC is already a civil group, there are no issues, that training doesn't necessarily resolve these type of things. It was felt unnecessary to sign the pledge.

The Parish Council therefore resolved to agree wholeheartedly with the principle and sentiment, they will continue to maintain that degree of mutual respect between all Councillors, employees and public, proposed Cllr. J. Adlam, seconded Cllr. T. Perkins, all agreed.

95. THE PROVISION OF 'WARM ROOM' DURING THE WINTER MONTHS OR COMMUNITY HOTSPOT – this is a matter that may become more evident as the autumn/winter progresses - the Churches in both villages would be prepared to participate - provision of a warm space on a weekly basis with hot refreshments, advice, activities could be included, importantly is the social side of such support; Dickleburgh Church, the Village Centre and The Half Moon rotating to facilitate different people in the community, possibly on different days. SNC are suggesting such 'Warm Rooms/Hotspots' open from October 2022 through to March 2023. As yet there is no specific guidance on temperature, the numbers requiring assistance, or the mobility of those.

Cllr. P. Reekie offered to champion the project, it was agreed to submit the necessary grant forms proposed Cllr. P. Reekie, seconded Cllr. J. Kerr, all agreed. **ACTION** - Cllr. P. Reekie and Clerk to sit down and write the bid.

96. NOTE RECEIPT OF: (I) NCC MINERAL'S AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION - noted

97. RECEIPT OF MATTERS OF INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS:

- Clerk - Remembrance Parade – a request for volunteers to marshal the parade on Sunday 13th Nov. from 10.15am, for an 11.00am service at the Memorial and return march at 12.00 noon - Cllrs. P. Reekie, D. Leyserman, T. Perkins and L. Bragg offered their services.
- Cllr. P. Reekie – raised the issue of overhanging hedge along Harvey Lane on the pedestrian zone and near Poppy Grove – residents should attend to the former, Cllr. A. Goodman will mention to Adam Mayo at Highways.
- Cllr. J. Adlam – enquired whether members of the NP team observed the Code of Conduct/Pecuniary in view of the information they dealt with, their personal interests should be set aside for benefits to the community as a whole. The Chair replied there had been no mention during any of the training sessions attended.
- Matt. Hill – informed the Council that someone from NCC enquired about the position of the Japanese Knotweed, he pointed out the location.
- Cllr. A. Goodman – enquired if anything further had been received from SNC regarding the application for registering The Half Moon as an Asset of Community Value. Clerk replied nothing had been received, a follow up email to be sent.

98. DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA ON **MONDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2022, 7.00PM, AT DICKLEBURGH & RUSHALL VILLAGE CENTRE**

AGENDA ITEMS - road sign from North still not there on Norwich Rd., budget/project items

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and attendance at a lengthy meeting.
The Meeting closed at 10.40 pm

SIGNED

DATE