

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th August 2019 at 19.45 at Felmingham Village Hall

1. **Present were** Chairman Tim Papworth, Vice Chairman Neil Thrush, Cllr John Goldsmith, Cllr John Newstead, Cllr Desmond Fern, Cllr Syd Arksey,
2. **Apologies** Cllr Mike Pepperell
3. **Minutes from the last Meetings**
 - a. The Chairman signed the minutes of the AGM held on 21st May 2019 as being a true and accurate record.
 - b. The Chairman signed the minutes of the ordinary meeting of 21st May 2019 as a true and accurate record.
4. **Matters Arising**

None
5. **Bryants Heath and Stow heath**
 - a. **Bryants Heath**
 - i. Cllr. Neil Thrush was getting estimates for the felling of the trees on the wetland area of the heath and the removal of the wood. He had already received one quote where there would be no charge for the felling of the trees so long as the company could take the wood in lieu of payment.
 - ii. Alex Prendergast of Natural England, gave his approval for burning some of the wood on site.
 - iii. Woodpecker Services had quoted £4,000 for the felling and removal.
 - iv. Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Natural England have drawn up a management plan for the Heath.
 - v. Parishioners Rights refer to the removal of fallen wood, NOT the felling of tree for the parishioners own use.
 - vi. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Neil Thrush for all his efforts so far, recognising the importance of maintaining the SSSI status at its intended levels.
 - vii. The scouts had been on the Heath to help clear the bracken and undergrowth.
 - viii. North Norfolk Volunteer Group will return to the heath in September and are looking for more volunteers.
 - ix. Norfolk Wildlife Trust will fund another 6 sessions to enable the group to continue with work on the heath. They have carried out a risk assessment for work on the heath but have omitted to mention the risk of adders that are known to be resident. Cllr. Neil Thrush will raise this omission with them.
 - x. Concerns were expressed about the extent of the ground works being carried out by the mountain bikers to create their courses and the rubbish that they have been leaving behind. The Chairman offered to investigate.
 - xi. The Chairman had received a letter from the environmental agency about the continuance of hydrological monitoring. He read the letter to the meeting. The previous Chairman had agreed a sum of £350 in 1996 for hydrological monitoring to be done on the heath with the condition that the Parish Council would receive a copy of the data. No data was ever received. The meeting suggested that a sum of at least £650 should be paid for the next 10 years, data should be shared with the Parish Council annually and that £750 should be paid towards legal costs since it was felt that the contract should be looked at by a solicitor. The Clerk was asked to write to them with regards to the additional clauses. The parish council felt that sharing of the data annually would assist with the preservation of the SSSI awarded to the area, since the wetlands on the heath are at particular risk.
 - xii. Cllr. Neil Thrush has been given a detailed botanical survey of the heath undertaken by Brian Hopkins.

b. Stow Heath

- i. The Chairman has been unable to get hold of Jonathan Cheatham to discuss the lack of progress.

6. Allotments

- a. Claire Mackie, plot 20, has not been seen for some time. The Clerk was asked to investigate.
- b. Vikki Partiridge's complaint about the unkept state of the plot adjacent to hers is still unresolved.

7. Highways

- a. The hedge at the front of 15 Highfield is severely encroaching the pavement again. Cllr. Des Fern will talk to them.
- b. Highways have said that the repair of the potholes are in hand.
- c. Highways are to be asked to put the Highfield sign back up.

8. Planning

- a. PF/18/1700 – appeal against refusal for conversion of barn to holiday accommodation has been refused.

9. RFO and Clerk's Report

- a. The bank balance at the end of July 2019 stood at £4,180.79
- b. Cllr. Syd Arksey has made no progress on the issue of GDPR. The clerk was asked to ask other local parish councils what they are doing.
- c. The internal audit has been completed

10. Any other business

- a. Funding is to be sought to preserve Farthing Green and to improve the access track to the allotments
- b. Village Hall improvement plans have been amended, approved and have now gone out for quotes.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd October 2019 at 7:45 in Felmingham Village Hall

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Signed by Chairman

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Date