

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th January 2023 at 19.00 at Felmingham Village Hall

Present

Chairman Tim Papworth, Vice Chairman Neil Thrush, Cllr. John Newstead, Cllr. Mike Pepperell, Cllr. Syd Arksey, Cllr. John Gouldsmith, Cllr. Des Fern

1. Welcome

- a. Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all that were there.
- b. County Councillor Saul Penfold would be arriving later.
- c. District Councillor Greg Hayman was not present yet again. The Parish Clerk was asked to write a letter to North Norfolk District Council complaining about his lack of support of the Parish Council.

2. Apologies

- a. Revd. David Chamberlin

3. Minutes

- a. Ordinary Meeting 12th October 2022
 - i. There were no matters arising.
 - ii. The minutes were signed as an accurate record of the meeting by the Chairman.

4. Heaths

a. Bryants Heath

- i. Neil Thrush was asked to write to the Environment Agency requesting the payment of the contribution of £750 for legal costs that had been offered as part of the renewal of the hydrological lease.
- ii. The application for funding for flailing on the heath had been submitted.
- iii. NEPC will be awarded the contract for the flailing work once the funding application has been granted.
- iv. More gorse cutting has been done and will be burnt towards the end of the week.
- v. The birch trees need to be thinned out because they are getting too dense.
- vi. Fungi survey is to be carried out at the end of 2023.
- vii. Volunteers from North East Norfolk Conservation Volunteers are scheduled to visit again at the beginning of March.
- viii. Neil Thrush requested that £101.25 be paid to himself to help with his expenses on the heath. This was seconded by the Chairman. Full receipts of expenditure will be given to the Clerk and a cheque issued from the ring-fenced funding received from The Clan Trust earlier in the year to help fund the ongoing maintenance and improvement work on the heath.

b. Stow Heath

- i. The licence agreement for the Felbeck Trust to undertake the maintenance of Stow Heath was signed.
- ii. The access gate to Stow Heath needs attention. The Chairman said that he would sort this out with a gate that was surplus from Felmingham station.

5. Allotments

- i. All plots are let and a number of people are on the waiting list.
- ii. All allotment holders with poultry are complying with the DEFRA Avian Flu guidelines.

6. Highways

- i. The potholes reported have now been repaired.

7. Planning

- a. PF/22/2996 Beck House, Suffield Road – lean to extension – no objections
- b. PF/22/2771 Old Station, Church Road – change of use – no objections
- c. PF/22/0213 Old Rectory – conversion to flats – disappointed that there is still no progress.

8. Village Hall Update

- i. There was an emergency meeting held to discuss the lack of an electrical safety certificate, this has now been resolved, just awaiting the actual certificate.
- ii. Broadband has now been installed.

9. RFO and Clerk's Report

- a. The bank balance stands at £3816.
- b. Cllr. Mike Pepperell kindly agreed to take over the maintenance of the website.

10. Any other business

- a. Following a lot of discussion, the meeting decided against the provision of grit bins for the following reasons: -
 - i. The cost of purchasing and servicing the bins would necessitate an increase in the parish precept.
 - ii. There could potentially be an insurance implication if, by providing bins the parish council is accepting responsibility for the risk.
- b. The Chairman and Vice Chairman attended the police meeting – nothing to report.
- c. The delays in the progress of the redevelopment of North Walsham centre is causing severe problems for the businesses.

11. County Councillor Saul Penfold reported the following: -

- a. The redevelopment of North Walsham includes a traffic calming scheme to calm the traffic around the town centre.
- b. There is a county deal for Norfolk being discussed at an extraordinary meeting at County Hall looking at devolution of various functions.
- c. Following the earlier discussion about grit bins, Saul agreed to look at the suggestion that there had been bins at two locations that are no longer there and to see if anything could be done that would not place a burden on the Parish Council.
- d. He was looking at the cost for curbing around Farthing Green.
- e. District Council elections are being held in May.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed by Chairman

Date